

yet appetite triumphs over his convictions, and he is made a slave for life. The consequence is, that the demand for this weed all over the world is immense — no less than twenty millions of dollars being annually expended for it in this country. And to its preparation thousands, and even millions, of immortal minds devote all their powers, instead of consecrating them to the advancement of knowledge and the happiness of man. But I am sorry to say that, so extensive is the habit of using this intoxicating drug, that I fear I shall have but little sympathy in its condemnation, and that I shall be regarded as too ascetic for this narcotic-loving age.

Shall I now proceed a step farther, and reckon among the hurtful, or at least useless, articles of cultivation and manufacture, two other plants ranked by physicians among the narcotics and stimulants, yet reckoned almost indispensable by half the inhabitants of the globe as beverages to brace up the nerves in the morning, and to chase away fatigue and the headache in the evening? If they are useless,—if Providence has provided a better beverage to our hands,—the waste of mind is truly incalculable involved in their preparation; for how many millions does it occupy! But I forbear; for I tread here upon delicate ground, and come into collision with customs and prejudices too formidable for me to grapple with on an occasion like the present, when I would give pleasure rather than pain. I do not fear, indeed, that even a strong condemnation of these articles would give pain to the members of this institution; for so well satisfied are they with the pure nectar of nature, that they lay no tax upon China or the West Indies for their morning and evening beverage.* But I trust that both they and myself, contented

* I ought to say that the young ladies are not required to refrain from tea and coffee; but the fact is that very little is used.