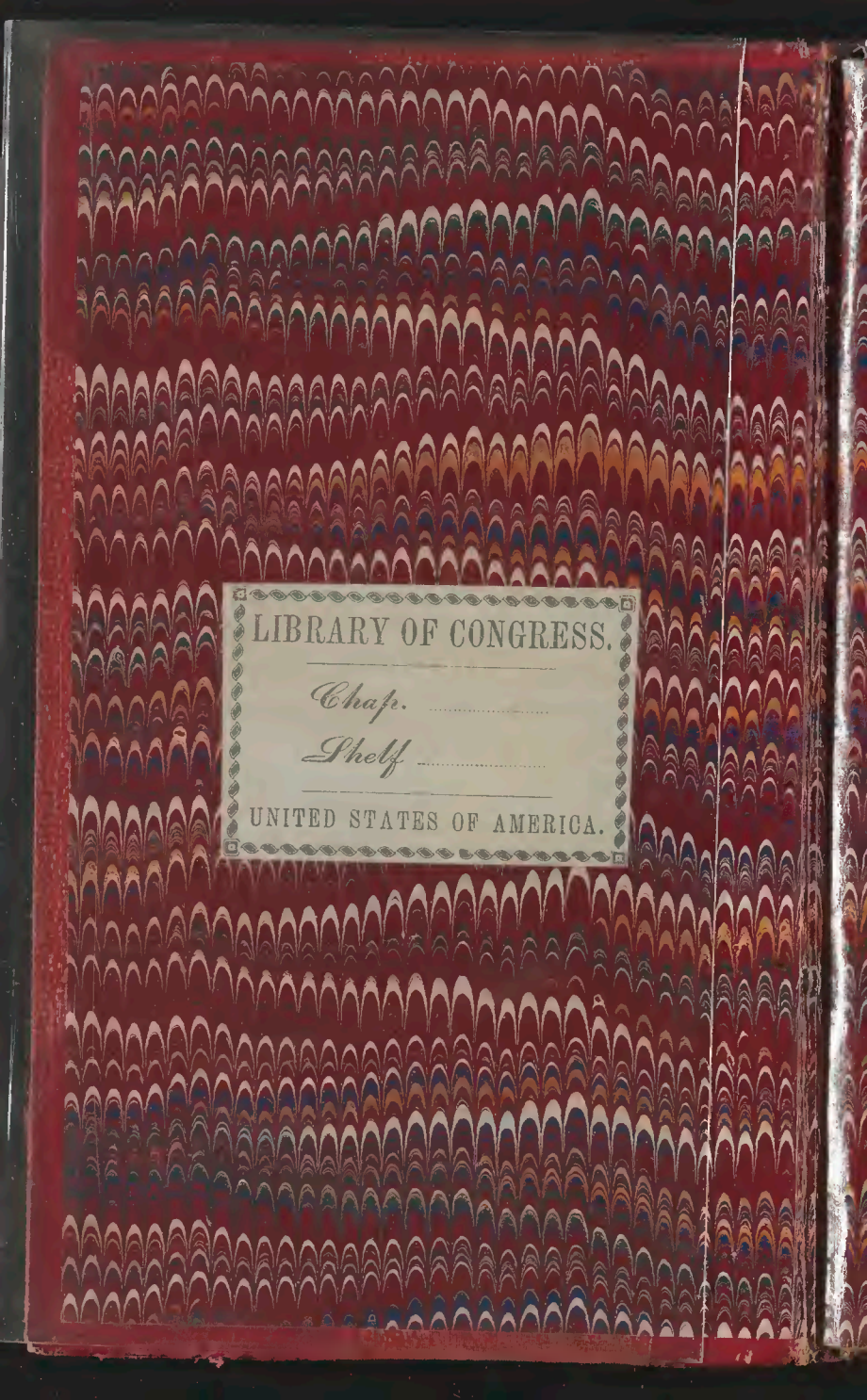


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The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is bound in a dark red material, possibly leather or cloth, with a repeating pattern of small, stylized, multi-colored arches (marbling) in shades of white, blue, and gold. A central rectangular label is pasted onto the cover. The label has a decorative border and contains the following text:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

