

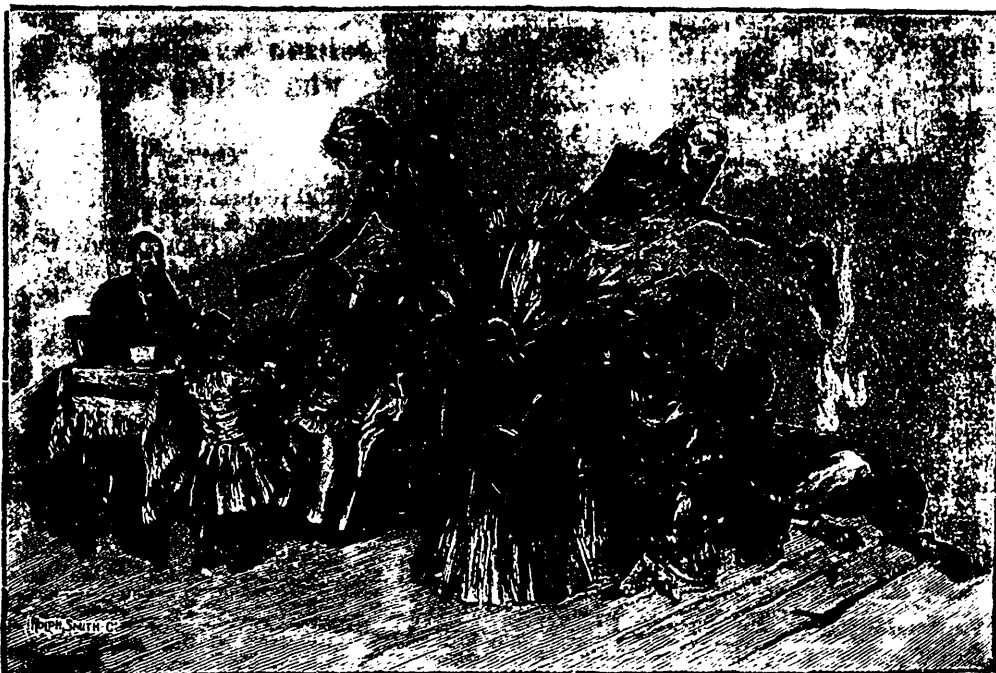
Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging.—Prov. xx. 1.

The Mill and the Still.

THE illustration which appears on this page is copied from "Harper's Weekly." It is without exception the most suggestive picture we have seen for years. In it we have on one hand the beneficent design of God in the gift of "Golden Grain." It was truly designed to be an angel of supply and comfort, and it has been so abundantly supplied that none need be in want. But on the other hand we see how the hellish designs of men

Where Does the Sin Commence?

NO drink deeply—to be drunk—is a sin; this is not denied. At what point does the taking of strong drink become a sin? The state in which the body is when not excited by intoxicating drink is its proper and natural state; drunkenness is the state furthest removed from it. The state of drunkenness is a state of sin; at what stage does it become sin? We suppose a man perfectly sober who has not tasted anything which can intoxicate;



THE MILL AND THE STILL.

have changed that same grain into a *demon* of want, misery and death. That which God designed as a source of supply to strengthen and support man, and send the life-blood coursing through healthy veins, is transformed by the devil's agent—the distiller or brewer—into a stream of fiery poison, which blights all with which it comes into contact.

Brethren! let us gird on the armor, and by God's grace, fight this great enemy of man, and close up those *vent holes* of "hell," which at every corner of our streets, and at the cross-roads of our land are pouring forth the streams of death, engulfing 'neath the flood many of our loved ones, bringing sorrow and sighing, where otherwise joy and peace might reign supreme.

one glass excites him, and to some extent disturbs the state of sobriety, and so far destroys it; another glass excites him still more; a third fires his eye, loosens his tongue, inflames his passions; a fourth increases all this; a fifth makes him foolish and partially insane; a sixth makes him savage; a seventh or an eighth makes him stupid—a senseless, degraded mass; his reason is quenched, his faculties are for the time destroyed. Every noble and generous and holy principle within him withers, and the image of God is polluted and defiled! This is sin: awful sin; for "drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God." But where does the sin begin? At the first glass, at the first step towards complete intoxication, or at the sixth, or seventh, or eighth? Is not every