

Poetry.

ABUSE OF THE BOUNTIES OF PROVIDENCE

God gave the gift to man;
But man, with fatal skill,
Incessant, form'd the plan
To change the good for ill:
The poison, tortur'd from the vine,
Like Sampson, hath its thousands slain.

God gave the golden grain
To hungry man, for food;
But, querulous and vain,
He spur'd the proffer'd gold:
And Egypt's slothful sons, at last,
Drew forth the drowsy beverage first

God gave the clustering vine;
Ingenious man, perverse,
Exchanged the boon for wine,
And wretched Canaan's curse:
The Patriarch, who had safely past
The deluge, was o'erwhelm'd at last.

The madness came by wine,
That wrought Belshazzar's fall;
And caus'd the hand divine
To write upon the wall—
Scoffer, thy royal race is run!
Thy work of wickedness is done!

To earth the cup becom'd,
That holds an adder's sting;
And let us pledge the world,
With nectar from the spring,
That hence, like Rechab's ancient line,
Though prophets urge, we drink no wine.

Miscellaneous.

Ardent Spirits useless in Cold or Warm Weather.—During Captain Ross's sojourn at the North, when the thermometer was sometimes sixty and a half degrees below zero! or ninety-two and a half degrees below the freezing point of Fahrenheit. Himself and the men who were with him were for fifteen months entirely destitute of ardent spirits. By this fact he accounts for the remarkably good health which they enjoyed during that time. In excessive cold weather, cold water is doubtless the best drink.

Popular Poison.—When ardent spirits are taken into the stomach, they cause irritation, which is evinced by the warmth and pain experienced in that organ, and next inflammation of that part, and sometimes gangrenes. They act in the same manner as poisons. Besides the local injury they produce, they act on the nerves of the stomach which run to the brain, and if taken in large quantities, cause insensibility, stupor, irregular convulsive action, difficult breathing, profound sleep, and often sudden death. The habitual use of

Jeremiah, ch. 35.

ardent spirits causes a slow inflammation of the stomach and liver, which proceeds steadily, but is often undiscovered till too late for relief.—*London Med. Journal.*

A person's friends are sometimes his worst enemies.—This holds true in many instances, and especially in relation to intemperance.

The fond mother, who feeds her infant with alcohol, however much it may be diluted and sweetened, is a more dangerous enemy to her child, than the assassin who plots against his life; for he may be discovered and secured; but an appetite for stimulating drinks, once acquired, is difficult to be destroyed.

During one day with Dr. Johnson, whose spirits the company were anxious to revive, Miss Hannah More urged him to take a little wine. His reply was, "I can't take a little, child; therefore, I never touch it. Abstinence is as easy to me as temperance would be difficult."

Topics.—Dr. Johnson's opinion of drinking may be gathered from a brief but expressively ethical passage; he says, "In this world discontent seeks for comfort, cowardice for courage, and bashfulness for confidence."

Just and righteous.—A man to the east advertises that he will pay no debts of his wife's contracting, as she has deprived him of his bed and board by locking him out of his house and refusing to admit him! The wife, in extenuation, says, that she never refused to admit him when he was sober, which of late had never been the case. We commend her decision.

Notices.

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