

men, flour paste," or yeast, in a proper state of decomposition; and by the application of heat, the sugar is converted into alcohol, with the "escape of carbonic acid."

Juices containing these substances, such as the juice of the grape or palm tree, undergo spontaneous fermentation. And such, no doubt, was the origin of the production of wines containing alcoholic properties. A quantity of grape or palm juice may have been set aside for use, and possibly, by some accidental causes, suffered decomposition, thereby exciting fermentation, and thus giving birth to one of the most important productions in nature; one that has exerted a highly beneficial influence in the arts and manufactures; but which has inflicted on the whole human race unutterable woe; entailed upon them evils beyond the power of language to express; polluted every pure and virtuous emotion that emanates from the heart of man; deluged the world with abominations and crime; scorched up the sacred fountains of morality and religion; and all but blotted out the belief in the existence of the Deity itself.

It will be well to observe the fact, and to impress it indelibly upon our minds, that intoxicating liquor, if not the original cause of, has, in all ages, been the great incentive to evil; and it has also been the awarder of its own punishments. For the realization of these melancholy truths, we need only refer to history, whose pages yield abundant testimony on the subject.

The early portions of the Old Testament prove how soon the consequences of intemperance began to develop themselves.

The well known case of Lot, for instance, is a woeful exemplification.

In the 9th chapter of Judges, and 27th verse, we read,