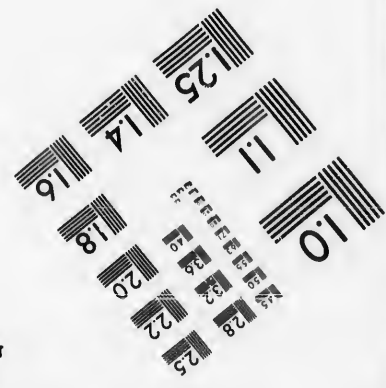
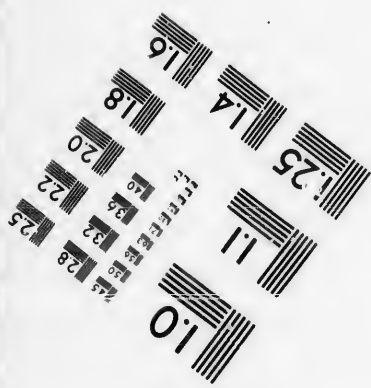
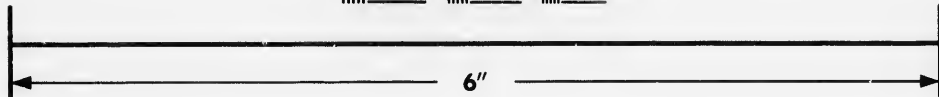
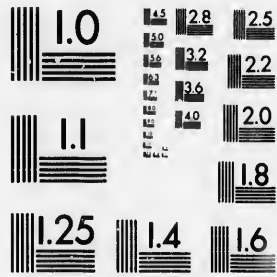


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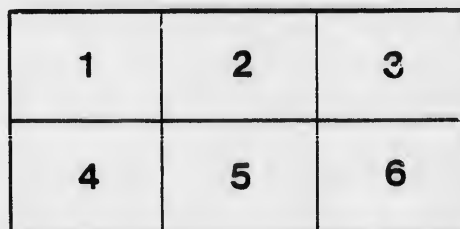
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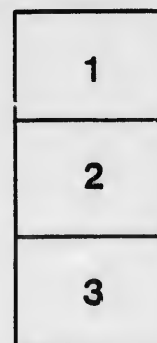
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4

# Home Comfort

FOR

## Drinkers.

BY CAPTAIN ALBERT D. WOOD.


OTTAWA, CANADA :  
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# SOME COMFORT FOR DRINKERS.

BY CAPTAIN ALBERT D. WOOD.

HE nature and effects of alcoholic drinks and the manner of their production have been most ably, plainly, and frequently presented to the world through the various agencies of the pulpit, the rostrum, and the press. Still, it is surprising, in these days of light and knowledge, that so very few people have availed themselves of the information so easily acquired and of so much importance to us all; surprising to find so many persons of intelligence and good general information still clinging to the long-ago-exploded idea that alcoholic intoxicants were in some way provided by the Creator, and must have been destined for our use as food, drink, or medicine. Surprising it is that such a very large proportion of those who use such liquors, moderately or otherwise, are so completely misinformed and utterly mistaken as to their qualities and effects; and it is strange that so few even of the friends and advocates of temperance have acquired correct information upon this question. The purpose of these pages is to supply, in a few words, some important facts for the million which the million will not take the time nor trouble to learn from an elaborate treatise; to tell some things which have been told before, and also to place some matters before the reader in a new light, and set him to thinking about them.

## WHAT IS ALCOHOL?

Were alcohol found in vegetable or mineral nature, as are opium, strychnine, arsenic, and mercury, or were it found in nature at all, there might be some ground for supposing the Creator had designed it to serve some useful or beneficent purpose; but even in that case no valid argument would exist that any of these deadly poisons, so fatal to life and health, must have been intend-

ed to enter the human system as nutriment or stimulant for the healthy, or as remedial agents for the sick, or weak, or aged.