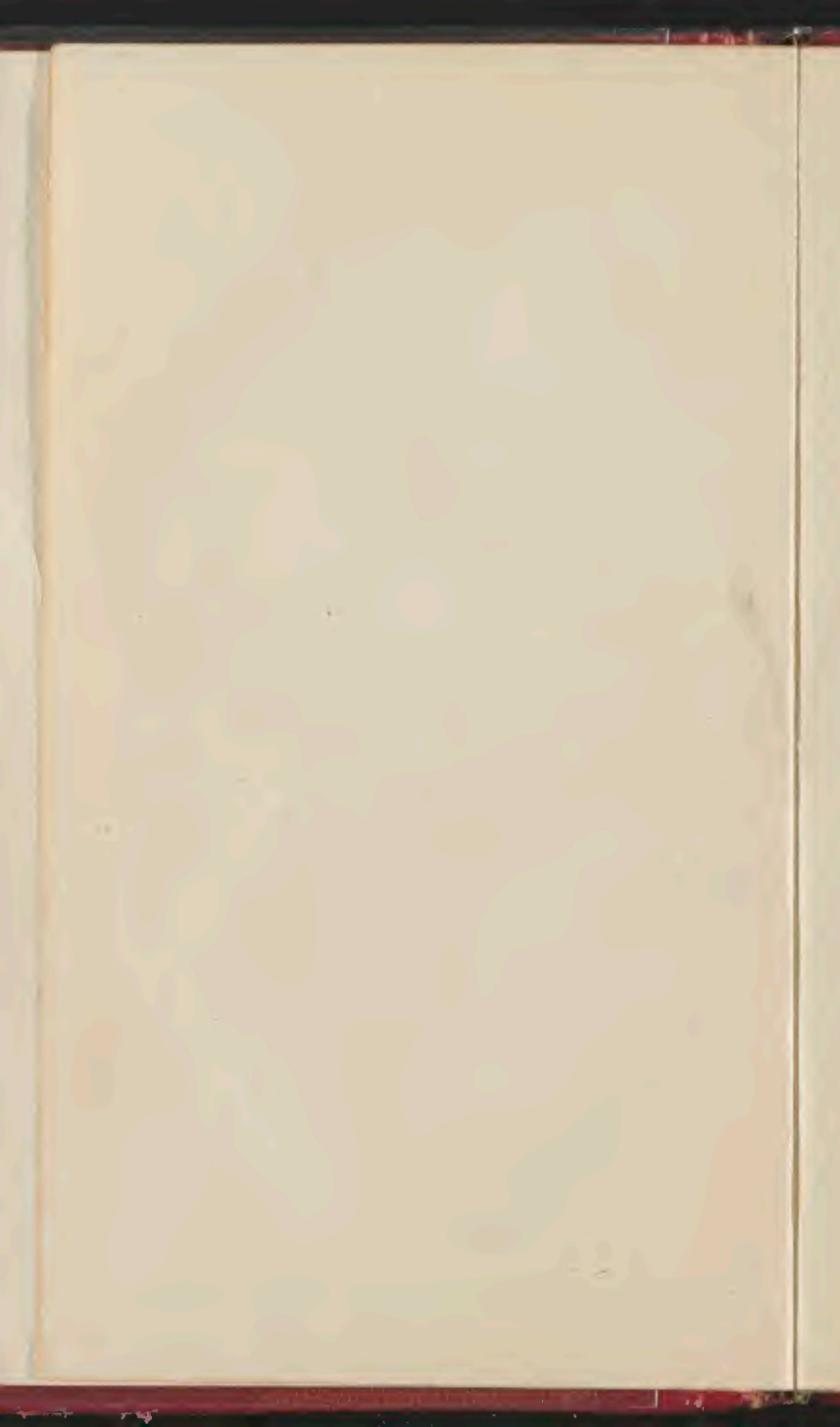
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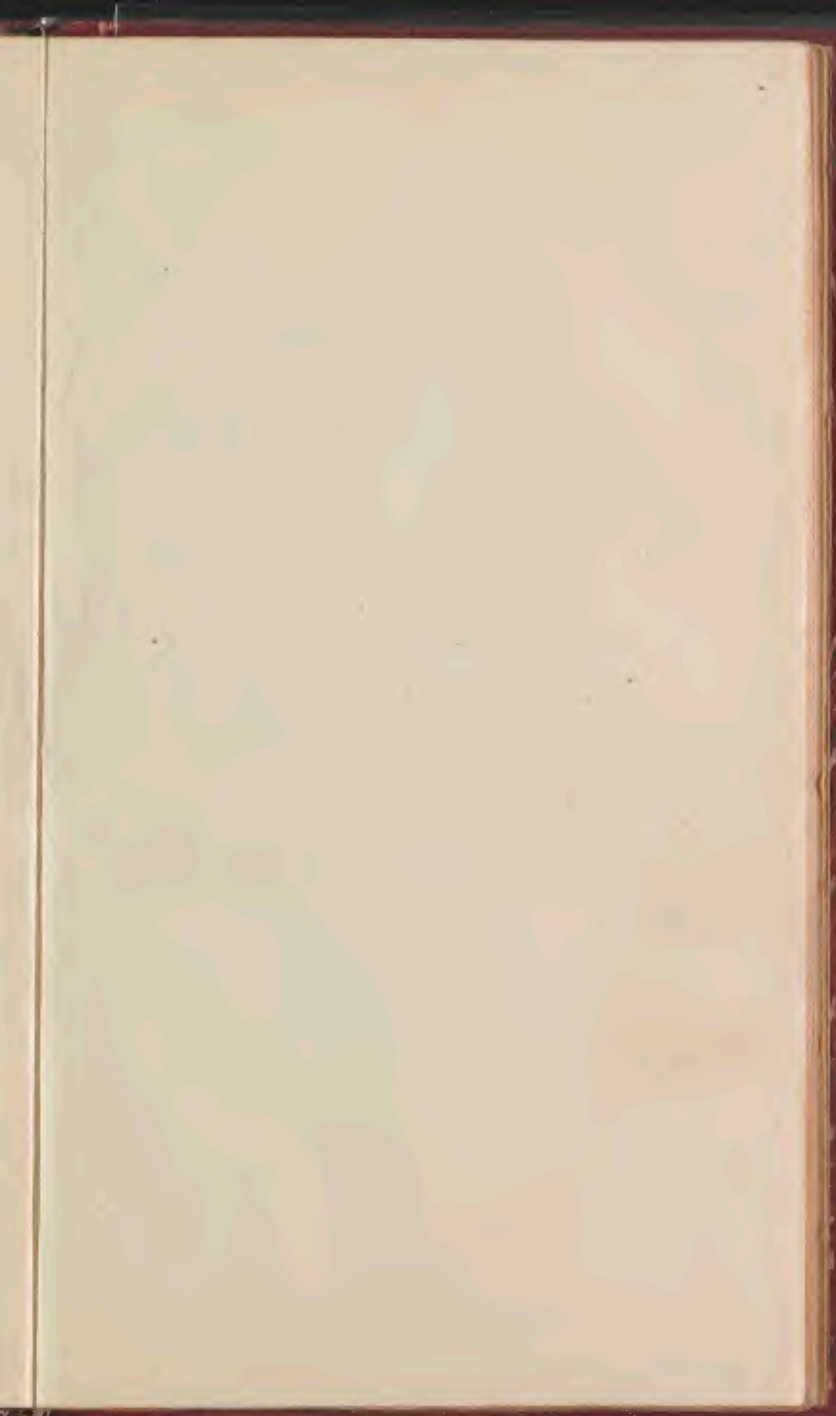
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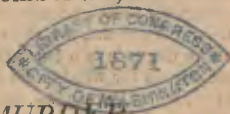
DYING DECLARATION

OF

NICHOLAS FERNANDEZ,

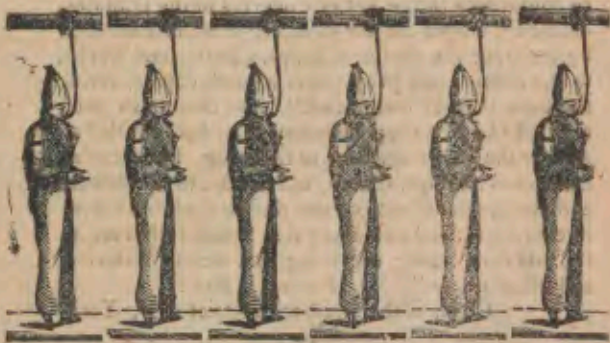
Who with Nine others were Executed in front
of Cadiz Harbour, December 29, 1829.

