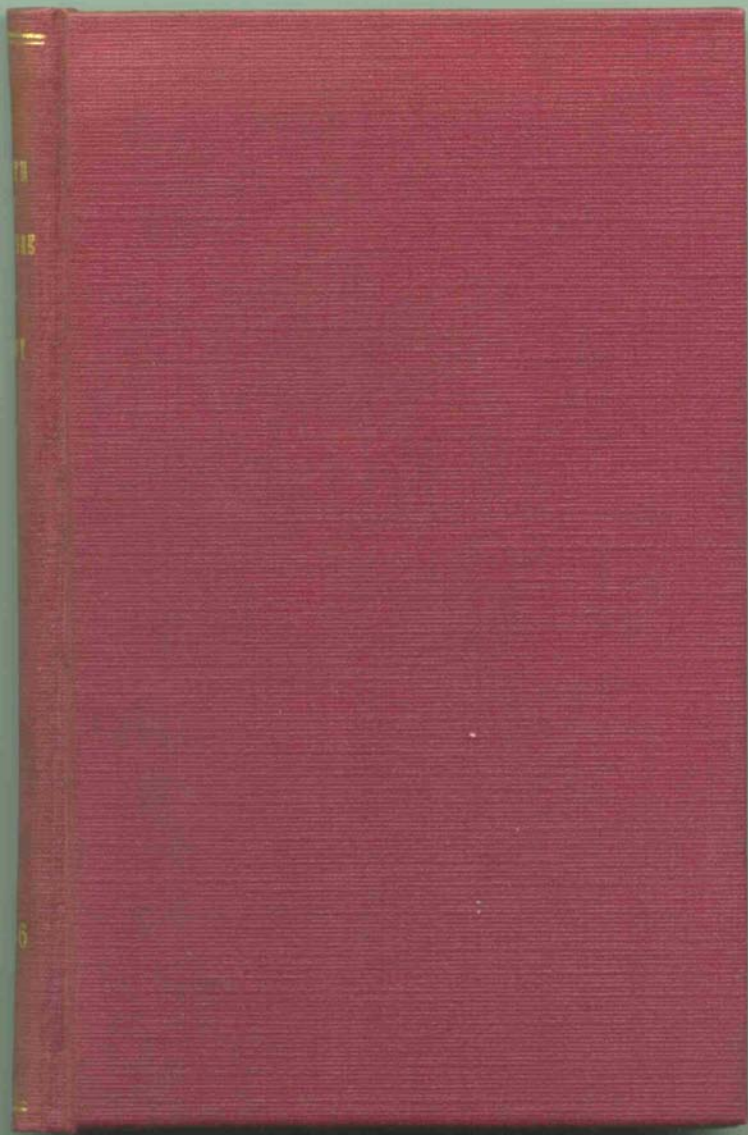
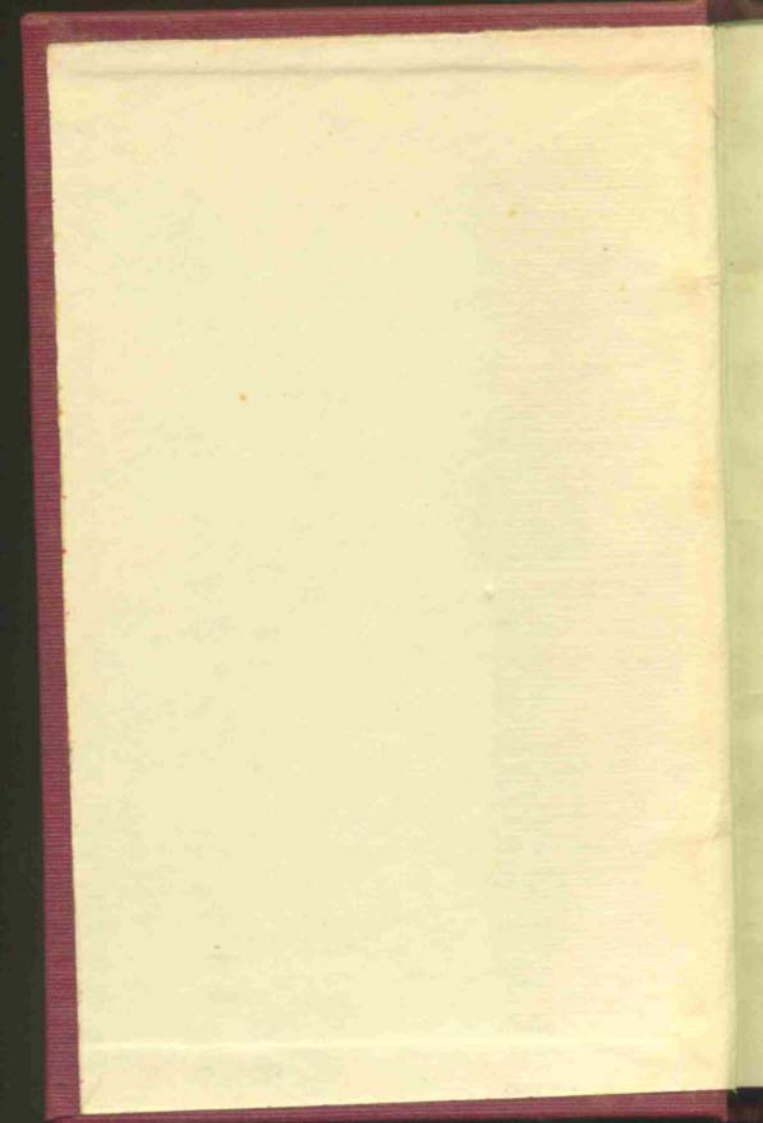