But alcohol is not found in nature. God never created a particle of it. None would ever have existed but for the art of man interfering with the operations of nature. So far is alcohol from being a natural or legitimate product that its manufacture is a WAR AGAINST NATURE AND AGAINST NATURE'S GOD. Having no legitimate use as a drink or remedy, being a poison and a curse, a deadly enemy to health, peace, and human happiness, a special weapon of warfare against morality, virtue, and Christianity, the production, sale, or purchase of alcohol, giving it to others, or its use as a beverage, in the form of spirituous liquors, ale, porter, wine, bitters, or other alcoholic intoxicant, is a *blasphemous defiance of Almighty God, a war waged for the frustration of His divine purposes and designs, a violation of every one of the Ten Commandments and of every precept of the Gospel, and it is the blackest and vilest treason against humanity.* Some readers may at first sight pronounce the foregoing a rash or untenable assertion, but unless they can disprove the following unquestionable facts it must stand as literal truth:—

1. Alcohol is the intoxicating property in all fermented and distilled liquors that are unadulterated. The mildest and the strongest beer, the lightest and the heaviest wines, the cheapest and the most expensive liquors and cordials, as well as the vilest fiery whiskey or gin, are used as beverages and remedies, simply and only for the sake of the alcohol they contain, in greater or less proportions, according to their strength.

2. Alcohol is a deadly poison. It is the product of putrescence or rotteness. It cannot be made from anything which has not been rotted and putrefied. Alcoholic spirits, wine, or beer can only be produced by the *destruction of food*, by the decomposition and degradation of sugar (the trifling quantity of pure alcohol which might be required for legitimate purposes, if any, such as preserving dead snakes and insects in bottles, could of course be distilled, at extra trouble and expense, from certain plants not used for food, but the present demand can only be supplied by the destruction of food). Sugar does not contain



any alcohol, but when subjected to the process of fermentation, which is a process of putrefaction and decomposition, its form and nature are entirely changed, and it is converted into alcohol through a mysterious chemical agency. It is evident that nature never intended to produce alcohol, and, unassisted, never would have done so; for this fermentation must be carefully watched and carried on under certain conditions of temperature, and it must be arrested, too, at a certain stage, otherwise, if permitted to continue, the alcohol is converted into vinegar, another liquid entirely different from both alcohol and sugar, and possessing useful properties.

3. The sugar contained in the juice of the cane, the beet, the grape, and other fruits and vegetables, in the sap of the palm and the maple, and in animal *milk*, though differing somewhat in their qualities, are readily convertible into alcohol by fermentation.

4. The gluten, or starch, which is the nourishing property or food contained in barley, wheat, rye, potatoes, and in other grains and vegetables, is transformed by the chemistry of the maltster and brewer into sugar, and that sugar is fermented and degraded into alcohol. It is probably owing to its high price that among Anglo-Saxon peoples milk has not as yet been tortured into an agency of drunkenness, but the Tartars make themselves *happy* and hilarious on a fascinating alcoholic beverage called *koumiss*, which is fermented mare's milk.

5. No one can doubt for a moment that the grain, the grape, the vegetable, and the milk were designed by the Creator to be used as wholesome, nourishing, delicious food, to render the human race physically and mentally healthy and vigorous, happy, and capable of the highest physical and intellectual development and enjoyment. Used properly and rationally in their natural condition of sweetness and purity and wholesome soundness, they are perfectly adapted to this end. But the gluten and sugar contained in these foods are their nutritious elements; robbed of these, they are rendered utterly useless for the evident purposes of their creation: in their conversion into alcoholic drinks all the nutritious properties are destroyed, save that in a

barrel of pure wine or beer there are the *remains* of about two cents' worth of vitiated, poisoned, and fetid nutriment.

#### ALCOHOL IN THE SYSTEM.

6. Natural food is digested or decomposed in the stomach by the action of the *gastric juice*; but the gastric juice cannot digest, decompose, or affect alcohol; on the contrary, alcohol affects the gastric juice, decomposes it, vitiates it, and renders it incapable of the proper performance of its functions. *Indigestible itself, alcohol prevents and retards the digestion of food.*

From the digested natural food the blood is in due course furnished with supplies of nourishing material to expend throughout the system in repairing the constant waste of the human structure. But alcohol flies unbidden into the blood, scorning the ordinary routine and channels of conveyance, and is floated along in and with the blood throughout the whole system---not digested and assimilated, and a portion of the blood, as the essences of food become, but in its purity as an acrid, irritant poison, and an invading foreign foe, as foreign and unnatural an intruder as leaden shot, iron nails, glass beads, or globules of mercury would be. Its effect upon the blood is to vitiate, inflame, and render it incapable of properly performing its work of supplying nourishment where needed, and of carrying away and disposing of the used-up waste material of the system. It wars with and disorders every function of the various organs, even when only taken daily or occasionally in small diluted doses. It inflames and ulcerates the inner membrane or lining of the stomach, exerts a most damaging influence on the delicate structure of the brain, attacking and deranging the whole nervous system, and menacing all who continue the use of these noxious and unnatural drinks with a future of permanent bodily disease and mental imbecility. In no instance do alcohol drinks fulfil the conditions of food or have the same tendency as wholesome food; they cannot nourish, support, or sustain the body or impart warmth or strength or health to it, although they may seem to for a few minutes after being imbibed. In whatever guise it may be presented, alcohol is a constant, never-resting destroyer of health and life, a per-

sistent, deadly foe to everything that tends to man's welfare and happiness in any and every direction.

#### IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

7. The visible and sensible effect of alcohol imbibed in any form, in spirits, wine, beer, or cider, in large or small quantities, is simply and truly DRUNKENNESS. The most distinguished and refined gentlemen and ladies who feel "refreshed", or "invigorated", or "feel better" after a glass of pale ale, or sherry, or champagne taken at the table, the picnic, or the dance, or when fatigued or low-spirited, are only *partially intoxicated*; they are in the incipient stage of DRUNKENNESS; if any doubt it, let them repeat the dose two or three times and prove it for themselves. It is just the same kind of *drunkenness*, too, only differing in degree, under the influence of which the further advanced whiskey-drinker kills his wife with a club, or knife, or axe; just the same kind of drunkenness under the influence of which the beer-drunkard, the most brutalized and dehumanized of all the victims of the drink-sellers, occasionally kicks and stamps his mother to death. The drunken murderer of to-day once took a glass of ale or wine, or a moderate taste of something strong, and was refreshed or revived, and under that influence was polite, genial, witty, and good-natured. Now he has passed beyond that stage of the drinker's career, and reached a point which any moderate drinker of to-day *may* reach in a short time, no matter what his standing or attainments; and no moderate drinker living can have any assurance that he will not reach that point, provided his drinking habits are continued.

The alcohol in the moderate, "innocent" (?) potion of costly wine, though imbibed from a goblet of gold, has reached the brain, and, producing partial intoxication, besides whatever injury it may cause to the physical system, it has weakened the will-power, made a breach in the citadel of the conscience, impaired the judgment, shrouded the intellect, lessened love and veneration for the Creator, and marred His image in the individual, lowered the estimate of virtue, honor, purity, and nobility of character, and rendered vice and sin and wrong less hideous

and less repulsive. No matter how good, how virtuous, how honorable, how benevolent, how noble men and women have been and still are who have been and are moderate drinkers, there can be no doubt their good qualities would have shown more brilliantly had they not been subjected to that deteriorating and demoralizing habit. The Bible declares wine a "mocker", says, "At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder". enjoins us "not to look upon it", and asserts that through it the "priests and prophets went astray and perverted judgment". If it wrought such havoc with Noah, Lot, and the princes and prophets distinguished by the favour of God, and if it has in all ages and in our own time dragged to perdition from among all classes and ranks of men the good, and noble, and generous, and talented, and excellent, how can any one escape at least partial demoralization who uses it at all?

#### GENERAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

8. A quart or so of strong whiskey, if drunk in time, is said to be an excellent remedy for the bite of a rattlesnake; very probably it is. Being a powerful poison, it acts as an antidote to the snake poison; whether the latter is a good remedy or antidote for the poison of alcohol has not been as yet properly tested. It may in due time be determined by actual experiment that those liable to be snake-bitten should keep on hand a bottle of whiskey, and that those subject to wounds from the serpent of the bottle should ever have a rattlesnake in the closet as a convenient antidote. If there is any other good use to which alcoholic liquor of any kind can be put as an internal application, and something else may not be substituted for it with advantage, the writer is not aware of it. Were the whole stock of it destroyed to-day, and no more could be made, no honest, decent, lawful interest would suffer in the slightest degree; if temporary loss should appear in one direction, it would be compensated tenfold in another or in many others. The traffic confers no real benefit upon any one; one dealer in one or two hundred may get rich and appear *only* to lose his soul, and his honour, and his own respect and that of his fellow-men; but among no class of men is there such a per-

