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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, even CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

*As it is now necessary that all should possess the means of forming a sound and true judgment, as to what the Scriptures teach respecting the use of wine, the reading community are brought under a debt of gratitude to Dr. Mair, by the manner in which he brings the subject under their consideration in this well-timed Essay. Let it be attentively and prayerfully studied: that it was so prepared none can doubt who know the esteemed author. Let none make light of it; the magnitude of intemperance as a monster evil is every day crowding upon the attention—already, it makes the ears of every one to tingle. From whence can deliverance come if abstinence from intoxicating drinks is not a Scriptural requirement? To prove that every inebriating cup should be shunned, in obedience to God, as "The Cup of Devils,"—the poison of dragons and the cruel venom of asps," is the object of this Essay.*

### The Topic for the Month.

#### OBSERVATIONS ON THE TEXT

'Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils.'  
1 Cor. x. 21.

The Bible has much to do with distinctions between truth and error, right and wrong, [Lev. x. 9, 10. Ez xlv. 21, 23. Phil. i. 10, see marginal reading,] and notwithstanding the bold and startling paradoxes of a recent writer in the *Westminster Review*, as to the equal harmlessness of alcohol, and the food which we daily use without suspicion or scruple for the sustenance of our bodies,—proves them to belong to opposite categories, and the former to be a moral, intellectual, and physical poison. We must not let men of this stamp, "glorying in their shame, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not," and thrust their absurd and mischievous dogmas upon the voracious maw of "the world, lying in wickedness," without giving to the word of the Lord, "like a hammer," an opportunity to shiver to atoms their base and brittle arguments, and expose to scorn their vile and despicable sophistries. With the view of counteracting such evil influences, we have selected the passage "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils," as the basis of the following remarks.

In this portion of Scripture we opine that only two modes of interpretation can be recognised. Let it be premised that the persons addressed are viewed by the apostle, as in their normal state of health, nothing being said to the contrary.—Then, the truth expressed, "Ye cannot drink," must apply either to the liquid to be drunk, or the manner of its being drunk; either—I. To two cups—the one salutary, which can be lawfully drunk by the persons addressed; and the other noxious, which cannot be lawfully drunk by them: or—II. To only one cup, and that salutary,—which there are

two modes of drinking, one lawful, and the other unlawful, one permitted, and the other prohibited. We shall endeavour in humble dependence upon the teaching of the Holy Spirit, to ascertain which of these alternatives is according to His mind, and therefore to be received as Divine truth:—and may He who is "Light and Love" dispel all darkness from our understandings, and cause us to comprehend this glorious theme in all its simplicity and grandeur.

We are first to take into consideration the doctrine, that there are two cups mentioned in the text, one salutary, which can be lawfully drunk by the persons addressed; and the other noxious, which cannot be lawfully drunk by them.

Two cups are mentioned in this passage, "the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils," and the impossibility of drinking the one and the other. "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils." We purpose treating the subject under the following heads:—

I. What is the meaning of the expression, "the cup of the Lord?"

II. What is the meaning of the expression, "the cup of devils?"

III. What is the meaning of the declaration "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils?"

I. What is the meaning of the expression "the cup of the Lord?"

In the 16th verse of this chapter we find the following words:—"The cup of blessing which we bless is it not the communion of the blood of Christ;" and in the 21st verse, the passage before us: "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord." We believe that "the cup of blessing" and "the cup of the Lord" are synonymous or nearly synonymous expressions, or scriptural equivalents. By the word "cup" is to be understood the wine contained in "the cup." What is the meaning of the qualifying term "of blessing"—"the cup of blessing?" To find out this we must refer to Isaiah, lxx. 8, where these words are presented