

One evening after he had recovered from his illness at about 7 o'clock, while I was present with him in his room in order to assure me of the capability of his system resisting the effects of opium, an experiment I was very reluctant to witness, he opened a parcel containing twelve small bottles each of which contained a drachm of sulphate of morphia, he took up one of these bottles and emptied its whole contents into a tumbler which he had half filled with whiskey, stirred the mixture well and swallowed the terrible dose at one gulp, (a quantity sufficient to destroy twenty or more lives,) and in the course of fifteen or twenty minutes after drank down at one draught four ounces of laudanum which he had procured in a drug store close by.

An hour after performing the dangerous experiment he went to spend the evening in the theatre where he enjoyed the drama with all due complacency. I visited him at his rooms in the hotel at eleven o'clock the same evening and saw him take nearly a fourth of a drachm of morphia in a glass of whiskey before retiring. Fearing that the experiment might have proved too much for him during the night I called to see him at an early hour the following morning and to my utter astonishment found him wide awake after having passed a quiet night and apparently suffering from no ill effects of the poison. He asked for more whiskey and morphia, I strongly remonstrated and cautioned him against the results sooner or later to follow such enormous doses of poison and such flagrant abuse of his constitution—his only reply was, "I am used to it and there is no danger." Satisfied and easy in his own mind that there was no danger and that the seeming impunity he enjoyed in the past he would still enjoy in the future, he was willing and determined to pursue his dangerous habits. Two days after he went home to his family in New York, and was gone nearly four months at the end of that time he returned to this city with the intention of taking up his residence here with a view to practice his profession, when he arrived here he consulted me for urethral stricture which caused him intense pain and to allay it he was obliged to use opiates in larger quantities.

He was now feeble and exhausted, worn and emaciated, apparently fast sinking a victim to his evil habits of the dangers attending which he was now fully convinced. He had been addicted to this destructive vice of opium eating for nearly three years and it had gone on increasing from day to day until it had acquired its alarming and incredible magnitude. With the perfect consciousness at last that he was destroying himself and with every desire to struggle against the insatiable cravings of his diseased appetite he found it utterly impossible to offer the slightest opposition to them. In vain did he try to resist the baneful temptation.