centage of suicide, violent and sudden death, drunkenness, financial failure, domestic misery, ruin of families, and ultimate poverty, as among liquor makers and sellers. The traffic in those liquors and their manufacture in the United States employ a quarter of a million of men, prostituting their industry to the destruction of the commonwealth; powerfully aided by the example and influence of those who practise and foster social drinking in their own homes, this traffic keeps up besides a constant army of idlers, loafers, drunkards, thieves, murderers, prostitutes, gamblers, libertines, maniacs and paupers, numbering probably over three-quarters of a million people, whom it has directly seduced from the ranks of the honest, sober, and industrious, or indirectly forced into the present wretched condition, by robbing families and children and women of the support of their parents and protectors, depriving them of food, raiment, and schooling, and reducing them to beggary and crime. It is supposed to kill off in various ways every year about one-fifth of its half-million or so of drunkards, recruiting annually of new material an equal or rather increasing number, whom it entices into its thousands of traps and snares. To afford a very imperfect protection against the criminals created by the liquor-trade, we have to employ and pay another vast army of policemen, sheriffs, constables, detectives, jailers, guards, etc., etc., withdrawn from their industries among the busy, sober productive classes. Further, taxation is quadrupled to build and maintain prisons, penitentiaries, madhouses, hospitals, poorhouses, police courts and stations, etc., etc., in which to warehouse the manufactured products of the traffic, while, by its pauperizing ravages on the community, the value of property is destroyed utterly, the commercial and industrial interests crippled, and the sober, enterprising, better class of citizens driven away to seek a living elsewhere. It would require a large volume to enumerate all the evils, wrongs, and curses wrought solely and directly by the liquor-sellers and their sympathizers; suffice it to say here that every year of the murderous plundering warfare they wage against their country is more costly in life and blood, and health and virtue and money, and much more disastrous to the moral,

financial, and general welfare of the commonwealth, than was the late civil war in any year of its continuance.

#### ADULTERATION OF LIQUORS.

If *genuine* spirits, wine, and beer were good and useful as food or medicine, we might almost truly say there are none to be had; none in the market; probably not more than once in fifty times can you buy them pure, and then only by chance—nothing to be had but fraudulent mixtures and villanous imitations made from other deadly poisons, such as strychnine, vitriol, cocculus indicus, sugar of lead, tobacco, etc., some of which are more suddenly and fatally destructive than alcohol. The liquor makers and sellers find a fourfold advantage in these adulterations: (1) They are cheaper than alcohol. (2) They are enabled to fabricate imitations of wines and liquors of the highest price, fanciest brand, and most venerable age at a merely nominal cost, scarce exceeding that of the most common whiskey. (3) These maddening mixtures produce drunkenness and craziness more rapidly than the genuine. (4) Their use more surely and speedily makes the moderate drinker a helpless drunkard, the fast-bound slave and prey of his vampire murderers.

No one but a chemist can have the least security against imposition in the purchase of intoxicating liquors. Men are the most generally and enormously defrauded where they place the utmost confidence and pay the highest prices for "choice old" or "pure imported wines and liquors" to traders who profess to keep such things and to deal *uprightly*. (What egregious folly to suppose a liquor-dealer honest!)

The worst and vilest frauds are practised in the professed depots and agencies of the products of certain vineyards, of California and other wines, in the advertised "fermented communion wines", in the houses which sell their "own noted home-brewed ales", etc., and especially in the "pure wines", "pure brandy", "pure whiskey", and "*tonic* bitters" of various names, but all of one kind of very bad whiskey, sold by innocent village druggists and storekeepers "expressly for medicinal purposes", in the purchase of which they are atrociously swindled by the city

wholesale dealers. Doubtless at least 95 per cent. of all the beer, wine, and liquors sold in the United States is drugged and doctored with poisonous mixtures, or made almost entirely of them, a little alcohol being required for a base to start with; no doubt at least 95 per cent. of the wines and liquors sold as importations are fabricated in the cellars of the dealers; and as the French do an enormous business in the fabrication of liquors and wines, it is very probable most of what we really do import is bogus.

But no matter how much adulteration, the bogus liquors are only a little worse than the best and purest; they equally produce the desired effect of drunkenness. It is idle to exclaim against them. The idea that intemperance would be materially lessened by the use of only pure liquors is a fallacy. The question is introduced here merely to direct attention to the audacity with which the liquor-dealers perpetrate the most villanous cheats and frauds upon their wondrously verdant customers, and the utter indifference with which they pursue their business of destroying human life.

#### A WAR AGAINST NATURE.

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat" (Genesis i. 29). No proof or authority is ever called for or given to confirm an assertion inimical to temperance, but the world is particularly exacting and critical in demanding and combating proofs of self-evident facts on our side, else it would not have been necessary to refer to Sacred Scripture for cumulative evidence that food was designed for the support and comfort of man, and not for the purpose of manufacturing from the ruins of its prostitution a poison charged with misery, disease, damnation, and death for man, and of no utility whatever for any good purpose. Again, in Genesis ix. 3--6, where permission is given to eat animal food, how strict is the injunction to respect and protect human life, with the penalty, "At the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man; whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed".