FOR



PIRACY AND MURDER

ON THE HIGH SEAS.



Translated from a Spanish copy by FERDINAND BAYER.

Annexed is a Solemn Warning to Youth (and others) to
beware of the baneful habit of INTEMPERANCE.

Price 12 1-2 Cents—1836.

Southern District of New-York, s.s.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 10th day of May A.D. Eighteen Hundred and Thirty in the 54th year of American Independence of the United States of America, George Lambert, of the said District, hath deposited in this office, the title of a Book, the right where of he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit—"Dying Declaration of Nicholas Fernandez, who with nine others were Executed in front of Cadiz Harbour, Dec. 29, 1829. for Piracy and Murder on the high seas—translated from a Spanish copy by Ferdinand Bayer—annexed is a Solemn Warning to Youth, and others, to beware of the baneful habit of Intemperance." In conformity to the Act of Congress of the U. States, entitled "an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to an Act, entitled 'An Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

FRED : J. BETTS.

Clerk of the Southern District of N. York.

DYING DECLARATION OF
NICHOLAS FERNANDEZ,
THE PIRATE.

THE mind of sensibility must feel for the situation of the relatives of the meanest malefactor; but when, as in the present case, an innocent and respectable family are involved in disgrace from the vices of one, whose education ought to have ranked him as a respectable and distinguished member, we are shocked at such degeneracy. The poignant affliction, which the infamous crimes of children bring upon their parents, ought to be one of the most effective persuasions to refrain from vice. How dreadful must be the reflection of the condemned wretch, in the hour of an ignominious and violent death, that his evil conduct will in all probability, bring down the grey hairs of venerable parents with sorrow to the grave!—that such may have been the reflection of the misguided and wretched Fernandez, in his last moments, the reader will not doubt on perusing his dying declaration, which was penned during his confinement, and by him presented to an acquaintance on the morning of his execution for publication :—

"I am by birth a Spaniard, and of respectable and pious parents. who, in my early youth emigrated from old Spain to the island of Cuba, where they may be still living. I was the youngest of three sons, and although no expence or pains were spared in my education, and from a too indulgent father received encouragement that at the age of twenty-one, I should receive a patrimonial portion, sufficient to establish me in any respectable business, that I should prefer, yet, when but nineteen years of age, the strong inclination which I felt to travel abroad, and to see the world, outweighed every other consideration, and in opposition to the wise council and good advice of parents and friends, I privately left them, and took passage for New-Orleans. The funds with which I had taken care in a clandestine manner to provide myself, not only there procured me respectable lodgings, but (until they became exhausted by extreme imprudence and folly) enabled me to associate with those whom I at first supposed honest and respectable—but, alas, in this I in a very few days, by sad experience, found that I had been very much deceived.

No pains were spared by the designing and crafty, in whom I had placed implicit confidence, to allure me from the paths of virtue and rectitude by prevailing on me to accompany them to those haunts of vice and infamy, which in all populous cities more or less abound, and where they could the better effect their object; which was nothing less, than by fair means or foul to divest me of the little property that I then possessed, and which they succeeded in doing in a very few months, to the last fraction—the means used was to prevail on me, young and unexperienced as I was, to drink to that access as to produce brutal intoxication, and thereby render me incapable of taking care of myself; and then, by in-

roducing a sham game at cards or billiards, rob me of all the cash that I might happen on such occasions to have about me; nor was it infrequent, when being aroused from a state of inebriation, to find myself deserted by my artful companions, and without any thing left save some article of cloathing with which to satisfy the demands of the not less artful master or mistress of the house.

These vile practices, as may be supposed, soon reduced me to a state of poverty and wretchedness, and in a land where I had not a friend to whom I could apply for relief, with any probability of success—and what added to my miseries, the baneful habit of Intemperance, to which I had become addicted by a too frequent indulgence while in bad company, had now become so ungovernable, that had a friend been found willing to impart something to my relief, I think it very probable that it would have been applied to the purchase of ardent spirits, rather than bread, or any necessary article of cloathing of which I was then almost destitute!—it was to this, one of the greatest evils that could ever befall man, that I think I may justly impute my present woeful situation!—for at that period of distress, I am confident that with all my other faults, ragged and penniless, I should have repented of my folly, and willingly returned (like another prodigal son) to the arms of my afflicted parents, and to that peaceful home where I had ever been a stranger to want. O my dear youth, attend to the admonition of a wretched, dying man—beware of Intemperance!

Being thus far from home, destitute of friends, and unhappily deprived of all means of subsistence, it is not very surprizing that I should, thus situated, be found willing to unite in any project however desperate or wicked; or assent to any proposal made me, that could promise a change of condition—I was

indeed then just what the gang of desperadoes (with whom I was prevailed upon next to associate myself) wished to find me—not unwilling to engage in any enterprize, lawful or unlawful, just or otherwise, nay, to imbrue my hands in innocent blood, if property could thereby be obtained.

With this determination, I with four others, as resolute as myself (two of whom had been once under sentence of death, for piracy and pardoned) left in as private manner as possible, in November 1824, the port of New-Orleans, and the succeeding day were put on board a small but very swift sailing schooner, which lay at anchor in the Mississippi, many miles below the city, awaiting and in expectation of our arrival—on board I was introduced to a crew composed of thirty-seven fellow adventurers, whose countenances seemed expressive of a determination in the unlawful enterprize in which they were about to engage, neither to take or give quarter, as circumstances might require. Having now received her compliment of men, the Schooner (which mounted eight guns, and contained small arms in abundance) was put with all possible dispatch in readiness for offensive operations—the cannon and small arms were well charged with grape and other shot, and the cutlasses and knives ground to an edge—thus prepared, we were very soon on cruising ground on the north side of Cuba, where we continued to cruize with but little success for about two weeks in which time we boarded but three vessels, one in ballast, and the other two with but indifferent cargoes, bound to the United States, to which they were permitted to proceed, without any other molestation than the loss of their cabin furniture and small stores.

