

their degraded situation. A gentleman who had filled a respectable place in society, with honor to himself and credit to his friends, suddenly became a drunkard : his body grew weak and swoln ; his faculties impaired, and he was scarcely the ruins of what he had been.

“ One of his friends, anxious for his amendment, endeavored to convince him of the wickedness of his conduct. He heard the exhortation to the end, and coolly answered, ‘ It is true I drink ; but I neither rob nor steal.’ Thus, because he had not broken the whole decalogue, he thought himself comparatively pure.

“ Some excuse themselves from their love of company, mirth and conversation ; as if men were most capable of enjoying these pleasures, when they can neither speak, hear nor understand.”

When he comes to the consideration of the drunkard, as a member of society, he observes, “ That the appetites of eating and drinking are common to man, with the other animals ; and that nature does all she can, to guard us against the degrading sin of drunkenness. She conceals the spirit in vegetables necessary for their preservation, with the greatest care, and mixes it with other juices in such a manner as can do no injury, if taken as she prepares it ; but man takes pains to separate the spirit by fire, he contrives new methods for catching it pure, and for expelling that part of the liquid which is less potent.

“ Nature makes yet another effort to preserve us after the fatal draught is prepared ; it is disagreeable to the taste, and it is not until after many trials have been made, that it becomes palatable : nay, more study and pains are taken to bring this about, than would be necessary for acquiring some useful arts, or necessary accomplishments,—more pains than would be requisite to impress our duty on our hearts, and to examine the proofs on which our eternal hopes are founded. And for what is all this labor undertaken ?—To hurry us down the precipice of destruction, marked with the sign of the beast, as the children of disobedience.

“ Matters are still worse when the drunkard is the father of a family. What an example for his children ! No lessons of Religion, no encouragements to duty, or admonitions to amendment, flow from his lips.—He is seldom able to speak ; and when recollection returns, shame and conscious guilt shut his mouth. The children, without instruc-