Now, as alcoholic drinks are only produced by the prostitution of some God-given blessing of food from its natural uses and purposes, robbing it of all its beneficent properties, putrefying and rotting its nutriment, and perverting it into an unnatural, maddening poison that can only curse and blast and slay mankind, the production of alcoholic beverages is manifestly A WAR AGAINST NATURE AND AGAINST GOD.

The drunkard-maker, as he commences his atrocious work of destroying human life by transforming wholesome grain or fruit into beer or wine or spirits, virtually says: "Behold this food which God bounteously provided for the hungry. I will see that the hungry shall have none of it as food; it would have filled the poor with contentment and raised their hearts and voices in joyous thankfulness to God; those who shall use it, after the spell of my blighting art has passed over it, shall curse and hate and blaspheme God. It would have brought joy and happiness to sorrowing mothers and starving, helpless, innocent children, made hungry and needy by my work; it shall through my art fill their hearts yet more with woe and misery and terror. God sends it in abundance every year to promote happiness and virtue, peace and order, that our country may be a continuous Eden of happy Christian homes, the dwellings and nurseries of His chosen people; but I will make [it breed strife, and hate, and sin, and debauchery, and sorrow, and death, and it shall fill the land with dramshops and brothels and domestic hells in place of happy homes. God sent it charged with health and strength and life; I will make it a swift messenger of disease, rottenness, filth, madness, and death. God sent it to bless man's industry with reward of peace and plenty; through me it shall serve to people the poorhouse, and make men gnash their teeth within the iron gratings of prison and madhouse. These good blessings of God, sent in His plenteous loving-kindness and mercy to His children on earth, I shall make the instruments of destroying all faith and trust in God, all love to God and good-will to men; they shall teach men and women, young and old, such lessons of vice and lewdness, theft and murder, and all manner of filthiness, as shall afflict the earth with the miseries and plagues and torments



of hell. Not only shall they blight with physical and moral pestilence all who use them, but they shall make the lives and properties of the whole community ever insecure, and shall ever lie in wait to drive all prosperity from the door of virtue and industry, and to thwart and curse and blast every legitimate, honorable, respectable work and end and interest of men ". Surely we have the most ample evidence that the business of the liquor maker and trader is a *war against nature, against God, and a horrible crime and treason against humanity.*

#### A VIOLATION OF ALL THE COMMANDMENTS.

If this business (1) defies and denies the living God, and (2) sets up its temples of idolatry and debauchery at every corner or station where half-a-dozen men may be enticed to congregate; if (3) every liquor-den is a school and theatre of blasphemy; if this business (4) systematically violates every Sabbath-day, and carries on a persistent, determined war for the extinction of the sacred Sabbath and for its conversion into a day of especial debauchery; if (5) it teaches its votaries and victims to dishonor father or mother, and family and home, and frequently incites them to the murder of father or mother; if (6) it annually hunts to a horrible death its hundreds of thousands of victims, and keeps the hands of the murderer and assassin and hangman ever red with their brother's blood; if (7) it fills the land with harlotry and (8) theft and (9) perjury and (10) covetousness, injustice, wrong, and violence---and it is as self-evident as the sunlight that the rum-maker's and rum-seller's business does all these things and more, and does no good whatever in the world---then it is undeniably *a violation of every command of the Decalogue.* Being thus a promoter of strife, hate, lust, and all vice, being a foe to virtue, peace, to the love of God and love of man, and to everything decent and of good repute, it is *a violation of every precept of the Gospel,* and the most powerful weapon wielded by Satan and his angels for the frustration of all God's gracious purposes toward mankind.

#### ARE THERE OTHERS GUILTY?

If the manufacture and sale of the horrible poisons which

cause nearly all the sin, shame, and woe of civilized nations is such a monstrous and cruel crime against God and man, *the purchase, the giving to others, the use of them, and our influence and example* given to the countenance and perpetuation of the liquor-traffic and the drinking customs of the day, with the seething mass of festering corruption and sin and death which is their sum and substance, must be A WRONG AND A CRIME which let every one heretofore guilty of it examine, judge, and assess for himself.