In the course of the fortnight we two or three times took a peep into the harbour of Havanna,

which I must confess, for the moment, produced in my mind serious and sorrowful reflections ; as it could not fail to remind me of my peaceful home, where in innocence I had with my friends enjoyed so many happy hours--nor could I but feel that I had much reason to reproach myself for the anxiety which my absence must naturally have caused my parents--but, as these were feelings that did not well accord with the new character which I had assumed, I was enabled soon effectually to drown them with an extra glass of strong drink, of which we had plenty on board, and to which all were permitted to have free access. Here I ought not omit mentioning, that as many have expressed their surprize that there could be found any (even among that class denominated Pirates) who, so destitute of every humane feeling, could deliberately deprive an innocent and unoffending fellow creature of life, and, as in some instances, while on their knees entreating for mercy ! I would remark, that from what I do know by experience, but few there are that could do it, if not at a moment when in an intoxicated state ; and spirituous liquors were unvariably resorted to and drank plentifully of by all on board whenever a capture was made, and as soon as understood from our officers that no quarter was to be given.

In the months of December and January following, we were more fortunate in making prizes ; eleven or twelve vessels (mostly American) were captured by us, bound to and from different parts of Europe and the West Indies, and some with valuable cargoes---our place of rendezvous and deposit of goods at that time, was a small island or key in the neighborhood of Cuba ; our prizes were generally conveyed there, and after being disburthened of the most valuable part of their cargoes, were sometimes burnt and at other times scuttled, and the crews, if

it was thought not necessary otherways to dispose of them were sent adrift in their boats, and frequently without any thing on which they could subsist a single day—nor were all so fortunate as to escape with their lives—"dead men can tell no tales," was a common saying among us, and as soon as we got a ship's crew in our power, a short consultation was held, and if it was the opinion of a majority that it would be better to take life than to spare it, a single nod or wink from our captain was sufficient—regardless of age or sex, all entreaties for mercy were then made in vain—we possessed not the tender feelings to be operated upon by the shrieks and expiring groans of the devoted victims!—there was rather a strife among us, who, with his own hands, should dispatch the greatest number, and in the shortest period of time.

Without any other motives than to gratify a such like hellish propensity (in our intoxicated moments) blood was not unfrequently and unnecessarily shed, and many widows and orphans probably made, when the lives of the unfortunate victims might have been spared, and without the most distant prospect of any evil consequences (as regarded ourselves) resulting therefrom—such indeed was the case of the crew of an American brig, which was unfortunately cast on sunken rocks, in the neighborhood of the place of our rendezvous, and where we had at that time goods and specie to a very considerable amount secreted. As soon as we saw their predicament, we manned our boats and proceeded for the wreck, and as soon as we had got the terrified crew on board, and pinioned, we ceased not to torture and torment them, in every way that our inventive faculties could suggest—sometimes drawing our knives across their throats, and then applying the point to their breasts, and we got them within a few rods of the shore,

When the signal was given by our chief, for a general and instantaneous destruction of life—and, in less than twenty minutes the bloody work was accomplished, with the exception of one, who after receiving a blow broke in twain the cord with which he was bound, jumped out of the boat into the water, and although closely pursued, succeeded in reaching the shore and making his escape.

We confined ourselves most of the time to our old cruising ground, to intercept vessels bound to and from Cuba, and with considerable success until the summer of 1825; when such was the increase of American cruisers thereabouts, fitted out as we were informed expressly for the purpose of ferreting out and capturing uncommissioned vessels of our character, and to afford protection to her commerce—we thought it most prudent to seek new quarters, and to try our fortune in a more southern latitude, where we made several valuable captures, and in doing which, we were obliged or pleased to shed some innocent blood—in one instance there was such an inhuman and wanton destruction of life, that the bare recollection of it at the moment I am writing, fills my mind with that degree of horror, as almost to chill the blood! It was early in the morning of the 1st of February, 1826, that we fell in with a Portuguese ship, bound from Lisbon to St. Salvador, on board of which were near forty souls, including several women and children—suspecting our character, and if overpowered by us, expecting no mercy, they bravely defended themselves, and twice with no other weapons than their knives, drove us from their decks, nor were they finally overpowered until they had killed three of our men, and severely wounded six more—our chief, as well as most on board, exasperated at the loss of their companions, breathed nothing but revenge, and

would not by way of retaliation be satisfied with any thing short of the total destruction of the lives of all on board, without respect to sex or age!—a few light and most valuable articles found on board were thrown into our boats, and the ship then set on fire in three or four different places in her hold and cabin.; and not until the flames had so increased, that it was judged impossible for the wretched victims left on board to extinguish it, had we permission to quit the ship—the fire in columns bursting from every port, and communicating to the sails and rigging, soon drove the poor sufferers forward, even to the extreme end of the ship's bowsprit—where, with up-lifted hands they most earnestly intreated us to spare their lives! as we had destroyed the ship's boats, all retreat was cut off, except to plunge themselves into the sea, which many did, but with no other effect than to prolong their misery for a few moments, for death was the portion of all who approached the schooner—some were shot in the water and others killed with hatchets while attempting to gain our decks!—the shrieks and dying groans of the unhappy victims on board the burning ship, as the devouring flames approached them, were calculated to pierce the hearts of any but barbarians like ourselves, destitute of every humane feeling—in less than one hour the shrieks of the dying had ceased!—the work of death and destruction was completed, and little more was visible of the late noble ship but her bottom, burnt to the water's edge!

The melancholly scene of destruction was viewed with much apparent satisfaction by our chief, and most of my companions—but not so by me!—it was a scene of death to which I had been unaccustomed—I could not for many days drive from my view the poor half consumed victims, male and female,

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wreathing and expiring in agony, and until deprived by the flames of the power of speech, begging for mercy!—I could not but view myself as one who merited death by an equal degree of torture—one, who had participated in an act of wickedness, that could not be surpassed! It was then that I from my very heart, cursed the unfortunate moment that I united myself with a band of cruel and unrelenting murderers!—but I blush to say, that however much I had been effected by a scene so shocking to humanity, yet it was but momentary, for by the aid of liquor I was soon enabled to drive all such harrowing reflections from my mind, and to unite with my companions in wickedly mimicing the agonizing distortions of the unfortunate Portuguese, in their last expiring moments! Satan indeed had now the full controul of me, and as one on whom the sentence of death has been passed, I am not now unwilling to say that I believe myself as unworthy to live as any one of my condemned companions.