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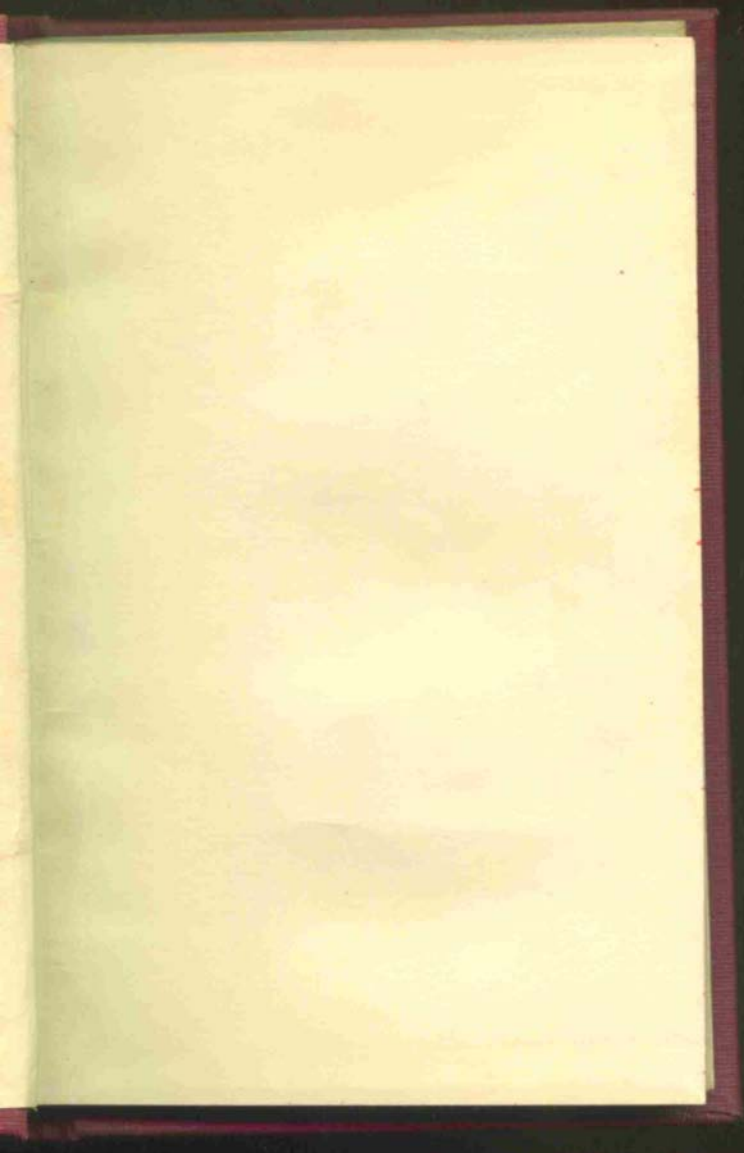
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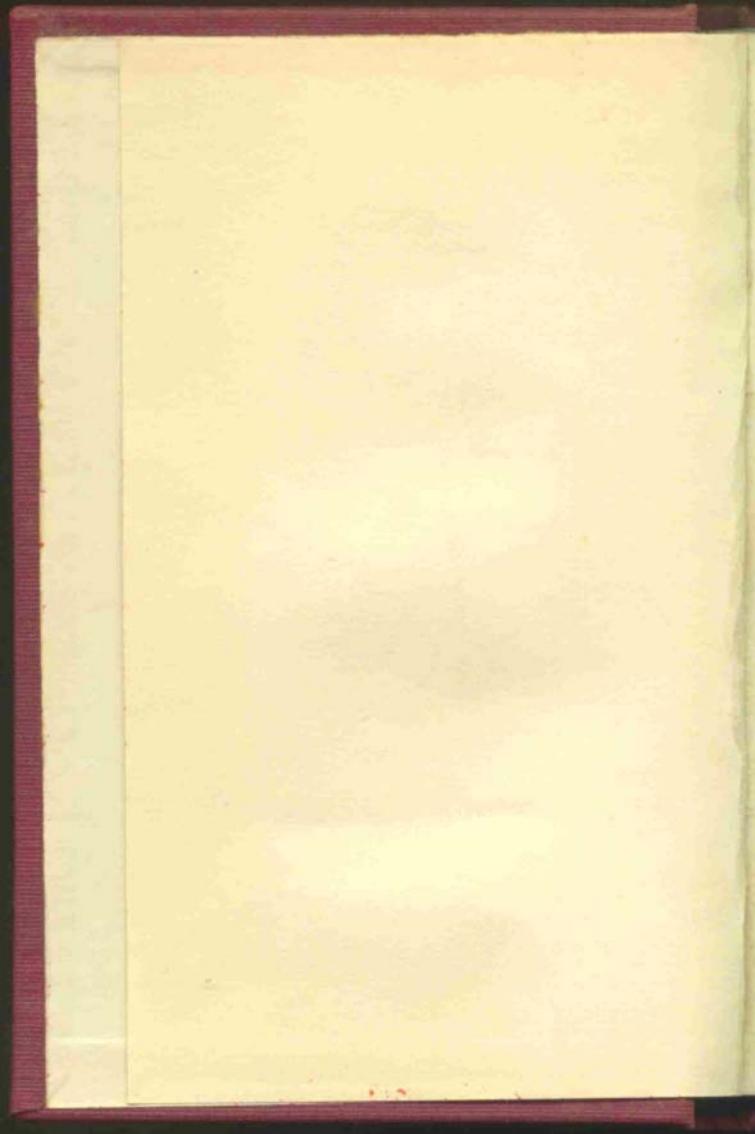


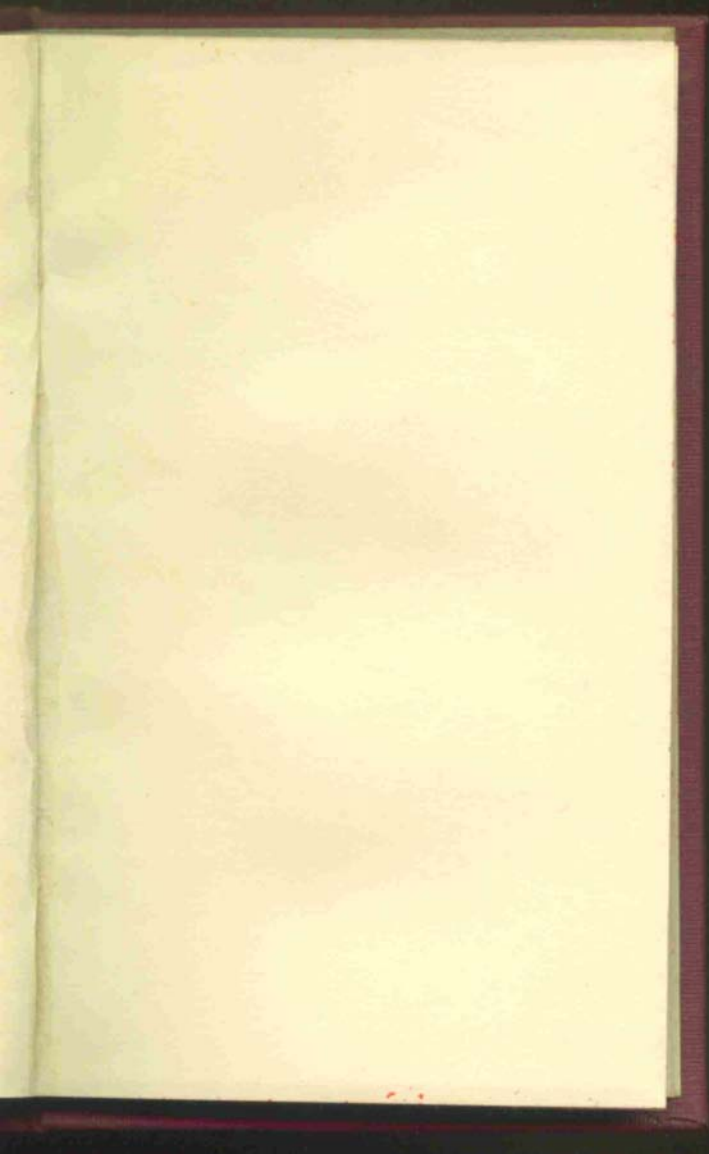
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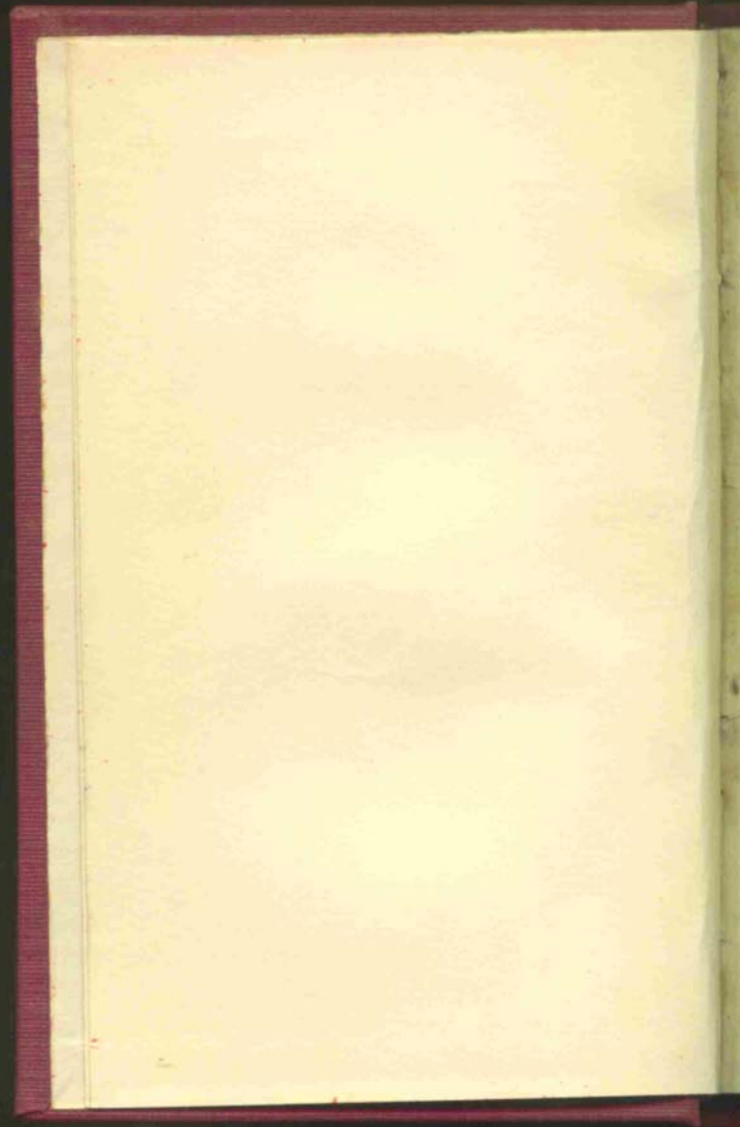


