

many years, yet he will not always chide, neither will he keep his anger for ever. This I found; for three years ago I was at sea off the island of Bermuda, in a storm; a heavy sea struck the ship, and swept the decks of everything. I was washed overboard and the vessel was nearly going down. After the water cleared off, I was found with my shoulder dislocated, my left ribs broken, and my right leg shattered all to pieces. I was taken for dead, jambed between the lanyards of the fore rigging. It was fifteen days after before I got medical assistance, and when I was sent to the hospital they wanted to amputate the leg, but I would not consent. I was two years laid up with it, had 18 pieces of bone cut out of it, and suffered much from other injuries I received. My next voyage was to Quebec last fall. We left in November, were dismasted twice, lost the rudder and filled with water—a total wreck in the middle of the Atlantic ocean, 1200 miles from land. There we were for 30 days, and must have perished had not God sent the Loodianah to our assistance; for the same night they took us off the wreck, it blew a perfect hurricane, and she must have gone to pieces. Capt. Dallimore treated us with great humanity. So I think I have much to be thankful for, and when I am far away on the dark blue waters, I shall read the little tract and bless the kind friends that gave it, and God for sending you.

I remain, dear sir, your humble servant, S. H.

MEDICINAL USES.

There is nothing more common than for the opponents of total abstinence to charge the friends of this principle with hypocrisy, drinking in secret, drinking as a medicine, &c. &c. They are not willing to allow that any are more self-denying and virtuous in reality than themselves, though they may be so in appearance. At the same time there is some little reason to believe that such gentlemen drink a little more, and at other times and for other purposes, than is strictly visible and fully avowed. Certain it is, that if there was no temperance reform, there would not be quite so much used by somebody medicinally as there now is. In Portland it has been found that in the year 1847, eleven thousand one hundred and twenty-one gallons of rum, gin, brandy, wine, and other intoxicating liquors were sold in the city of Portland for medicinal and mechanical purposes. We wish they were separated, that we might know how much was really used as a medicine. We believe there must be a great revolution on this subject before the temperance reformation makes much further progress. The veriest drunkard in community shields himself behind medicinal use. We need a very bold and spirited tract on this subject from high authority. We have one, as far as they are concerned, from the pen of Dr. Gibson of Philadelphia in a late address to medical students. As the change must commence with physicians, and they must set their faces against all this medicinal use, we feel very grateful to the learned Professor. The following are some of his remarks. Let them be read and seriously pondered by every medical man and every good citizen:—

“There is a subject on which I feel inclined to speak

plainly, and without reserve—the common and incautious prescription of alcoholic medicines. Nearly thirty years ago an eminent American physician recorded the sentiment, that ‘it is the sacred duty of every one exercising the profession of Medicine, to unite with the moralist and divine in discouraging these baneful articles (ardent spirits), and as the first step in the scheme of reformation, to discountenance the popular notion of their remedial efficacy.’ * * * ‘So great is the extent of their pernicious effects as well on the mind as the body, that the emptying of Pandora’s box was but the type of what has since happened, in the diffusion of rum, brandy, gin, and whisky, among the human species.’

“The author of this emphatic and impressive declaration, holds the Chair of Practice in the oldest Medical School in the Western World, and stands at the head of the profession in America. Within the last thirty years a remarkable revolution has taken place in the customs of society and in the practice of physicians. But the familiar and careless manner in which a large proportion of the members of the faculty continue to administer alcoholic drinks as a medicine, is highly reprehensible. In every direction around us, we may meet with drunkards, whose steps were first turned aside from the path of safety by professional authority. And the mischief still goes on. Distinguished practitioners, who have not studied the philosophy of habit, continue to scatter abroad the seeds of physical and moral death, with painful and inexcusable indifference. Blindly following the old and beaten track, they put the intoxicating cup to the lips of their patients, and consign to shame and ruin, those whom they would heal and save.

“The monstrous frauds that are practised in the manufacture of alcoholic drinks, present another objection to their medicinal use. Vinous and fermented liquors are more particularly the subjects of adulteration and imposition. They are rarely what they pretend to be. If any other article in the *Materia Medica* were proved to be as commonly adulterated and impure as the various forms of alcoholic liquors, it would be banished at once and for ever from medical practice. And yet many of our learned professors and distinguished practitioners will dose their patients from day to day, and from month to month, with these uncertain compounds: often, beyond a doubt, administering in this way, even in critical cases of disease, tobacco, cocculus indicus, and strychnia!

“At best, alcoholic drinks are of doubtful efficacy in nearly all chronic diseases. They very seldom effect a cure. Often they appear to keep the disease at bay, and, by the temporary relief they afford, to lure the patient with false hopes and lead him to repeat and continue the remedy. But here it happens, too frequently, that the disease is gradually intrenching itself in the vital organs, while the medicine is steadily and stealthily performing its fatal operations. By heaping fuel on the fire, the flame is suppressed; but the fire is not quenched. Beneath the smouldering ruins it kindles, and burrows, and consumes.

“Your observation will point you to many illustrations of these remarks. How often do we meet with a dyspeptic, who has been using alcohol for ten or twenty years, and whose disease is no better than when he took the first dose! And yet these cases present the most favourable results. In the great majority of patients subjected to such treatment, death has interposed long before the lapse of ten or twenty years. Lurking in his treacherous remedy, he has thrown around his sleeping victim the chains of habit, stronger than adamant, and borne him off to a drunkard’s grave. The few survivors, whilst they boast loudly of their temperance and self-control, and load with high honors, in every public bar room where they resort for medicine, the name of the distinguished physician or professor whose prescriptions they pursue—exhibit in the trembling hand, the puffy cheek, the