From this until November 1827, we continued to cruize, and when opportunity presented, we failed not to depredate upon the defenceless commerce of all nations, in the course of which we were several times chased by vessels of superior force, but were always so fortunate as to escape. Not meeting with the good success that we formerly had, as the Indiamen and other vessels of valuable cargoes (alarmed at the increasing instances of piracy) were seldom now to be met with unless convoyed by some national ship of war, several of us on board concluded to adopt a somewhat different plan, which we believed would not only produce a very handsome addition to our general stock, but an acquisition of hands, and place in our possession a larger vessel, and better calculated for our business. Having by mutual agreement disposed of our own

vessel and divided stock, I entered with eleven of my most resolute companions on board the Brazilian brig *Defensor de Pedra*, bound from Rio de Janeiro for the coast of Mina, where we safely arrived.

On the passage, myself and companions had not been idle in preconcerting a plan to obtain possession of the brig, with the assistance of some few others who had engaged to act in concert with us—on the 26th January, 1822, the captain and others of the brig's officers and hands, by whom we expected to be opposed, being on shore, we thought it the most favourable opportunity to carry our plan into effect, in which we succeeded to our mind with no other trouble than that of sending unceremoniously to their long home or effectually disabling the few on board who attempted to question rights, and exhibit symptoms of resistance. Having now obtained complete possession of the brig, and having yet some suspicious characters left on board, we gave them a boat and ordered them ashore—a pilot who happened to be on board, we retained, and with the promise that his life should be spared on the condition that he would carry us in safety to the south of the line—terms which, as his life was at stake, he did not hesitate to accede to, and after reaching a particular latitude, and selecting one from among our number as captain or chief of our gang, we delayed not in commencing operations—giving chase to and capturing every thing of inferior or equal force that we could meet with, without respect to nations.

On the 13th February, near the island of Ascension, we fell in with an English ship, the *Morning Star*, capt. Gibbs, from the island of Ceylon for London, with a full cargo of coffee, and cinnamon, and on board forty or fifty souls, including seventeen

sick soldiers, and several women and children—the savage treatment—nay, the worse than savage treatment, accompanied with acts of unexampled atrocity and enormity, which the poor unfortunate and unoffending creatures (particularly the females) received from us, was such as if ever equalled, could never have been surpassed. Having first ordered the captain with four of his men on board the brig, we proceeded to strip the ship of every thing valuable that could be easily removed—this done, the remainder of the men on board, including the sick soldiers, were confined in the hold, and the wretched females and the children being secured in the cabin, we next proceeded to prepare our minds by the free use of the liquor found therein, for the commission of crimes, a bare recital of which is calculated to fill the mind with horror—we proceeded to commit such excesses as decency forbids that I should mention! and what renders it still more shocking to humanity, is the fact, that these brutal outrages were committed, among others, on two or three who were very aged, and on some who were mothers, and in presence of their children! God of Heaven! I would exclaim, can it be possible that I, not then exceeding twenty-five years of age, born of, and brought up under the admonition and pious examples of respected parents, could have been the subject of so sudden a transition from principles of virtue and innocence, to those of vice and infamy, as to have willingly participated, and with a degree of diabolical satisfaction, in such atrocious and wanton acts of cruelty and outrage!—horrid as it may appear, it was even so! yes, true it is, that by our habitual use of spirituous liquors, my mind was rendered no longer susceptible of a single tender feeling, but had become obdurate, debased, hardened and depraved, and prepared for the com-

mission of any crime within the catalogue of human depravity!—but Providence who never suffers the wicked to go unpunished, has now numbered my days, and is prepared to cut me off in all the bloom of sin, and wickedness, and exhibit a signal example of merited punishment.

After feeling no longer a disposition wickedly to indulge ourselves in excesses the most shameful and diabolical, we felt not unwilling to destroy the lives of those miserable and unfortunate beings, who had been made the wretched subjects of them!—together with that of their still more wretched offspring!—with the women and children still confined to the cabin, and the men (including the sick soldiers) to the hold, without a possibility of their being able to liberate themselves, the ship was by us scuttled and abandoned, and soon after sunk to the bottom with every soul on board! and to close the tragic scene, the captain and four men whom we had retained on board the brig, were next murdered and their bodies thrown into the sea!—thus, in the short period of two hours, from the time that we got possession of the ill fated ship, between forty and fifty innocent and unoffending fellow beings, (male and female) were without provocation precipitated in the most awful manner from time into eternity—when but a few hours previous, were not only thoughtless as regarded personal danger, but probably elated with the prospects of a short and prosperous voyage, and anticipating the pleasing reception they should meet with from relatives and friends when arrived at their destined port!—alas, fools must we all have been, to suppose that such an act of unexampled atrocity could go unpunished! nay, it cannot, and I feel that my career of guilt and wickedness is now drawing to an end—it has reached a climax of horror, of which history does not probably af-

ford a more remarkable instance of human depravity: I cannot but hope that my dreadful example will be held up as a beacon to others, who may be in a course of vice and drunkenness, that they may avoid the rock on which I have been irrecoverably wrecked.

A few days after the capture and destruction of the English ship, we fell in with a richly laden American ship (the *Topaz*) bound from Calcutta to Boston, to the crew of which no more mercy was shewn than to that of the *Morning Star*—having laden our brig with a portion of the most valuable part of her cargo, the crew (with the exception of the captain and three hands, who were taken on board the brig) were all put to death, and the ship set on fire! and in a few days after, the captain and two of the three hands shared the fate of their companions!—we had now indeed from repeated instances, become so familiarized with the shedding of human blood, that the shrieks and groans of the devoted victims were but music to our ears! and the work of human butchery was performed as deliberately and with as much unconcern as the butcher would dispatch one of the brute animals of his flock!

