

the drunkard's brain had obtained the mastery. One wild scene of unbridled excess had followed another in swift succession, till he was laid upon his dying bed. No, he did not have a dying bed! No visions of angels awaiting to convey him to heaven, now floated before his eyes. No dreams of pardon and peace by the blood of the dear Redeemer, shed a soothing influence on his soul.

"Take them off! Oh, take them off," he screamed as I came into his chamber. "They have come for me, I see them, I feel them; this is hell!"

The scene was awful to me, heart rending to those who loved him as none others could. Every object in the room was a demon ready to dart on him. They leaped on the bed they planted themselves on his breast, they laughed at his horrors, and revelled in his cries and groans. It was with difficulty that strong men could keep him on his couch of anguish. He was determined to fly from the monsters that had gathered in troops around him. Seizing his opportunity when their attention was for a moment diverted, he leaped from the bed, by the side of which sat his parents wrinkled and gray, but not with age, and his own young wife with her only child in her arms; he broke away from the attendants who vainly strove to hold him back; he rushed from his chamber into the streets of the city, and in his nakedness and madness, raved like a devil escaped from hell. They caught him and forced him into the house but could not compel him to lie down. He stood in the middle of his chamber, struggling fearfully with fiends, who gathered around him to pacify his maniac frenzy. His wife fell on his neck, and implored him by his love for her and his darling boy, to lie down and be still, till the storm that raged in his brain should pass by. But no tears, no prayers, no force would quiet him in that wild hour. He stood and struggled fiercely with phantoms, and raved of devils and the damned. An unearthly brightness lighted up his face as he exclaimed, "I am ready now—I'll go!" and he stood—a corpse! They laid him on the bed and closed his eyes for ever. Such was the career and of one whom I knew and loved. He was a prodigal son. How many fall like him—perish like him in the very morning of their days!

Unintoxicating Wine in the Lord's Supper.

A BRIEF ILLUSTRATION OF THE EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR OF THE USE OF UNINTOXICATING WINE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER, WITH A REPLY TO SOME OBJECTIONS.—By Peter Mearns, Glasgow.

ARGUMENT.—*The use of Fermented Wine places a Stumbling-block in the way of Reformed Inebriates; which is altogether removed by the adoption of that which is Unfermented.*

§ 17. In the first four arguments we established the lawfulness of using unfermented wine in the Eucharist; nay more, we believe we showed the impropriety of using any other sort; and, in order that that on which we now enter may have its full force, we must take for granted at least the former of these. Grant, then, the lawfulness of unfermented wine for this ordinance, and you cannot deny that its adoption will remove a stumbling-block which the present practice casts in the way of the reformed drunkard. The next step is a necessary inference, that it is your duty to make the change.

1. It may be objected that the church generally is satisfied with the present practice, and that it is unreasonable to disturb the minds of the larger number in order to accommodate the few, who, after all, must be regarded as very weak brethren. The question comes to be this,—if evils must be encountered on both sides, on which side is the least? The church may be a little disturbed by the agitation of the question, but no one can reasonably be offended by the proposed change.

2. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that many who gave every evidence of genuine reformation, have re-

lapsed into their former intemperance by simply tasting the intoxicating cup at the Lord's table. A number of such cases are given in the *Enquirer* (pp. 19, 20). One of these cases, mentioned by Mr. James Seaton, of Sanquoit, New York, was that of a "Rev. minister and much-beloved brother, who had fallen from the lofty citadel of piety and purity in which he shone, caused by tasting alcoholic wine at the weekly distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper, thereby awakening a slumbering appetite which was once his only besetment previous to his religious experience. When this fact came to my knowledge, (adds Mr. Seaton), I very easily discovered that my conscientious scruples were founded upon a righteous judgment." The Rev. John Frost (Enq. p. 42) mentions that when administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the Congregational church at Westmoreland, he was gratified to find that unfermented wine, made from the raisin or dried grape, was used. He inquired how long they had used such wine. "The reply was, about two years, and that one thing which had led to the change was, that one of the members, a young man by the name of Thomas Norris, who, before uniting with the church, was addicted to an intemperate use of strong drink, was soon after partaking of alcoholic wine at the communion, overtaken with his besetting sin. He made a confession to the church, and stated that the wine at the communion table excited his appetite, and was the occasion of his fall. The question was discussed by the church, whether they ought not to introduce unfermented wine. Several opposed, but a majority were in favour of it. This young man belonged to one of the most respectable families in the place."

3. It may be said, however, that these are exceptions, and that very many reformed drunkards would be exposed to no danger from fermented wine in the communion. This statement will not be borne out by facts. "I believe," says Professor R. D. Mussey, (Enq. p. 83.) "the opinion expressed to me by several reformed drunkards, to be correct, namely, that the inebriate's appetite is never, strictly speaking, extinguished. It is a concentrated and masked fire, which, like a friction match, on being excited, breaks into a consuming flame. A single sip of liquor, distilled or fermented, has brought back to confirmed and hopeless intemperance many a reformed inebriate who had fought manfully with temptation, until, as he believed, he had slain his enemy, and proclaimed himself victor." Professor Mussey adds an account of several cases of relapse from simply tasting, and one of them from tasting at the communion.

4. Mr. Delavan, of America, wishing to know whether, from the nature of the thing, the tasting of a small portion of intoxicating drink at the communion, or otherwise, would necessarily endanger the safety of the reformed inebriate, addressed a letter to a few of the medical profession in America and other countries, containing, among other things, the following request:—"Will you state, in reply, whether, in your opinion, it is safe or not for reformed drunkards to use alcoholic liquors in any quantity; and whether any thing short of entire abstinence from all that can intoxicate can ensure their permanent reformation and safety?" The following sentences occur in the reply of James McNaughton, M.D. Professor of Practice of Medicine in Albany Medical College:—"I have no hesitation in declaring, that it is my firm conviction that there is no safety for the reformed drunkard but in total abstinence from all that can intoxicate. I have known several distressing cases of relapse, or return to beastly drunkenness from the slightest indulgence in alcoholic drinks after long abstinence. All the incentives to intoxication must be avoided by those who desire permanent reformation; otherwise, they are never safe."—(Enq. p. 20.) Professors Beck, Paine, Smith, Cook, Dunbar, Ives, Beers, Silliman, Ewe, Coates, and Drs. Durkee, Roberts, Baer, and Bond express their full concurrence in the remarks of Professor