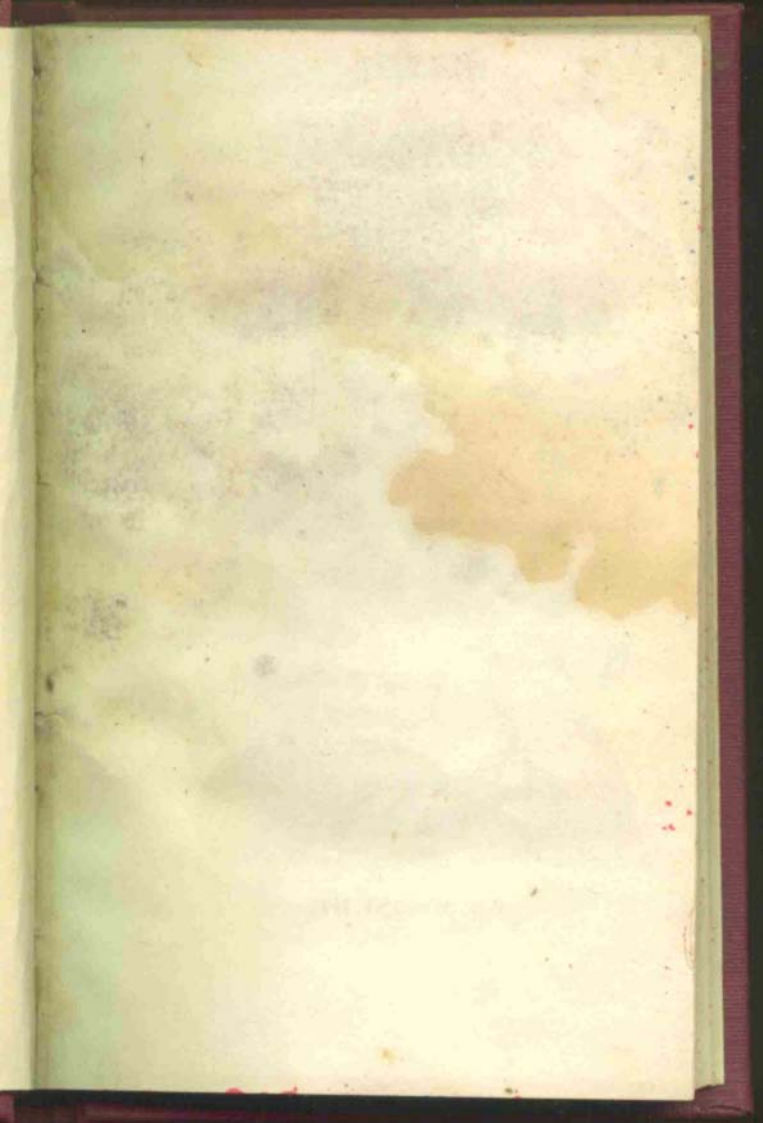












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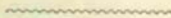
POISONS, AND THEIR EFFECTS,

FOUND IN

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

BY THOMAS P. HUNT,

THE DRUNKARD'S FRIEND.



Philadelphia :

GRIFFITH & SIMON, 114 NORTH THIRD STREET.

CINCINNATI—GEORGE G. JONES.

NEW YORK—SAXTON & MILES.

1846.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1845, by
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DEATH BY MEASURE.

LIQUOR selling is an awfully wicked business in its best estate. There are men engaged in it, possessed of too many excellent qualities to adorn, and to give standing and reputation to a calling which well deserves the title of DEATH BY MEASURE. It is true that they sell by honest measure, and try to trade in a pure article.

“I take great pains to obtain the best in the market, and sell none but the purest stuff,” said a liquor seller to me.

I asked him, what difference did it make whether he sold pure arsenic, or pure alcohol? A traffic in either is a traffic in poisons; is Death by Measure.

Hear what Dubrunfaut, the best writer on

distillation, says about it. I quote from the London 4th edition.

“Pure alcohol coagulates all the fluids of animal bodies, except urine, and hardens the solid parts; applied externally, it instantly contracts the extremities of the nerve it touches, and deprives them of sense and motion, by these means easing them of pain, but at the same time destroying their use. Hence employing spirituous liquors in fomentations, may sometimes, (notwithstanding the specious titles of vivifying, heating, &c. usually attributed to them) be attended with unhappy consequences. These liquors received undiluted in the stomach produce the same effects, thickening the fluids, and contracting all the solid parts they touch, and destroying, at least for a time, their use and office: if the quantity be considerable, a palsy or apoplexy follows, which ends in death. Taken in a small quantity, and duly

diluted, they brace up the fibres, raise the spirits, and promote agility; if further continued, the senses are disordered, voluntary motion destroyed, and at length the same inconveniences brought on as before. Vinous spirits, therefore, in small quantities, and properly diluted, may be applied to useful purposes in the cure of diseases; whilst in larger ones, or if their use (*in small quantities*) be long continued, they act as a poison of a particular kind."

Hear what Christison, the greatest writer on poisons, says. I use his work condensed by Dr. Ducatre. Baltimore, 1833, p. 311.

"Alcohol has generally been believed to act on the brain through the medium of the nerves.—It enters the blood; the breath has a strong smell of spirits for a considerable time after they are swallowed. When injected into the cellular tissue it acts as a violent poison; and it produces through

that channel the same effects as when taken into the stomach. When injected into the cavity of the chest, it acts with great rapidity. Three degrees in the immediate effects of alcohol have been distinguished.

“ When the dose is small, much excitement, and little subsequent depression are produced.

“ When the effect is sufficiently great to receive the designation of poisoning, the symptoms are, more violent excitement, flushed face, giddiness, confusion of thought, delirium, and various mental affections; soon followed by dozing and gradually increasing somnolency, which may become so deep as not easily to be broken. This state gradually ceases, and is followed by giddiness, weakness, stupidity, headache, sickness and vomiting.

“ This degree of injury may prove fatal, either in itself, by the coma becoming deeper

and deeper, or more frequently from the previously excited state of the circulation causing true apoplexy in a predisposed habit; or still more frequently, from the occurrence of some trifling accident, which, in his torpid state, the individual cannot avoid or remedy; such as, exposure to the cold, falling into the water, suffocation from vomited matter getting into the windpipe, and the like.

“ Sometimes sudden lethargy, without the intoxication being very high, supervenes at once, and may prove fatal with singular rapidity.

“ Occasionally a sudden supervention of deep unsurmountable stupor, without the usual precursory signs, takes place, yet not till after a considerable interval subsequently to drinking.

“ In ordinary cases of this form of poisoning, death takes place in from twelve to eighteen hours.

