



### Strong Drink.

*What is he like?*—Sometimes he is white, then he is called Whisky. Sometimes he is brown, then he is called Ale. Sometimes he is almost black, then he is called Porter. Sometimes he is red like blood, then he is called Wine. Some people who are afraid of him in one dress, are quite bold with him in another, which is very foolish, for his disposition is quite the same at all times. Among fashionable people he dresses in a genteel red or purple very often, and writes Wine on his card, but his favourite dress in other circles is a dull water colour, or changing drab. If ever, my young friends, you see one in red, calling himself Negus, or Port, or Sherry; or in drab, calling himself Dublin Stout, or London Porter, or Edinburgh Ale; or in water colour, calling himself Toddy, Punch, Hollands, Double Proof, or any such name, be you sure whatever may be said against it, that you see that deadly villain Strong Drink, and make the best of your way out of his reach.

*Where does he stay?*—He stays in barrels, and casks, and greybeards, in black bottles, and in white bottles, in decanters, in tumblers, in dram-glasses, in gill-stoups, and in mutchkin measures. He stays a great deal in sideboards and presses, and is sure to be found in the public-house. He takes up his abode with many at New-year times; and if a baby is born, or a marriage takes place in any house near you, ten chances to one but you find him there. As to fairs, and fights, and races, he is never far from them. But if you ask where he likes best to stay, then he likes best to stay *down folks' throats*; though many individuals say that he runs at once to their head.

*What does he do?*—It would take many sheets of paper and a long time's writing to tell that. He kindles a fire in the

stomach, and drops poison into the veins. He sets the blood a-boiling and the tongue a-stammering. He paints noses red, and dots them with pimples. He makes fair faces coarse, and bright eyes dull and bloodshot. He makes handsome people slouch, and strong people shake. He makes heads ache and whirl, and limbs move zigzag. He 'steals away the brain,' and robs men of their purses. He makes widows and orphans, fills jails and hospitals, thins churches and Sabbath schools. He has sent tens of thousands in banishment to bridewell and the gallows, and sixty thousand every year in Britain he hunts to the grave, and cheats of their souls.

*Why is he called Strong?*—When two men struggle, and one knocks or throws the other down, that one is the *strongest*. But Strong Drink is *stronger than the strongest man*. He will throw any man down that likes to try him. This is one reason why he is called Strong. Again, *he can destroy the strongest bodily frame*. Some strong people fight with him a good while, but he always beats them at last; and they are often quite useless long before they are dead. But the mind is strong as well as the body, and Strong Drink can overcome the strongest minds. There are some very strong things in the mind—these are called feelings or principles, and are like gates and pillars to it. Now Strong Drink can carry away these gates and pull down these pillars as easily as Samson carried off the gates of Gaza, or pulled away the pillars of the house of Dagon. There is LOVE, a very strong thing, but he has often destroyed even that, making the father curse his children, and the husband kill his wife. There is SHAME, but he can take that gate away too, and make men well enough pleased to be like beasts—the wealthy content to