St. Paul, before his conversion, was no doubt a worthy, upright man, besides being very learned and talented ; yet he persecuted men and women to prison and to death with inveterate hostility, merely because they were Christians ; this conduct appeared to the converted St. Paul in a very different light, although he had been sinning in ignorance. So, like the unconverted Paul, there are to-day many noble natures sinning wofully in their ignorance as to this drink question, giving their presence and aid and counsel to a war against God, against peace, virtue, mercy, liberty, and truth—a war to enslave and curse and grind the poor and to drive the promised kingdom of peace far from ever reaching the earth. Thousands, too, are to-day in the temperance ranks, converted from the thralldom of sinful custom and perverted appetite, zealous for good and for the right, and happier a thousand times than ever of yore, who look back with horror and contrition upon the evil they once wrought in ignorance and thoughtless countenance of this Satanic evil.

#### WHAT OF THE FUTURE ?

Thousands, let us hope, and you, reader, among them, who have heretofore been thoughtlessly enlisted on the side of the legions of darkness, will in the future be gallant and valiant advocates and exponents of that chaste and blessed TEMPERANCE which has no hate, no curse, no sting, no sorrow, no remorse among its properties ; no stain upon its banner ; whose end and aim is love to God, good-will and peace to men ; which leads no one into peril or temptation, wishes or does ill to none, and has no strife with aught but with the sins and chains which Satan

binds around his slaves to rob them of the birthright of their liberty.

Reader! we seek to reclaim a vast multitude of the aged and middle-aged who are far out on the dark and thorny downward road that leads to a death of horror and to a drunkard's awful doom; it was them Christ came to save; we wish to lead them to the Ark of safety, and point them to happiness here and to a heavenly home in the hereafter. Will you oppose and resist us, and prevent our saving these unfortunates by giving your aid and sanction to the demoniac influences which are enticing them to a temporal and eternal ruin? "At the hands of every man's brother will I require the life of man." We seek to save another vast multitude of the young who have entered, are entering, or soon will enter upon that noisome, slimy, miry, slippery way; for them Christ died; can you be so cruel as to stand aloof, refuse to help us, or impede our efforts, by remaining on the side of the hideous monsters who, for sordid gain, have marked all these for slaughter and ruin? We seek to save a still vaster multitude of the pure and innocent children of this and of many future years,

#### YOUR CHILDREN

among the rest, whom the brewers and distillers and liquor-sellers and teachers of drunkenness and vice intend to seduce and betray and destroy, to rob and murder and consign to misery here and perdition hereafter, as they have done with millions in the past; we propose to have the unrighteous sentence of these innocents reversed; we desire that fair and ruddy, happy and guileless boy—your boy, mayhap—for whom the rum-fiends have marked out on their trestleboard a vile and dissolute life, to close perhaps in prison or on the gallows, may be saved for a life of honored usefulness and happiness. We desire those pure and innocent infant girls whom the drink-ring have marked for sacrifice and destined to suffer the woes of the drunkard's wife, or the shame and misery of a life of infamy, may not be forcibly debarred their natural right to lead lives of innocence, virtue, and peace.

Will you, can you, dare you appear longer in the ranks or on the side of those who resist or retard or discountenance the tem-

perance reform, and take service with the manslayers who slaughter the innocent, who entrap virtue, whose special work is to oppress and rob the poor, to trample them under foot, and to steal the food and clothing of the wives and children of the working-classes, mercilessly starving them to death by thousands?

#### CONCLUSION.

The use of all intoxicating drink, and the work of those who make and sell it, have but one tendency—to degrade, debauch, brutalize, destroy; whatever of good exists in Christian lands to-day survives because it has been enabled to resist the assaults which the liquor-interest has made for its destruction. Every honest man, every virtuous woman, and every happy family are so *in spite of that interest*; it has done and is doing ever its utmost to corrupt and extinguish all honesty, all virtue, all happiness. Let the liquor-traffic have full scope, remove all restriction and opposition, and let it exert its utmost will successfully, and every vestige of Christianity, virtue, honour, and human happiness would soon perish from the earth.

There can be no fitter closing words to a temperance address than those of Joshua: "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve . . .". "Put away the strange gods which are among you, and incline your hearts unto the Lord God of Israel." How vastly more sinful and degrading is the idolatry which possesses our land in this age of Christian light! Let us unite to put away the thousands of temples of Baal and Satan which everywhere blaspheme God and pollute the land; destroy them, that the few and broken and falling altars of the true God may be restored and rebuilt, and the coming of His kingdom to earth rendered possible by man's consent to receive it.

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NOTE.—The title of this tract may not be considered inappropriate when the reader is reminded that its object is to induce "drinkers" to avoid noxious poisons, use the precious, wholesome drink which God in His wisdom gave us, and take "some comfort" in the future.

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