

mind ; had a dry wit ; a keen yet tender humour when you knew how to tap the vein ; an indomitable Scotch pride ; he meant some day to be a husband and father, and there was no man likely to be more deeply loved as both.

When he went out to make New Year's calls, therefore, the young girls felt no scruples in urging wine upon him, nor any offence when he refused it. It would have been against nature to find such a man value the pleasure given by liquor. It was an old lady who succeeded in making him drink, a friend of his mother's—a well-bred, delicate woman as any of those who keep open house on New Year's, to whom a drunken man is simply an object of disgust. The drink was nothing but a glass of rare old sherry.

But there was one fact which neither she nor John knew, that the taste for liquor was hereditary in his blood, as scrofula might be in that of another man. Alcohol was simply a physical poison to his stomach and brain, and acted physically on both, weakening first the nerves which influence the will.

The story is soon told. The man went steadily down—down : loathing the liquor ; not tempted by the elation it produced, but drinking to satisfy the intolerable craving, and, in order to drink, thrusting aside the arguments of astonished friends, his old father's feeble hold on him, every chance he had in this world or the next. One night late in the fall he was arrested in some wretched haunt on a false charge of theft, and in the morning thrust into the prison-van to be carried to the city gaol. When the "Black Maria" stopped at the gate, a body was dragged out covered with rags, and with a gash in the throat which men did not care to look upon. "It is not the face of a beggar," they said, covering it over.

The first mention which his old father saw of him in print was that he had so died.

Why do we break in on the gracious, genial sunshine of the New Year, with such a tale as this ? Because there is not a house where liquor is offered to-day in which its beginning and sequel may not again be true. Eight out of every ten American men, physicians assert, are predisposed by hereditary in-

fluence, by the effect of climate, overwork, neural affections, and the mad haste of their lives to alcoholic poisoning, a disease as incurable as consumption. Yet on every side fair women, friendly, pure women, Christian women, have met them on past New Year's days, holding out the cup of death with entreaties that would not be denied. In the coming holiday must this be again ?

The late Moses Stuart, after having been addicted for thirty-five years to the use of tobacco, broke himself of the bad habit and wrote these words, which should be pondered by every smoker and chewer of the weed : "I do not place the use of tobacco in the same scale with that of ardent spirits. It does not make men maniacs and demons. But that it does undermine the health of thousands ; that it creates a nervous irritability, and thus operates on the temper and moral character of men ; that it often creates a thirst for spirituous liquors ; that it allures to clubs and grog-shops and taverns, and thus helps to make idlers and spendthrifts ; and, finally, that it is a very serious and needless expense, are things which cannot be denied by any observing and considerate person. And if all this be true, how can the habitual use of tobacco as a mere luxury be defended by any one who wishes well to his fellow-men, or has a proper regard to his own usefulness ?"

SO MANY HYPOCRITES.

BY MARY P. HALE.

A Sabbath-school teacher was conversing with one of his pupils upon the subject of personal religion. In answer to an enquiry, the young man gave as his reason why he did not embrace religion, that there were so many hypocritical professors. Then he added the names of persons prominent in social position and in the Church, who had been guilty of great dishonesty and other vices.

"What profession do you intend to follow, my young friend ?"

"The mercantile."

"But there are so many dishonest and over-reaching merchants, is it not a wonder that you choose such a calling ?"