

"Look here, landlord," said the man, after standing thoughtful for a few minutes, "I'll make a bargain with you."

"Very well, what about?"

"If you will quit selling, I will quit drinking."

The landlord did not answer for some moments; but sat with his eyes fixed upon the floor. At length, rising up slowly, he extended his hand to his customer, and grasping it firmly, said—"Agreed! it's a bargain!"

A hearty shake sealed the bargain!

An hour afterwards those who went by the "Punch Bowl" saw the bar closed. And in less than an hour afterward, the sad-hearted wife who had seen her husband walking in the road to ruin, saw him return as sober as when he left, and heard with gladness, his promise, never again to put the cup of confusion to his lips.

Thus it is that truth scattered even in the fields and by the road side, finds its way into the minds of men, and does its work on their hearts. Our most imperfect and defective efforts are often over-ruled by Providence to the accomplishment of the greatest good.



### TO DISTILLERS AND THEIR ALLIES.

(Extracts from an American Temperance Tract.)

The art of turning the products of the earth into a fiery spirit was discovered by an Arab about nine hundred years ago. The effects of this abuse of nature's gifts were soon viewed with alarm. Efforts were made even by the Heathen people to arrest the evil. And it shows the mighty agency and cunning of Satan, that Christian nations should ever have been induced to adopt and encourage this deadliest of man's inventions. In the guilt of encouraging the destructive art, our own free country has largely participated. In the year 1815, as appears from well authenticated statistics, our number of distilleries had risen to nearly forty thousand. And, until within a very few years past, the progress of intemperance threatened all that was fair and glorious in our prospects. The reformation recently commenced is one of the grandest movements of our world: and to secure its speedy triumph, the concurrence of distillers is obviously indispensable. They must cease to provide the destroying element. This they are urged to do by the following considerations.

1. The business of distilling confers no benefits on your fellow-men.

Ardent spirits is not needed as an article of living. In the first ages of the world, when human life was protracted to hundreds of years, it was unknown. By the first settlers of this country it was not used. It was scarcely used for a whole century. And those temperate generations were remarkably robust, cheerful, and enterprising. To this we may

add, that several hundred thousand persons, accustomed to use it, have given it up entirely within a few years past; and their united testimony is, that they have made no sacrifice either of health, or strength, or any real comfort. Indeed, few, if any, except such as have the intemperate appetite, will now seriously contend that distilled liquor is necessary or useful. The little that may perhaps be desirable as medicine might be made by the apothecary or the physician.

The talents God has given you might be applied to advance the welfare of your fellow-men. It is your duty—your highest honor—thus to apply them. And on the bed of death, in near prospect of the judgment, it will surely be a melancholy reflection, that, as regards the happiness of mankind, your life has been an utter blank.

2. The business of distilling is not only useless, but is the occasion of many and great evils.

Recent examination has developed a number of appalling facts, which few, if any, pretend to question. It is admitted that the use of ardent spirit has been a tax on the population of our country, of from fifty to a hundred millions of dollars annually. It is admitted that three-fourths of all the crimes of the land results from the use of intoxicating liquor. It is admitted that at least three-fourths of all the sufferings of poverty arise from the same source. It is admitted that upward of thirty thousand of our citizens have annually descended to the drunkard's grave. It is admitted (by those who believe the Bible) that drunkards shall not inherit eternal life, but must have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone. In a word, it is admitted that health, fortune, social happiness, intellect, conscience, heaven, are all swept away by the tide of intemperance.

3. The business of distilling destroys, to a great extent, the bounties of Providence.

Many of the substances converted into ardent spirit are indispensable to the comfort of man—some of them the very staff of life. But the work of distillation not only destroys them as articles of food, but actually converts them to poison. An incalculable amount of grain, and tens of thousands of hogsheads of sugar and molasses, beside enormous quantities of other useful articles, are every year thus wickedly perverted in this Christian Land! Who does not know the odious fact, that, in many places, the distillery has regulated the price of bread? Who does not know that this engine of iniquity has at times so consumed the products of industry as to make it difficult for the poorer classes to get a supply? "The poor we have always with us;" and cries of the suffering are often heard from other lands. Such facts, it would seem, might reach the conscience of all who are wantonly destroying Heaven's gifts. Can you, for a little selfish gain, persist in converting the bread of multitudes into pestilential fire! How utterly unlike the example of Him, who, while feeding thousands by miracle, could still say, "Gather up the fragments which remain, that nothing be lost."

5. You pursue a pernicious calling in opposition to good light.

The time was when good men extensively engaged in the distilling business, and when few seemed to be aware of its fearfully mischievous tendency. The matter had not been a subject of solemn and extensive discussion. The sin was one of comparative ignorance. But circumstances have changed. Inquiry has thrown upon the community a flood of light. The evil of intemperance has been exhibited in its complicated horrors. Ardent spirit has been found to be not only useless, but fearfully destructive: so that the guilt of manufacturing it is now enormously aggravated.

Good men were once engaged in importing slaves. They suspected not the iniquity of the business; and an apology can be offered for them on the ground of ignorance: but the