Soon after the capture of the Boston ship, it was concluded by a majority on board most advisable for our own personal safety, to steer for Azoras, and from thence to some port in Spain, there to dispose of the brig and the property on board, plundered from the captured vessels—and after sharing to each an equal portion of the proceeds, to separate, and each one to seek new quarters and new business for himself. This being finally concluded upon, we set sail accordingly, and on the passage fell in with and plundered four ships with valuable cargoes, among which was the Portuguese ship *Malinda*, by some of the crew of which we were un-

fortunately recognized as the same who belonged to the brig, which had lain near them in the Rio de Janeiro—this was the first instance in which a single one of us had been recognized by the crew of any of the captured ships, as persons they had ever seen before. We had a short and safe passage to Pontevedra, and from thence soon after sailed for Coruna, where we arrived in the latter part of April—on the passage there being still some suspicious persons on board, and some among our own gang, it was thought best by a majority on board to dispatch them, and thus put it out of their power to betray us—accordingly four of the suspected who had been our ship companions, and the last surviving victim of the *Topaz* (whose life until now had been spared) were put to death. The manner in which one of the former (*Caravallo*) suffered, is sufficient to satisfy those unacquainted with the fact, with what deliberation and seeming indifference, life could be taken—and even that of one who until now had been viewed as a true and faithful companion!—Teto (one of the three who volunteered to perform the deed) shot at and wounded him in the head, and then stabbed him in the stomach, Babazain and Antonio (two others selected for the purpose) gave him each severe stabs in the body, and while in the agonies of death, the latter caught him in his arms and threw him into the sea, and then staining his hands with his blood, and in proof of the satisfaction he had taken in performing the deed, commenced in singing a song in praise of Benito, our chief.

Having thus accomplished our object in destroying the lives of every suspicious person on board, by whom we thought there could be a possibility of being through treachery betrayed, and after sharing equally of the plundered property in our

possession, those who preferred it went fearlessly on shore, and separated—while others preferred remaining on board the brig, and to engage in another cruise—but this proved an unwise choice, for some who had left her being suspected, apprehended and closely examined, disclosed the whole, and the brig and all on board were soon after captured by a Spanish government cruizer, sent in pursuit of her. Some who landed were so fortunate as to make their escape, but the prospect is great of their all being soon taken, as great rewards it is said are offered for their apprehension by the Spanish and Portuguese governments—and Benito (our chief) I am informed is already taken and is now in close confinement in Gibraltar, awaiting the punishment which he merits, and which the violated law of nations demand.

Sentence of death has been passed upon myself and nine others, and to-morrow is the day appointed on which we are to be made an ignominious example of! When I take a retrospective view of the many horrid crimes of which I have been guilty—of the many innocent victims whom, in concert with others, I have deprived of life, in the course of the last five preceding years, I cannot but acknowledge the justness of the sentence, and believe it consistent with the laws of God, and for the welfare and safety of mankind, that we should be made a public example of—for, having shewn neither mercy or compassion to our fellow-creatures, we have none to expect from the hand of man!—and O, what a warning ought it to be to all, who while young, unwisely indulge themselves in the immoderate use of ardent spirits!—had this not been my first fault, I might now, in all probability, so far from being under sentence of death, as a wretch unworthy to live, and doomed with hands yet crimsoned with

innocent blood, to suffer with nine others an ignominious death on the gallows, have been esteemed as a respectable member of society, and an honour to and the support of my neglected parents, in their declining years of life—but, alas, the die is cast—the irrevocable sentence of death, which fixes my doom has been pronounced! and it is impossible for any one to have a true conception of the horrors of mind which I now suffer—being sensible that I have, as I have been charged, repeatedly assisted in perpetrating the horrid crime of murder, and under circumstances of greater aggravation, of more cool premeditated atrocity, than it has ever before probably fallen to the lot of man to see or hear of! Parents into whose hands this my dying declaration may fall, will perceive that I date the commencement of my departure from the paths of rectitude and virtue, from the moment when I became addicted to the habitual use of ardent spirits—and it is my sincere prayer that if they they value the happiness of their children—if they desire their welfare here, and their eternal well being hereafter, that they early teach them the fatal consequences of Intemperance!

NICHOLAS FERNANDEZ.

SENTENCES AND EXECUTION.

After the legal process, and the hearing of the defence of the criminals, the tribunal before which they were tried, condemned them to suffer the punishments respectively as in the following form.

Banitt Soto, to be hung, dragged along the ground and quartered, and the quarters placed on hooks on the sea shore.

Jose de los Santos to be hung, quartered, and his head placed on a hook on the sea shore—that a description of his person be sent to the authorities of the marine, to the Peninsula and West Indies, in order that he should be sent back to Cadiz for execution.

Nicholas Fernandez, Antonio de Lagoa, Saint Cyr Barbazan, Maria Guillermo Toto, Frederico Leren-da and Nuno Pereyra, to be hung, quartered and their heads to be placed on hooks on the sea shore. Francisco Goubin, Pedro Antonio, Domingo Antonio and Joaquin Francisco to be hung.

The Pilot, Manuel Antonio Rodriguez to 10 years in the house of Correction and to be present at the execution.

Cayetano Ferreira to 8 years in the House of Correction, to be present at the execution.

Manuel Jose de Freitas to 6 years in the house of Correction from the time he has been in prison and to be present at the execution.

Jose Antonio Silva and Antonio Joaquin to six years imprisonment without the above deduction and to be present at the execution.

The Negro slave Joaquin Palabra to be present at the execution and to be given up to the Portuguese Consul to be sent to his owner. The whole in conformity to the laws.

The several sentences of death were executed in front of the bay in Cadiz, on the 29th of December last.

The measure of their crimes was now filled, and Divine Justice was, regarding them, to put an end to their crimes, and to make them suffer punishment in the very country in which they wished to enjoy tranquilly those riches which, we may say, were still smoking with human blood. Discovered and made prisoners, by one of those accidents, the foresight of which is not in man's capacity, and in

which the hand of Providence is manifest, they have suffered that punishment of which they were so deserving.

The memory of the atrocious deeds which they committed, the innocent blood which they spilt, and the many persons who were the victims of their ferocity, would excite general indignation, and all will applaud the wise disposition of the authorities, who, satisfying public vengeance, have freed society of some monsters who could not but continue to fill it with evils and terrors of the most direful kind.

Of the ten Pirates executed on the 29th December, pursuant to their sentence, the nativity and parentage of the unfortunate FERNANDEZ (then but 26 years of age) is fully related in the preceding pages—of him we shall add no more than to say, that of the whole ten, he seemed to die the most penitent—he acknowledged the justness of his sentence, and seemed to entertain a proper sense of the enormity of his offences, and to the very last moment continued to warn those by whom he was surrounded to beware of that most odious and destructive vice—INTEMPERANCE. He was the only one of the ten that appeared to have been well educated, but by unfortunately yielding to the arts and persuasions of bad men, he early contracted a habit of intemperance which appears soon to have destroyed whatever there had been of liberal humanity in the bosom of the ill-fated youth.