“ Another degree of poisoning, is, when greater quantities of pure spirit are swallowed than is usually taken in other fatal cases. In such quantities there is scarcely any preliminary excitement: coma comes on at once, and soon becomes profound, as in apoplexy. The face is, sometimes, livid, more generally ghastly pale; the breathing stentorous, and of a spirituous odor; the pupils sometimes much contracted, more commonly dilated and insensible. If relief is not speedily procured, death takes place in a few hours, sometimes immediately.

“ Alcohol acts as an irritant. After its ordinary narcotic effect passes off, another set of symptoms occasionally appear, which indicate inflammation of the alimentary canal. Shivering, nausea, feverishness, pain in the stomach, vomiting, thirst, hiccup, delirium, jaundice, and convulsions and death result from this state of poisoning. The

stomach becomes gangrenous over the whole villous coat; the colon much inflamed, and the small intestines red.

“ Besides these effects of poisoning from alcoholic drinks, there is another more common than any yet mentioned, and constituting a peculiar disease. The persons in the habit of using intoxicating liquors, after remaining in a state of drunkenness for several days, are often attacked with a singular maniacal affection, which is accompanied with tremor of the limbs, particularly of the hands, ending at last in coma. When the delirium is not violent, the disease may be cured. But often after the delirium and tremor have continued mildly for some time, they increase, and the delirium becomes furious, or coma rapidly supervenes; in either case the disease commonly proves fatal in a few days.

“ Other diseases, besides delirium tre-

mens, are slowly induced by the habitual use of spirituous liquors; generally the habit of intoxication acts, however, in inducing those diseases only as a predisposing cause. Indurated pancreas (fever cake,) indurated mesenteric glands, piles, catarrh of the bladder, inflammation, induration and supuration of the kidneys, incontinence of urine, aneurism of the heart and great vessels, apoplexy of the lungs, varicose veins, mania, epilepsy, tendency to gangrene of wounds, spontaneous combustion, &c. &c."

Having thus given, on good authority, the deaths caused by pure, unadulterated liquors, I again ask any man who revolts at the idea of making his living by selling adulterated liquors and poisons, what matters it, whether you sell arsenic or alcohol? It is Death by Measure in either case. Indeed there is no poison more powerful and fatal in excessive doses. There is but few

more injurious and fatal in their effects from proportionate doses. The symptoms, the effects, the deaths from alcohol, are as certain, tremendous, awful, horrific, as from any other poison. Why then should any man quiet his conscience by saying I deal in death by pure liquors?

But the truth is, that there are but very few men engaged in the liquor business, who hesitate to put into market adulterated liquors, made through the agency of deadly poisons. He who is willing to trade in pure spirits, knowing their nature and effects, must have a peculiar kind of conscience to shrink from selling other articles, not one whit more dangerous and fatal. It is admitted that there may be men who are ignorant of the nature and the ingredients both of pure and adulterated liquors; who, if they were acquainted with the subject, would abandon the traffic at once. No intelligent, good

man can follow it for one moment, with an easy mind. I have met with many, who burnt up their liquor, or poured in out on the ground, as soon as ever they were informed correctly on this topic. It is under the hope that others may be induced to follow their example, that I now give to the world, Death by Measure. That the business of adulterating liquor is extensively carried on, needs no proof. One of the wealthiest men in New York, made a great fortune in adulterating rum. There are large establishments in most of our cities carrying on the business; and I can name many men, who claim to be respectable, who do not hesitate to sell on commission, "New York spirits," as these adulterations are commonly called. And I have rarely been into a grocery, hotel, or grogshop, either in country, village, or city, in which these doubly poisonous drinks were not sold. It is no

evidence that liquor is pure, because it is bought out of the custom house. The adulteration of liquor is carried on in Europe, as well as in this country.

The man mean enough to do such roguish villany, are mean enough to deny it. Witness, the trial of Edward C. Delavan, by the brewers. How respectable they proved themselves to be! How innocent they declared themselves to be! What a liar, what a villian, for whom justice had no cell deep enough, nor gallows high enough, the said Delavan was, for publishing to the world, facts which *they denied*, and HE PROVED, before the courts of his country! No, no. It will not do for liquor sellers to deny, that, if the traffic in pure liquors is, Death by Measure, they make death doubly sure, by the mode and articles which they now measure out to the community.

At considerable expense of time and mo-

ney, I have procured many receipts for the adulteration and mixing of liquors. In some cases, men convinced by my lectures, have abandoned the business, and given me the receipts, being before ignorant that they were selling Death by Measure.

The more usual way first practised in adulteration of liquors, was to mix an inferior article with one of a better quality. One part of rum, and two parts of whiskey, &c., and sell the whole for rum, was —— ——y's honest way of growing rich. Some supposed, that aside from the dishonesty of the transaction, there is no harm in the affair. But the experience of all drinkers confirms the declaration of the best writers on the subject, "that by mixing liquors, they become more obnoxious and powerful." A glass of two different kinds of liquors will affect more speedily and injuriously, than the same quantity unmixed.

Another mode is, to reduce the proof with water. Then, by certain ingredients to give it a bead, with mineral acids, and, in order that it may appear to have a better body, as well as to produce intoxication, other poisonous, narcotic ingredients are employed.

Another mode is, to rectify whiskey, then by certain articles to give it the colour and taste of any desired liquor.

Wines, ales, porter, cider, beers, cordials, all go through a similar process.

It is needless to say that the quantity of ingredients used, must necessarily be as condensed, or concentrated as possible, to avoid detection, and that, therefore, the most potent drugs are employed.

In giving the effects produced by these poisons, I know that many a reformed man, and many a sufferer, will recognise symptoms there they have suffered; while those who

have witnessed the pains, diseases and deaths of the intemperate, will see that alcohol alone, with all its terrors, never inflicted all the sufferings of those dying, nor all the unmeasured woes of afflicted friends, who have no pleasure in the lives, and no hope in the deaths of the unnumbered victims of the liquor traffic. This is Death by double Measure.

Some years ago, I was compelled to stop a night in Schenectady, New York. Whether there was an understanding or not between the Rail Road Company and the liquor sellers in that place, I do not know. But so it was, that a very large company of travellers started from Albany, not one of whom expected to tarry that night at Schenectady. They all had to do so ; no mode of conveyance being ready to leave that place until next morning. I wandered up and down the streets of that town, searching for a de-

cent place for a traveller to stay. Every place stunk of liquor, and every place was full of those who were pleased with the smell. I had at last to content myself with one of those places licensed for the accommodation of strangers and travellers, the keeper of which seemed more anxious to attend to those who drank, than to such as desired to eat and sleep. The landlord was as accommodating to me as he was to others. He said he was crowded, but would do his best. So far as a dirty room, and a dirtier bed would make a man comfortable, I had no right to complain. The landlord had said that his rooms were crowded; but I seldom ever saw a bed-room more thickly tenanted than mine. I suppose that there were hundreds of lodgers in my bed, who had no disposition to sleep themselves, and none to let me sleep. They amused themselves all night by biting me, as though they

