

In the year 1196, London was infested by a band of burglars and assassins, living in a state of the basest ruffianism and debauchery, and threatening the city with destruction. The most violent outrages were committed by these licentious drunkards. People were murdered in the streets daily. Houses were broken into and pillaged in the middle of daylight; and intemperance of the most disgusting character reigned over the city.

Numerous examples of the extent and character of the vicious practices of intemperance, and its demoralizing consequences, through a long series of ages, both in England, and indeed in every country on the face of the globe, might be adduced; but would only be a repetition of the horrid scenes, and degrading habits, already enumerated, and to which mankind have ever been addicted. The foregoing illustrations will sufficiently prove to any reasonable and just thinking man, that intemperance is the greatest curse that ever afflicted the human race; and that whoever possesses the least sentiment of philanthropy, or whoever is endowed with feelings of morality and religion, and, consequently, has at heart the welfare of his fellow-man, either in this life or that which is to come, should never taste the unhallowed cup of intoxication; but ought to unite his strongest efforts and his most earnest prayers, for its total expulsion from the face of the earth.

It is the destroyer of empires, and the dethroner of kings:—it creates jealousy and dissension among statesmen, and is the generator of sedition among the people:—it desecrates the altar of Divine worship, and sows the seeds of corruption in the church:—it crowns our magisterial benches with dishonor, and fills our gao'ls with infamy and crime:—it poisons the cup of conjugal happiness, and breathes