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*J. B. Jm.*

## AN APPEAL

### TO MEN OF WEALTH AND INFLUENCE, AGAINST THE USE OF INTOXICATING DRINKS.

*Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.—DEUT. xxxii. 33.*

ACCOUNTABILITY, proportionate to privileges possessed, and blessings conferred, constitutes an unvarying and prominent feature in God's moral government of sentient beings. Each individual of the human race is a unit in the mighty sum of humanity, and one cannot be removed without reducing the total of mankind; but, as in numericals, the value of each figure is affected by the position which it occupies in relation to the whole; so the circumstances in which a man is placed in time enhance or reduce his value as a member of human society; and as coin is only useful in administering to the necessities or happiness of mankind, so the highest position and the most commanding attainments should each be regarded as a circulating medium, designed to promote the well-being of their possessor, and through him to benefit as large a number as possible of the human family. What is more utterly worthless than the miser's gold? Encased in coffers designed to resist the efforts of dishonesty to appropriate, it remains, secure it may be, but utterly valueless. Indeed, so far from conferring happiness on numbers, its only effect appears to be to render its proprietor miserable; for being quite unacquainted with its proper use, he is usually tortured with apprehension lest some unforeseen accident or subtle enemy should deprive him of his treasure. The principle by which men should govern their actions, so as to secure to themselves the greatest possible amount of good, is simply to use appropriately and wisely all the blessings they receive at the hands of a beneficent Providence.

Amongst the ordinary blessings which God bestows on man the most general are wealth and intellectual capacity. We select these from the mass, because they belong more especially to our present object, and are the fruitful soil in which many others germinate. Thus wealth confers station, and station begets influence, and influence, properly applied to the promotion of virtue and amelioration of suffering, sheds a heavenly radiance over the dark pathway of crime and sorrow. It is wisely ordained by "the only wise Potentate," that a great degree of apparent inequality should characterize the distribution of these benefits; nor should any question the propriety of the arrangement. Even human wisdom can discern to some