

mach. It will also be observed that the perversion of these laws leads to incalculable evil. Hence we may conclude that it is the incumbent duty of every man to avoid that which is likely to injure his health or character; and more especially the pernicious habit of intoxication, which, besides being the cause of all diseases having their origin in the organs of digestion, is the fruitful source of most of the inflammatory diseases of the brain, heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys; the most prominent of which are "delirium tremens," inflammation of the heart and its membranes, pneumonia and consumption, rheumatic affections and dropsy; which, if they do not lead to immediate death, leave the patient in such a debilitated condition, both mentally and bodily, as never to be able to regain his former state of health.

"Alcohol is the intoxicating principle of all spirituous liquors, and in moderate doses acts as a general stimulant, exciting particularly the vascular and nervous systems: in somewhat larger doses it produces the well-known effects of intoxication; and in excessive doses it acts as a powerful narcotic poison, rapidly causing death, preceded by slow pulse, contracted pupils, and coma." Were this the only destructive principle existing in intoxicating liquors, the evils of intemperance might possibly be somewhat mitigated. But when we take into consideration the awful fact, that, in addition to the above powerful poison, these liquors are adulterated with some of the most virulent poisons that nature can produce,—such as hemlock, nuxvomica, and one of its alkaloids, strychnia, opium, tobacco, and many others,—we are utterly paralyzed, and wonder that more mischief is not the result of such pernicious habits.