

terminated on it, and if I had not told them where he was, they would have gone to somebody else who would; so that my refusing would not have made any difference. My delivering him into their power, too, need not do any harm; it is only their abuse of their power, which can do injury. I should be as much shocked if they should seriously injure him, as any one can be; but I shall certainly not be answerable for any excesses which they may commit. If they are moderate, and keep their passions within due bounds, there will be no harm done.

"Besides I am bound by solemn obligation to husband all my resources, and increase my means of doing good. I am the steward too, the Lord's steward; and the money had better be in my hands, than with those vile chief priests, for I can make a better use of it."

Here, the dreamer heard a ferocious yell, coming from the streets of the city, at the point where the armed men had entered. He started, for it sounded very much like a noise he had often heard at night, in a miserable dwelling in his neighbourhood, occupied by one of his customers.

At this instance a "ding" was heard, produced by a bell, suspended over his door, to give warning when it was opened. The sleeper aroused himself, and saw a little girl, with a ragged gown, and an old faded bonnet, evidently belonging to a larger head than hers,—and a pale, sickly, anxious countenance. She handed a jug to the store-keeper, and said he father "wanted a pint."

We do not know any thing more about this story, excepting that a few days after this, the stage was passing by, and a passenger looking out of the window, observed several men and boys about the door where some painted punchcoons had just been rolled out, and the store-keeper was standing by, with an axe in his hand. The passengers heard a sound, as of blows, which was followed by a gurgling noise, like rushing water, and the ground was wet for some feet around. It was noticed that there was a large barren spot there, all the next summer.—*Abbot's Religious Magazine.*

#### EVIDENCE OF FACTS.

*From Scoresby's Address to Seamen.*

The final temporal misery produced by drunkenness is a premature death. "The years of the wicked," saith Solomon, "shall be shortened." And how truly and how frequently is this declaration attested by the early death of drunkards! "They live not out half their days." As Elah was massacred whilst drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, so thousands meet a premature death in the same accursed indulgence. A melancholy instance has already been given in the case of a friend of my youth. And besides this, thousands might be collected from the newspapers of this country. But alas! Liverpool affords too many dreadful examples of suicide, drowning, apoplexy, accidental, and other kinds of deaths from drinking, to require me to go further for illustrative facts; for the coroners of the borough can give melancholy proof that the inquests of almost every week present cases of death from drinking,—death in its most awful forms and at the most inconvenient periods. Among the inquests of the last three years, (1827, 1828, and 1829,) the verdict in twenty three cases, fourteen men and nine women, was, "died from excessive drinking!" But these form a very small proportion of premature and sudden deaths from this cause. For in the last year alone (1829) I have been able to ascertain, from the minutes of evidence before the coroner, that there were no fewer than 31 cases (of which nine were females) under the verdicts of "accidental death;" "found drowned;" "found dead;" "lunacy;" and "excessive drinking," all of which were the direct effects of drunkenness; besides fourteen others, being principally persons found drowned, as to whom there was no satisfactory evidence, which were doubtful!

But awful as the simple result is, the particulars of some of the inquests render it perfectly appalling. I have only space, however, for a selected abstract; but even that will speak. One man, when in a state of intoxication, fell into the "hot-water tub" of a brewer, and was scalded to death; and several different persons fell into the docks or rivers, whilst drunk, and were drowned. A female, having been drinking in a public house, received an injury in a quarrel, of which she almost immediately died; another woman, much addicted to drinking, was burnt to death; another, of similar habits, when "apparently tipsy," jumped out of a window and

was killed! Another unhappy female, who was described as a very drunken and disorderly person, having been taken to Bridewell for safe custody, when in a state of inebriety, hanged herself! One man met with death by drinking, in a very extraordinary manner. Leaning on the one side of a punchcoon of rum lying on the side of one of the docks, he indulged himself in a stolen draught by sucking it through a reed, the effect of which was almost immediately fatal. Another man, who had been very much intoxicated the night before, under the depression of returning sobriety, cut his throat; and another of similar habits hanged himself! One person, in a more respectable situation of life, "died of a disease of the lungs hurried on by excessive drinking." Two boatmen, in a drunken quarrel on the river, fell overboard, and both were drowned. One individual, when half intoxicated, fell only from the steps in front of a house, and was killed on the spot. Another unhappy man, who had just been released out of gaol, went almost direct to a public house, and drank four glasses of rum; from thence he went home and took some supper, but with a thirst irresistibly excited by his previous drinking, he proceeded again to the scene of his self-indulgence, and such was the effect, that on his return to his residence, he fell into a lethargic sleep, from which he never awoke! A woman accustomed to drinking, accompanied a sister in iniquity to a social revel, where they drank till intoxicated; then, returning to the house which one of them occupied, they went together to bed, but, during the night, one was taken to an eternal world whilst the other slept! Another wretched creature, pursuing the same destructive habit, was returning to her home in a state of drunkenness, when she fell into the opening of a cellar, and was killed on the spot! To these appalling outlines I shall only add, in conclusion of the melancholy facts, two instances of the death of children through the drunkenness of their parents. In one of these cases, which happened on the day commanded to be kept holy, a wretched, unhallowed female drunk to excess, when, in a quarrel with a lodger, she received a push or a blow which threw her off her balance, when, staggering, she fell upon her poor tottering infant, and killed it in a moment! In the other case, an infant child was taken to bed by its parents, who were both in a state of intemperance, when, in the insensibility produced by the dissipation, the child was overlaid and smothered by the wretched creatures who had given it birth!

These brief particulars need no reflections; they speak at once to the understanding and to the heart. May God give them such a voice as may make "him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall,"—as may make the generally sober man fear, and the sometimes intemperate man tremble!

Appalling as these results may seem, let it not be inferred that Liverpool exceeds in vice the rest of the great commercial cities and towns of the land. Alas, no! For particular investigations in other parts of Britain exhibit an equally, and in some cases, a more deplorable measure of moral and physical debasement and ruin through the deadly influence of ardent spirits. And the great day of account will bear terrible witness, when the "sea shall give up the dead that are in it," of the vast and unsuspected extent of the sacrifice of life among seamen, from shipwrecks and other catastrophes occasioned by drunkenness. One distressful instance, among the numbers that will hereafter be brought to light, occurred within my own observation. A collier brig was stranded on the Yorkshire coast, and I had occasion to assist in the interesting, but distressing service of rescuing a part of the crew by drawing them up a vertical cliff, two or three hundred feet in altitude, by means of a deep-sea lead line, the only rope that could be procured. The first two men who caught hold of this slender line were hauled safely up to the frightful cliff; but the next, after being drawn to a considerable height, slipped his hold, and he fell; and with the fourth and last, who ventured upon this only chance of life, the rope gave way, and he also was plunged into the foaming breakers beneath! Immediately afterwards the vessel broke up, and the remnant of the ill-fated crew, with the exception of two, who were washed into a cavern in the cliff, perished before our eyes! But what was the cause of this heart-rending event? Was it stress of weather, or bewildering fog, or unavoidable accident? No! It arose entirely from the want of sobriety; every sailor, to a man, being in a state of intoxication. The vessel, but a few hours before, had sailed from Sunderland; the men being drunk, a boy, unacquainted with the coast, was intrusted with the helm. He