

in me.” Those substances, however, which contain, or will produce sugar, after they are dead and become subject to laws which operate on inanimated matter, undergo a process which chemists call *vinous fermentation*. By this process a new substance is formed, called alcohol. It is composed of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen, in the proportion of about thirteen, fifty-two, and thirty-five parts to the hundred. It is in its nature, as manifested in its effects, *a subtle and diffusive poison*. The elements, by the combination of which this substance is formed, existed before; but the substance itself which that combination forms, did not before exist. It is the product solely of vinous fermentation, and is as really different from what existed before in the fruits or the grains, as the poisonous miasma is different from the vegetables from the decomposition and decay of which it springs. It is as different as poison is from food, sickness from health, or drunkenness from sobriety.

Hence it no more follows, because fruits and grains are nourishing to the human system, that therefore alcohol is nourishing, than it follows, because vegetables are nourishing, that therefore poisonous miasma, which the decay of those