ANTONIO DE LAGOA, reported himself (after condemnation) to be by birth a Portuguese, and of wealthy and respectable parentage, and apparently of about 30 years of age—he declined making any confessions more than that previous to entering on board of the Brazilian brig, he bore an unimpeachable character,

but lost it by associating with bad company, and that as he had now by his bad conduct not only brought himself to a shameful end, but destroyed forever the peace and happiness of his once beloved parents, he should decline accepting a pardon if offered—it was his wish to die!

BARBAZE and TETO, were both (as represented by themselves) Frenchmen, born in the south of France, and in appearance and naturally, the most hardened and consummate wretches that ever disgraced human nature—equally addicted to habits of excessive drinking, when under its baneful influence their ferocity was excited to that degree that their thirst for human blood appeared almost insatiable! it seemed to fit them for the commission of any crime, and the more innocent and defenceless the victim, the more pleased and gratified they appeared in the sacrifice—and while on board, were frequently heard to boast of having “shed as much innocent blood as would float the brig!”—their age and immediate place of nativity, as well as particulars relative to their former adventures, are unknown, as they declined disclosing any thing relative thereto, either while in confinement or at the place of execution—when the fatal halters were placed upon their necks, and were informed that they had but a very few minutes to live, they seemed in no way moved or effected thereby, but to the last exhibited the strongest symptoms of impenitence and unrelenting hardihood!

LERUNDU and PEREYRA were both Portuguese and both natives of Oporto, the former was 32 and the latter 37 years of age—like BARBAZEN and TETO they exhibited no proofs of penitence, but seemed rather to relent that they were to be deprived of an opportunity of adding to their bloody catalogue of murdered victims, such of their late companions as

had treacherously betrayed them—at the place of execution they appeared like savage monsters rendered desperate by their crimes, and too familiarized with death to feel much intimidated at its approach—they even in the last moment of their existence were heard to reproach the unfortunate FERNANDEZ, for exhibiting tokens of penitence, and for expressing fears of a still greater punishment in the world to come.

FRANCISCO GOUBIN PEDRO ANTINIO, DOMINGO ANTONIO and JOAQUIN FRANCISCO were all Brazilians, and three of them under the age of thirty—they were sentenced only to be hung, as they were thought in a degree less culpable than the others, they having composed a part of the brig's original crew, became the dupes of older offenders, by the aid of liquor, and with assurances that no more would be required of them than to hold their peace and remain quiet spectators of the massacre of such of their shipmates as it would be found necessary to put to death!—these unfortunate and deluded young men unaccustomed to witness such shocking scenes of human butchery, as they were afterward compelled to witness, would have relented and voluntarily made a full disclosure thereof to proper authority, had not their more artful companions (when such opportunities offered) taken the precaution to prevail on them to drink to that degree as to render them incapable of such disclosures—they were all four much addicted to the intemperate use of liquor, and although its introduction in prison after the condemnation of the prisoners, was strictly forbidden by the police, yet notwithstanding three of the latter were evidently so much under its operation in the last awful moment of their earthly existence, as to be launched almost in a state of stupid insensibility into eternity!!!



FATAL EFFECTS OF INTEMPERANCE.



As the reader must be satisfied by the dying declaration of the unfortunate FERNANDEZ, as well as by what is stated relative to such of his wretched companions in their last moments, who very justly suffered with him, for their heinous offences, that the awful and ignominious punishment to which they were doomed, for the perpetration of crimes of a most barbarous nature, may in a very great degree be attributed to affixed habits of excessive drinking—some closing reflections relative thereto, we hope will not prove wholly disinteresting to the reader—we acknowledge them extracts from the well written productions of very able authors on this important subject.—

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"Man is certainly a noble and dignified object in the works of nature.—His privileges are many, and his attributes many more. Endowed with powers of thought and foresight, instructed in the mysteries of Providence, he stands pre-eminent among all animals. But when man consents to sacrifice his reason unto the shrine of ebriety; when he allows intoxication and intemperance to absorb the faculties of his mind, then he is indeed a contemptuous being; then he is no longer the lord of the creation, but degenerates into the abject rank of the brutes of the forest.

Were there no religion or laws in the world, would not a sense of shame, or a sense of his own welfare, be sufficient to convince any man of the impropriety of a riotous life?—Nay, would it not induce him to stop short in the disgraceful paths of riot and drunkenness? would not self-preservation, that instinct of nature, excite him to prolong his days? Would not pity for his spouse and children, if he has none for himself, lead him to be sober, frugal and industrious? And can it be possible that, notwithstanding the admonitions of conscience, notwithstanding the contempt and reproach of the world, deaf to the entreaties of an affectionate wife, regardless of the counsels of an aged father, the intemperate man, endowed with reason and judgment, will destroy his health, tarnish his reputation, and squander his fortune in the silly and unprofitable banquets of debauch, gluttony and intemperance? O fatal blindness of passions; woful consequences of vice!

After a life of infamy, in the bloom of youth, worn out with the fumes of inebriation, the riotous man sinks, like a being void of reason, into the bosom of the earth, unprepared to meet his Creator, and in a state of depravity, irreligion and torpitude. A disconsolate consort is left behind, unassisted and forlorn. Bereft of comfort, deprived of him whom she

once loved, she bewails his end and laments his vices. An infant child, the image of his father, serves to solace her anguish ; but, alas ! he is also left unprotected and unprovided for. He has been brought into existence only to feel the pangs of wo and of want, He is left forsaken and helpless to the mercy of an unfeeling world.

Intoxication never fails to create contention and strife. To want of morals follows looseness of manners. They lose all regard for decency or decorum who *tarry long at the wine*. As sobriety and temperance tend to clear and fortify the intellect, so dissipation and drunkenness impair and vilify the mind. No great or magnanimous deeds can ever be expected from a drunkard. Sunk into abjectedness, he is easily corrupted and easily bribed.—Idleness is also concomitant with ebriety. All pursuits are neglected for the poisonous bowl. No emulation can rouse, nor ambition move he whose bosom knows no other delight but the gormandizing fare or the sparkling glass.