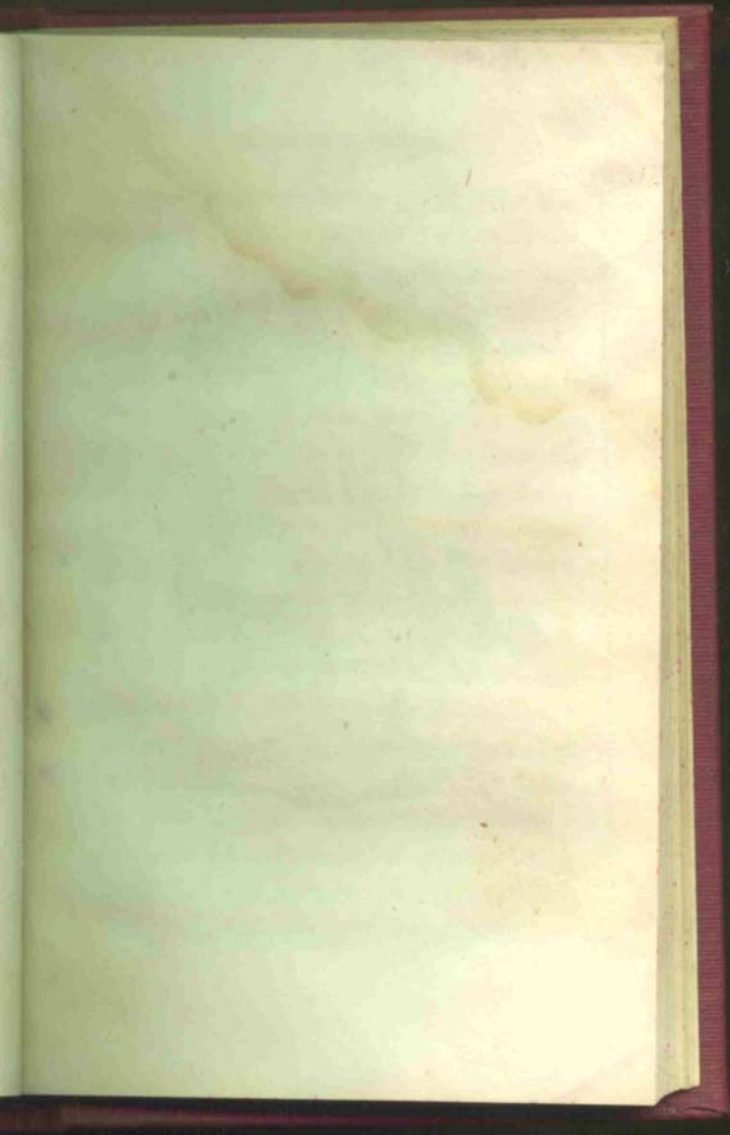
were determined to have my life's blood. I rang the bell ; called for light, for help ; but rang and called in vain. Not being able to sleep, and tired of the bed cords and the incessant attacks of the enemy, I arose early. But there were those who were up before me. Where they had lodged was none of my business. They were patiently waiting for the landlord, who presently came in slip shod, in his shirt sleeves, hitching up his pants, and bowing and smirking and apologizing to his customers. One of them asked for gin. A bottle was placed upon the counter, said to contain that liquid.

“ Landlord,” said I, “ you have made a mistake ; the gentleman asked for gin ; that is not gin.”

“ I bought it for gin.”

“ That may be so ; but you know it is not gin.”

“ I know it is not the pure stuff. I could





The Wink.

not retail that at a living profit. But it is first rate, such as it is."

"Yes; but do you know what it is made of?"

He quickly interrupted me, and tipping me the wink to be silent, took me aside, and requested me to let him into the secret. "He knew that the man he bought it of, made it at a great profit. How he made it he knew not; he wished he did."

"But suppose it requires deadly poisons to do it, how then?"

"That is no business of mine. The work is going, and will be done. I have my living to get in the world as well as others."

Truly the love of money is the root of all evil. And many a man, besides this miserable wretch, ought to solve the question, "What is a man profited if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

To make false gin, rectified whiskey, and

the oil of turpentine and of juniper virginiana, or sabbine, are used.

Drinkers of this liquor, have often times violent hypercatharsis, suffering much in the urinary organs, affecting the brain something like alcohol, (to produce which effect it is used,) followed by long continual trances. Sometimes very large doses of these poisons produce but little effect; at others, small doses are accompanied by serious consequences. As one object, besides imparting the flavour of gin, in using these oils, is, the intoxicating effect, the public may form an idea of the danger of using these liquors.

Oil of vitriol, blue vitriol, muriatic and other mineral acids, also, acetate of lead, salts of tartar, &c., are extensively used in adulterating various spirits and wines. Sometimes, they are unavoidably used, sometimes designedly.

The effects of these mineral acids are

dreadful. Their action is independent of the function of absorption. They act by the conveyance along the nerves of an impression produced by the irritation or destruction of the part to which they are applied. When introduced directly into a vein, they cause death by coagulating the blood. If they are introduced into the stomach, the blood, as usual, remains fluid for some time after death; the symptoms are referable almost solely to the abdomen; in the dead body the stomach is found extensively disorganized, and the other abdominal viscera sometimes inflamed. If the dose be large, and the person fasting (~~to~~ take care ye morning dram drinkers,) death may take place in a few hours. The symptoms in man, followed by death from the violent corrosion and inflammation of these poisonous liquors, are, all the symptoms of the most violent gastritis, accompanied with a burning in the throat;

eruptions, proceeding from the gases evolved in the stomach by its chemical decomposition; and an excruciating pain in the stomach, such as no natural inflammation can excite. The lips become shriveled, at first whitish, afterwards yellowish or brownish, according to the acids used. Occasionally, the tongue and inside of the cheeks become white and polished; the teeth brown; great difficulty in swallowing; the matter vomited, brownish or black, mixed sometimes, with shreds of membrane, which sometimes actually consists of the disorganized coats of the stomach; but are generally nothing more than coagulated mucus. The bowels are costive, the urine scanty, and tenesmus frequently very distressing. The countenance glazed, and the extremities cold and clammy. The breathing laborious, and the movement of the chest increasing the pain in the stomach, independently of the pulmonary inflammation

which is also at times present ; occasionally, fits of suffocation from the shreds of thick mucus sticking in the throat. Sometimes, when the dose is very large, instead of these excruciating tortures, there is a deceitful tranquillity and an absence of all uneasiness.

A second variety of symptoms belong to a peculiar modification of disease, which brings about a slow death from an organic disease of the stomach, and intestines. It begins with the symptoms already mentioned, but these soon abate in violence. Then ensue general fever, dry skin, spasms, and pains in the limbs, difficulty of breathing, tension of the belly, salivation, and occasional vomiting, particularly of food and drink. Membranous flake, and dead worms are voided. Digestion deranged ; functions of the body languid, a state of marasmus reducing it to a skeleton, and bringing it to the grave.

Another variety of symptoms, differing from the others only in mildness of the first attack, includes cases of imperfect recovery, and continuing for life liable to pains in the stomach, vomiting of food, and general disorder of the digestive organs.

What horrid deaths and wretched lives, liquor drinkers, many of whom would hate to be called drunkards, purchase of those who make their living by Death by Measure! What heaven-provoking sin the liquor seller commits, and yet desires to have it considered that it is honourable to sell Death by Measure!

Sugar (acetate) of lead, is often used by liquor sellers, especially in doctoring and imitating wines, and ales, and ciders, &c. Frequently, when not designedly employed, carbonate of lead is formed in many articles sold by the distiller, brewer, confectioner, and cordial maker.

The symptoms observed from poisoning

by lead, are of three kinds. One class indicate inflammation of the alimentary canal. (☞ Not uncommon to drinkers of fermented liquors.) Another class, spasms of the alimentary muscles. A third, injury of the nervous system, sometimes apoplexy, more commonly, palsy. (☞ Not unusual among cider drinkers.) Each of these classes may exist independently of the other two; but the two last are more commonly combined.

In over doses, acetate of lead will produce immediate and violent effects.

Used continuously and insiduously in minute, very small quantities, the disease induced may be divided into two classes.

