

In theory, at least, most men now entertain correct views on this subject. Yet it should not be forgotten that, as Hudibras expresses it, —

“A man convinced against his will  
Is of the same opinion still.”

For it cannot be doubted that there are many such conversions among those who join the general cry against alcohol. And the future historian of temperance will probably be compelled to say of many such as Monsieur Paradin has said of the ladies in the fourteenth century, when the monk Thomas Connecte preached with great zeal and power against their lofty head dresses. “The women,” says he, “that, like snails in a fright, had drawn in their horns, thrust them out again as soon as the danger was over.” It ought, also, to be remembered that, even now, no less than twelve thousand persons are directly engaged all the time in the manufacture of intoxicating drinks in the United States, — or, at least, such was the case two years ago, — and ten times as many a part of their time. It cannot be doubted that at least as great a proportion of the inhabitants of Europe, and in wine countries a much larger one, is devoted to this business; so that, in this country and Europe, millions are worse than wasting their energies in this execrable employment.

I cannot, in conscience, avoid placing in the same category the cultivation and manufacture of a poisonous plant, whose narcotic and exhilarating qualities make it a general favorite, in spite of the Counterblast of King James, the decrees of popes and emperors, and the yet more powerful attacks of physicians, clergymen, and scientific men in our own day. Rarely will you find the individual addicted to its use who will not confess the habit to be a useless and filthy one; and