The first stage is an affection of the alimentary canal; the leading feature of which is, violent and obstinate colic. It sometimes begins suddenly in sound health; but usually commences with a deranged state of the stomach, something like dyspepsia, not

severe enough to cause alarm. (Broadway, Tremont, Chestnut, and other fashionable streets in our large cities, are full of these cases in this stage.) By and by the uneasiness, which was confined to the stomach, stretches through the whole abdomen. The stomach becomes irritable; cramps in in the pit of it, extending to the rest of the belly, until a complete paroxysm of colic is formed. Most generally the pains are remissions rather than intermissions; sometimes they are very constant. The belly is hard and muscles contracted; bowels costive, and much straining pain. Sometimes severe looseness of bowels take the place of this. After a few days, the limbs are racked with cutting pains; the countenance dull, anxious and gloomy, more so than in almost any other disease. Skin hot, cadaverous and bedewed with irregular, cold, clammy perspiration.

From this stage the patient may recover, but great precaution is necessary, to avoid its return. What under other circumstances, would produce in him only common colic, or diarrhœa, is certain to bring on a relapse of this terrible disease. And then, the sufferer may recover from it, never completely, and be always subject to another more alarming and dangerous disease, either apoplexy, most fatal, or partial palsy! Even in cases not mistaken nor neglected, this partial palsy often succeeds the debility ensuing on the departure of the colic.

This palsy is peculiar. The upper extremities are chiefly affected, attended with great muscular emaciation, especially of the extensors. The hands are constantly bent, except when the arms hang straight down by the side. They dangle loose when the patient moves; great, racking pains in the limbs; digestion feeble, and trivial causes

renew the colic. He may recover; but the greatest caution is necessary. (The higher circles furnish abundant materials to make a poor man bless God that he is not able to buy splendid wines.)

In whatever form lead is habitually and minutely used, or applied to the system, it will be apt to bring on this disease. Inhalation of its fumes, the habitual contact of any of its compounds to the skin, the prolonged use of them as a medicine, externally or internally, may sooner or later, and generally does, bring on this dreadful disease; sooner in some temperaments than in others.

Surely the influence of the habit of moderate drinking must be overwhelming, when every moderate drinker knows, or ought to know, that, in almost every glass of fermented, and many of the spirituous liquors, he drinks, he is incurring the danger of this

disease! Remember, it is the minute, insidious quantity that does the business.

Dr. Carrol, while president of a southern college, informed me that he had detected sugar of lead more than enough, in one bottle of wine, to kill a man.

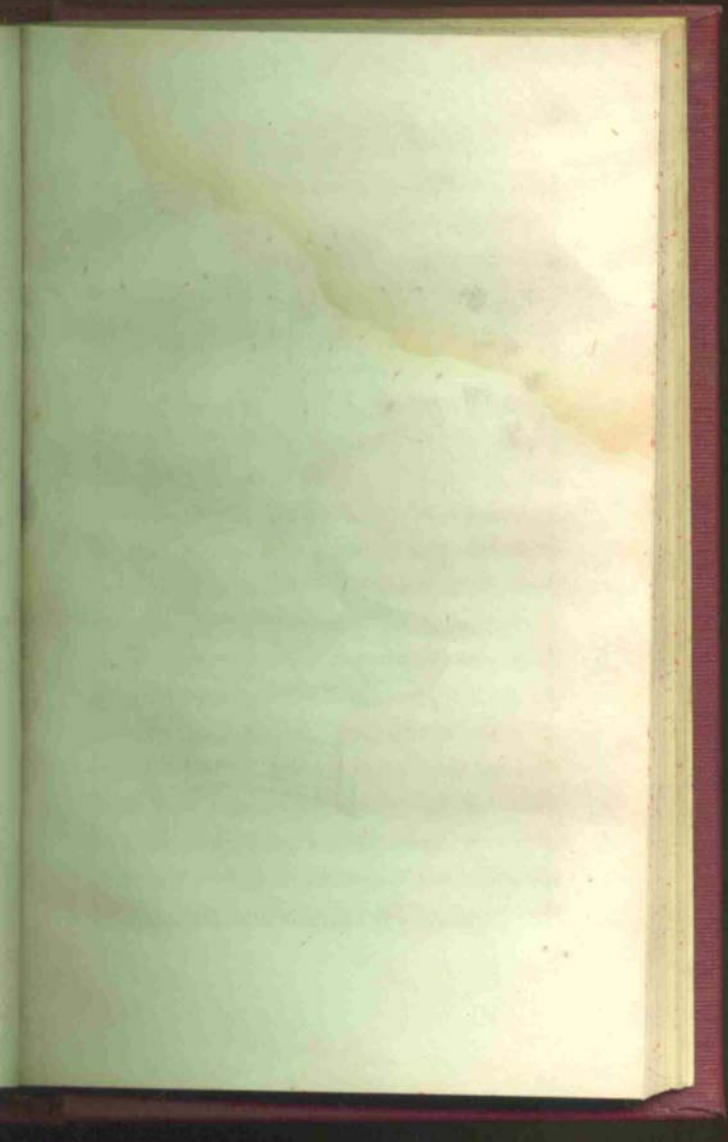
Adlum, a celebrated wine maker, died under the belief, no doubt correct, that he was poisoned by adulterated wine.

I was lecturing once in Delaware. A tavern keeper, who had abused me very much in public, came to hear me one evening. I was lecturing on the adulteration of liquor. When my lecture was over, he publicly apologized for his conduct; and as an evidence of his sincerity, invited me home with him. He there declared to me that he had been drinking freely, though not to intoxication, of fermented drinks, and that he was labouring under the very symptoms I described. He was very solicitous

to know if there was no remedy for him. I prescribed for him, as well as I could. He recovered from the first attack, but imprudently exposed himself, and took wrong remedies, and died in three weeks.

When I was lecturing in Rhode Island, a gentleman who heard me, came privately to inquire of me if I could cure him; declaring that he drank very moderately of wine every day, and was labouring under the first symptoms of this disease. I inquired for him years afterwards. He had refused to follow total abstinence from all danger, and had furnished another victim to Death by Measure.

I have a paragraph taken from a paper in Charleston, South Carolina, giving an account of the sudden death of three men, who, on examination of their stomachs, were evidently poisoned by the wine they had drank. Let any man read the brewer's





Moderate Wine Drinker.

own works, the liquor seller's own recipes, and use his own eyes, and doubt if he dare. Let him read *Ocua Orfilea*, *Christison*, the *Domestic Chemist*, (second vol. *Polytechnic Library*,) or any other good authority, and then if he will patronise the use and traffic of intoxicating liquors, he will know that he is sustaining a trade that is mildly termed *Death by Measure*.

Almost all the sweet wines, and many of the rough, besides the beers, ales, &c. now used, have more or less preparations of lead in them. And there are more wines of a certain kind sold in these United States, than are exported from all the wine growing regions. And other foreign spirits are produced more abundantly from the wooden distilleries in America, than from the parts from which they are said to come.

Powerful caustic alkalies are used in the imitation and manufacture of liquors. Pot-

ash, pearl ash, salts of tartar, (carbonate of potassa) lunar caustic, aqua fortis, blue vitriol, white vitriol, oil of vitriol, muriatic acid, &c.

The effects of the caustic alkalies are powerfully irritant, and generally corrodes the coats of the stomach. The symptoms prevails, sometimes, for several days; but upon these subsiding, the patient seems to be restored to perfect health. In animals, however, strangled for the purpose of examination several weeks after they took these poisons, especially carbonate of potassa, although they seemed to have recovered perfectly, the villous coat was found extensively removed, and even the muscular and peritoneal coats were here and there destroyed and cicatrized.

The carbonate is only inferior in degree to the caustic potash; and even this is used by liquor sellers and wine merchants. It

produces, among other symptoms, violent vomiting, acute pain in the stomach, tenderness of the whole belly, cold sweats, excessive weakness, hiccup, tremens and twitches of the extremities; violent colic pains; sometimes pain in the gullet, much anguish, restlessness and death; burning pain; the alimentary canal becomes incapable of assimilating food; and the patient dies of starvation, and incessant discharges from the bowels. Sometimes, and just as fatal, the disease commences with violent irritation in the mouth, gullet and stomach, but the bowels are not affected, and the stomach but little injured. The case becomes one of stricture of the œsophagus, with or without ulceration. The patient eventually dies of starvation, it may be, combined with exhausting fever.

Did the poor drunkard always know, and could moderate drinkers always see the

cause of their sufferings and death, surely if they would not avoid, yet they would cease the traffic of Death by Measure.

Many labour under the error that whiskey is not adulterated. This is a great mistake. It is often adulterated, and that too with potent poisons. Creosote is used to give it the appearance of age. There are but few ingredients which act more fatally than creosote on the nervous system. Dentists employ it, very carefully, in destroying the nerves of the teeth. But it is very dangerous. Many recollect the death of Dr. Boardman, dentist, of Hartford, Conn., from this cause. But aside from the poisons designedly put into whiskey, it is of itself, especially as distilled in this country, among the most dangerous of drinks.

The grain is distilled without being kiln-dried, and as much is run from the bushel as possible. The consequence is, that much

empyreumatic oil comes out in distillation, of an exceedingly acrid, pungent nature, so much so that one drop of it, communicates to many gallons, its pollution. If any doubt this, let them go into a rectifying establishment, or into the manufactory of alcohol, and get a view of the regidium from a barrel of whiskey.

But this is not all. Diseased, spoiled grain, unfit to be used by man or beast, is sold to distillers, and contains much that is unfriendly to health.

But even this is not all. What is usually called the ergot, or spurred rye, grows on rye, barley, oats and corn. It is a most powerful, and active poison. Its effects are various. One form of it, *the asmagome*, acts differently from the other, *the ergotine*. The general effects are, giddiness, headache, flushed face, pains and spasms in the stomach, nausea, vomiting, colic, purging, and a

sense of weakness and weight in the limbs. Let any one accustomed to drink whiskey in countries where the excise is severe and more pains taken in the manufacture of it, compare the effects of the different drinks on their system, in this country, and answer to the difference. I have been reminded by foreigners of this difference. It is owing to the various empyreumatic oils, ergot among the rest, found in American whiskey. The foreign does the work of death in one form, the native in two.

The disease, called among the French, "convulsive ergotism," produced from ergot, is described as commencing suddenly with dimness of sight; giddiness; loss of sensibility; soon followed by dreadful cramps and convulsions of the whole body; the *sardonic laugh*; excessive thirst and excruciating pains in the limbs and back.

In the milder effects of ergotism, strange

feelings, as though insects were crawling over the legs, and arms, and face, with weakness and weight of limbs, constitute the main symptoms. How often have I been painfully amused at the poor drunkard's vain attempt to drive away these insects, which I thought existed only in his imagination; but the sensations of which is really caused by the poison of the Death he bought by Measure, operating upon his body!

In Germany, the ergot produces what is called, *creeping sickness*. It commences with weariness and weakness, and a sensation as though insects were creeping all over you; the extremities cold, white, stiff, insensible; the fingers, the toes, the arms, the legs, shrivel and dry up, and sometimes drop off by joints.

Such is one of the ingredients of the boasted Monongahela! Little do the inconsiderate think how sad, yet true, is the

term, Death by Measure, when applied even to those liquors which have not designedly been rendered, as most of them are, doubly poisonous.

New England rum, vile as the stuff is in its own native essence, is nevertheless often adulterated. Like the brandy and whiskey, and wine and ale, Measures of Death, each has his own secret nostrum, by which he increases the profits of his business, without regard to the life and happiness of his customers.

Brandy is one of the favourite liquors on which the Death Measurer tries his nicest skill in the use of the most potent poisons. The extent of the fraud in French brandies has become so great, that an association has been formed by the chief vineyard proprietors of the district of La Rochelle and Cognac, within which, pretty much all the French brandies are manufactured, for self protec-

tion. They state, that the practice of diluting and adulterating brandies, by the excessive competition which it endured, was driving all the "best dealers" into a similar practice. (If the "best dealers" can be driven into dishonesty, fraud, and corruption, what is to be expected of the most of those called the "worst?") They also tell us, that although the penalty for adulterating is relentlessly enforced, as they happen to know, yet still it takes place in some pretty serious instances. See the Boston Courier (from the New York Courier and Enquirer,) March 6, 1845. They, no doubt, wish the public to believe that they are among "all of the best dealers," who were driven by competition to adulterating brandies. Now, if they were not good enough to resist the temptation of making money as others make it, it will require strong faith to believe that they are better now than they used to be. For they

admit that in some "pretty serious instances, as they happen to know, that the adulteration goes on in France." John Bull has not joined the celebrated association of Cognac. And Brother Jonathan is as keen witted as any of them. In spite of the "serious penalty," brandies are still counterfeited. So the "best of them," when the competition demands, may be driven into the same business. They have "expelled" some of the "best of them," who loved money more than honour, but have not stopped them in their work of Death by Measure.

Besides, pure French brandy has nothing in it that humanity calls for. It does its work of death and cursing just like alcohol by another name, when it is not adulterated.

Wines are much adulterated even in France. Our countryman Walsh, writing to the editor of the National Intelligencer, states that in France, there are a set of officers

called *Tastareurs*, whose duty it is to taste and test the wines sold by retail, and that they nearly all resigned, giving as their reason, that they found the wines so much adulterated and poisoned, that they were afraid of loosing their lives by poison.

Ale, porter and beer, are doctored and adulterated. Childs, one of the best writers on Brewing, declares that certain kinds of ales cannot be made without using certain kinds of drugs. And all the receipts I have, recommend such drugs, under certain circumstances. Indeed, it is an ascertained fact, as any man may know by inquiring of Doctor Jackson, or my excellent and personal friend, John Tappan, of Boston, or of Professor Mapes, of New York, that pure beer cannot be made and sold at a profit in the present state of the trade; and that the "best of them," like the dealers in Cognac, must be driven into similar practices with

the adulterators, if they will continue in the market.

Cordials, also, constitute a very large Measure of Death. Many of the veriest poisons on earth constitute the excellency of cordials. Take, for instance, rectified, "bruised cherries, with their stones infused into alcohol, boiled and filtered, flavoured, when cold, with spirits of nayua, made by distilling bitter apricots, peach or almond nuts, and mixing it with alcohol. Syrup of bay laurel and galanga, also added." Now alcohol itself is a potent poison. The article procured from the cherry, peach, apricot, and almond nut, is prussic acid. The galanga is the plant the Indians use to poison their arrow points. The laurel tribe are far from being innocent. This receipt I give from Ure's Dictionary.

There is no drink provided for him who is dissatisfied with water, and who thinks it a

duty to encourage the traffic of Death by Measure, that is safe for any being, who dreads committing the sin of suicide, to use.

Beer makers, for instance, boast of making beers of pure malt, without stating that the malt itself, often contains ergot and darnel, and that the oils of decaying vegetables contain powerful poisons. They talk of pure hops, without stating that the safety of hops themselves depend on climate, soil and cultivation, and that the bitter principle of hops, frequently produces sudden death, on those who habitually use it.

Beers, ales, &c., unadulterated, are but milder forms of poison. But the adulteration, and curing, and refining of them and other fermented drinks, are done by grains and acids, and salts and drugs, death-bearing in their nature.

Rotten flesh contains animal poisons. It

is used in refining beers, wine, and cider.

Many of the inhabitants of Philadelphia remember the Irishman that was brewed up in that city, and what fine ale it made.

One of the best pipes of wine ever used in Philadelphia, was so foul, when first received from Bordeaux, that it could not be used. It laid awhile in the warehouse, became refined, and was so superior, that the merchant kept it for his own particular use, and sent some of it as a present to a certain —— of the church, who thought it must be like the wine of Cana of Gallilee. When the pipe was empty, a rattling in it led to inspection, and a skeleton found in it, accounted for its original stench, and its final excellence.

A merchant in New York told me, that on finishing one of the best casks of wine he ever drank, he found the skeleton of a number of rats in it.

Nauseating as the thought is, yet is it true, that there is nothing like decaying flesh, except eggs suffered to go through the same process, for refining fermented drinks. But this is mere matter of taste, about which it is said, "there is no disputing."

Having already mentioned some of the poisonous ingredients used, and as the most of them are used in a great variety of drinks, I will proceed with others.

Prussic acid, greatly used, mostly in the form of oil of bitter almonds, and cherry laurel, wild cherry, peach stones, leaves, &c.

There is no chemical combination of it, but what is poisonous.

When the dose is large, death is almost instantaneous. A death suddenly produced by strong nayua cordial, is not unfrequent.

The effects of a dose not large enough to kill, usually are, confusion in the head, with difficulty of breathing, small pulse, dilated,

insensible pupils, locked jaw, and sometimes violent fits of tetanus! What dangers men will run for a momentary gratification; and what injuries men are willing to inflict on their fellow-men for a few pennies, may be ascertained by those who will make themselves acquainted with the mysteries and iniquities of the traffic in Death by Measure.

Strychnia, usually obtained from nuxvomica, (wolf's bone) Coculus Indicus, (fish berry) and St. Ignatius bean, is the next most powerful poison used by liquor sellers. Childs, declares that it is and must be used in ales, &c.

It induces violent nervous action, without impairing the sensibility. Hence it is the most awful of poisons in its effects on the poor sufferer. It causes death by a fit.

The dose required to prove fatal, is exceedingly small.

The organ chiefly affected, is, the spinal cord, sometimes the heart.

The attack commences with agitation and trembling; then with a starting and stiffness of the limbs. These symptoms increase to a fit of violent general spasm, in which the head is bent back, the spine stiffened, the limbs extended and rigid, and the respiration checked by the fixing of the chest. The fit is then succeeded by a calm, during which the senses are entire, and exceedingly and unnaturally acute. Soon another spasm sets in, and then another, and another paroxysm; till at length one more violent, hurries, in inexpressible sufferings, the poor victim to the grave.

I was conversant with a death of this kind, so remarkable, that I must mention it.

In the early stages of the temperance reformation, although it was the original intention of its first promoters to occupy the

ground of totalism, as the preamble to the original pledge proves, yet, by some unaccountable providence, the pledge itself, was only against "ardent spirits." The inconsistency of fighting the enemy under one name, and defending him under another, was not as plainly seen then as it is now, although it was more generally exhibited. Indeed, many of the warmest friends of temperance became advocates for the establishment of vineyards and breweries. And some, at no little sacrifice, devoted their time and money to turn the drinking current from one measure of death into another. I fell into the snare (1828) and aided in placing a poor, but pious and worthy family, into an ale house, under the delusive expectation of benefiting not only him, but also the public. I soon discovered my error; but not before it had done serious mischief. But to return to my narrative.

A physician of my acquaintance, an intimate friend of mine, a skilful practitioner, and an amiable man, much beloved by all, and respected by many, died of mania-a-potu. I had seen many die of this disease. But there were peculiarities in his case, that I never could comprehend until I became acquainted with the ingredients used in adulterating beer and ale, and that strychnia was one of them. All the symptoms above mentioned, were alarmingly and fearfully developed in his case. His limbs trembled as though he would shake to pieces. His head would be drawn almost entirely back, and his spine stiffen almost into a curve. Sometimes his whole body, spinal column, limbs and all, would be as rigid as a box of iron. There was no bending, no yielding in any of them. His chest would heave as though he would burst every rib. Pains and burnings most severe and excruciating would

pass over him. "O, throw me into that fire, it is cold compared with the fire within me; place me in pullies, and tear me asunder in parts, it will be gentle to the tugs and drawings I endure." But why attempt to describe this death more cruel than was ever inflicted by fanaticism, or despotism, or savage, fell revenge? Great, unsupportable, indescribable as they were, they were nothing to the sufferings of his mind. Had his tongue been stiff and silent, and his eyes closed, and inexpressive, still none could have witnessed his dying struggles without shuddering.

But when the paroxysm of bodily pain passed off, and the tongue spake, and the eye became eloquent, in cries for mercy!—When memory became unnaturally faithful in arraying all his sins before him in sad review; when conscience, with biting, gnawing energy, applied its stings; and he gave

utterance to his remorse for his wanderings, neglects, follies and sins ; followed by moanings deep and pitiful for forgiveness ; the hardest hearted had to melt. His earnest plea for mercy and for pardon from God, from man ; his tender expostulations with his young friends ; his faithful admonitions and warnings to his companions in dissipation ; his heart-moving mode as he parted from what he called his beggared wife and babes ; “beggared,” as he said, “of even the consolation of mourning for him as a husband, and a father, by his cruel, unkind course of self-indulgence !”

“I know,” said he, “that I never denied you aught that my money could bestow—that I never struck you—was never unkind in words, nor feelings. But, wife ! can you forgive the hours of anxious, lonely suffering I have caused you to endure, while your too late repentant husband, was worse than

wasting his time with those, who like him, forgot all but self around the deceiving cup? Children! it is hard for a father to humble himself and to beg for pardon from his babes. But you must forget all about your degraded father, except his dying repentance; and learn the way to happiness and heaven, not from his example, but from his death. Oh! even now he might have been well, respected, happy, and you around him protected, blessed, instead of soon being wandering orphans cursed with the memory of a drunken father's name. Even now, I might be dying praising God, and blessing all around me, instead of spending my fleeting, fast failing moments, in unavailing supplications for unprovoked, unjustifiable neglect, of every duty I owed to my God, my family, and myself."

Poor, suffering sinner! he had bought Death by Measure, full, overflowing measure. The only consolation connected with

his end is, the hope that he was as truly forgiven of God, as he was by the friends, who, weeping sorrowing around him, united in the testimony that he was no man's enemy but his own. He professed to find peace, through the peace speaking blood of the Lamb. His last act was, to dedicate his children to God. That solemn scene, when he offered them to God, then handed them over amidst smiles of hope, and tears of penitence to his wife, and said: "Raise them for God, that we may meet in Heaven!" His dying request was, "Let this be put on my tomb: Here lies ———, a guilty wanderer, who through grace, has returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of his soul."

— Belladonna, (night shade) stramonium, (Jamestown weed, prickly devil's pear) opium, cantharides, (Spanish blister flies) tobacco; indeed many other of the most active and virulent-mineral, vegetable and animal

poisons, are used for purposes of imitation and deception, in the traffic of intoxicating liquors. Enough of their effects have already been described.

My authority for stating that these articles are used, I gave at length, giving names and editions and pages of the authors, in a series of numbers in the Journal of the American Temperance Union, under the caption, "LIQUOR-SELLING, a system of fraud," 1838. I have never yet met with an individual who denied the correctness of my statements, as a whole. All the liquor sellers deny their personal guilt in the matter. Some plead guilty to the fraudulent part of the business; and justify themselves with the same argument with which they and all others engaged in the calling, defend the business of Death by Measure. But few are hardy enough to justify the business of doubling the measure. While many, very many, do not hesitate to

buy and sell by wholesale and retail, on their own account, or on commission, what they have no reason to believe to be pure, and every reason to think, is poisonously fraudulent.

He who sells pure alcoholic liquors to men in health, as a beverage, can claim from its known, necessary, natural results, no higher honour from it, than can be claimed with equal propriety, for any other unnecessary, dangerous act that affects the safety, happiness and salvation of men.

Let any liquor seller endeavour to establish his character from the known effects of his business, relying upon that alone, and he would soon almost envy any penitentiary convict, even if the crime for which he stood convicted, was the murder, in the second degree, of his own father. Let not this assertion be regarded in the light of denunciation.