When we contemplate the many obnoxious attendants consequent on the life of a drunkard, we cannot wonder that he is an object of public detestation and abhorrence. Let us take a view of the habitual drunkard ! What a melancholy spectacle ! Behold him swallowing a draught that robs him of friends, of senses, and of society, makes him insensible to the keenest reproach, destroys his usefulness as a member of society, and finally makes him despised by all, even by his fellow drunkards. Is he a father ? Behold his children, on his return home (after his day spent in drunkenness) running from him as from a demon, and crying ‘mother, father is again drunk.’ Has he parents ? Behold them until midnight mourning over the desolated hearth, where mirth and gladness once resounded. He who should be the

prop and solace of their last years, is alas! the axe that fells them, and 'brings down their grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.' Behold him in his private affairs! Does tribulation surround him? he flies to the bottle as his friend. Does fortune frown upon him? he seeks consolation in the phial of destruction. Does poverty pursue him? he still cleaves to his bottle, and though his children are assailed by famine and destruction, he would sooner let them fall victims to poverty and starvation, than for a moment renounce his comfort, as he calls it. Should commiseration for a moment expel his unnatural feeling, he exclaims, what signifies, the trifles I spend, what good would they do? Insensible mortal! one loaf would chase away starvation. Should his wife remonstrate at his conduct? he threatens her with his vengeance. Does she point to his children as demanding his help and protection? he views them without commiseration; he gazes on their wants with indifference, and with callous feelings subdues the least sense of duty that might chance to arise in his bosom. Reason calls! 'tis vain. Religion intreats! he spurns her councils. His home is a home of misery, Behold his family tossed about in a whirlpool of want and misery—a wife weeping, the children neglected, abandoned, and untutored—poor mortals! perhaps by the fostering breath of attention they might have been ornaments of literature, of society. Oh justice! justice where art thou? Misguided mortal!—It will come too soon for thee yet! Retributive justice will overtake thee in thy ignoble career, and thou wilt be swept into the gulph of destruction and endless despair, but where is thy discernment? Alas! It is melted away by intemperance, fallen, fallen man! Behold he who was once an ornament to society, is now detested; he is despised by his most intimate friends; his opinion is disregarded,

What a melancholy picture of human depravity! But yet a daily occurrence yes, the picture is painted every hour.

“ Were a foreign despot (says a worthy Divine) now landing great armies on our shores, and threatening to enslave the whole country, every youthful bosom would swell with indignation, every sword be unsheathed and every bayonet pointed. And will you not combine to arrest the more cruel despot, Intemperance, who murders nearly all his prisoners, whose vessels are continually entering our ports, whose magazines of death are now planted in our villages, and whose manufactories, in the very midst of us and throughout the land, are like “ the worm that dieth not and the fire that is not quenched ?”

Were all who have the past year been found drunk in the land, now collected in one place, they would make a greater army than ever Bonaparte commanded. And yet those now on the road to drunkenness would make a vastly greater army still. And these too, with myriads more that will come on in the same track, unless some patriot band interpose and rally the nation, are nearly all destined for slaughter, and for the world of woe.

Were one half of the amount of liquid fire, that is swallowed annually by that army of drunkards, collected in one great lake, it would be more than large enough for all of them to swim in. And yet a vastly greater quantity is swallowed by the more numerous and more dangerous army of *moderate* drinkers.

Were those thirty thousand victims that annually descend to the drunkard's grave, cast out at once into an open field, they would cover five acres of ground with their putrifying carcases. And yet far greater numbers are slain by the insidious practice of moderate drinking.

Were the thousands of distilleries and manufactor-

ies of the poison, that are now at work day and night in our land, placed in one country, they would blacken all the surrounding heavens with their smoke ; and render that blackness still more terrific by the gleaming of their midnight fires.

Could all the oaths, obscenities, and blasphemies which ardent spirit occasions every hour, be uttered in one voice, it would be loud as "seven thunders."

' As to the baneful effects of spirituous liquor upon the animal system (says another respectable Divine in a well written Discourse on Intemperance) there can be no doubt. Since the attention of physicians has been turned to this subject, they have described with graphical accuracy the subtle and ruinous influence of strong drink upon all the vital organs. The same derangement is produced in the system as by introducing any other poison. The tone of the stomach is destroyed, the state of the circulation is altered, the liver is enlarged, the secretions are vitiated, the digestive powers are injured, the skin is seriously affected. "Almost every thing is wrong," says an eminent physician, "in the drunkard's constitution; almost every thing, both in relation to his mind and body, undergoes a spirituous change. He is an altered being, and exists in a state of physical organization, never intended or provided for, by his Creator. The morning is the time that the intemperate man feels most sensibly the effects of his pernicious habit. There is dizziness and pain in the head, foulness of the mouth, nausea and loathing of food, and the morning meal is turned from almost with disgust. In fact he seems awakened only to a world of wretchedness. There is such a gnawing, such a sickly faintness at his stomach, and such a general depression of all the energies of life, as to be hardly supportable; so he often rises early to flee to his dram for relief."

All the natural tendencies of the constitution to disease are excited by strong drink ; thus occasioning, in numberless instances, premature death.

An effect no less disastrous is produced upon the *mind*. Though an unwonted spring may be imparted to it for a season, yet it will be followed by a corresponding depression. The mind is affected by sympathy, and when the body is under an unnatural excitement its ardor may be increased, but its power of discrimination will be impaired and its grasp diminished. A vigorous mind is to be expected only in a sound body. But *facts* show that the direct tendency of strong drink is to produce derangement and idiocy. Mental imbecility invariably follows a course of intemperate habits.

"The brain may be affected," says a physician, and the readiness with which we place our lives in his hands ought to give weight to his opinions, "the brain may be affected by the unnatural violence with which the blood is driven through its delicate tissue,—by sympathy with the digestive organs,—and by the direct action of the poison itself absorbed into the circulation. Thus the victim of intemperance manifests a depreciation of those elevated faculties and feelings which exalt man so high above the rest of animated nature. His memory fails, his conceptions become less clear, his moral energy diminishes, he loses his decision of character, and either neglects his affairs or manages them injudiciously ; his temper becomes irritable, his high views yield to the degrading influence of his habits, and however elevated his station, his intemperance soon reconciles him to low society. As he sinks in intellect, in feeling, in principle, in conversation, he must feel the degradation and consequently seeks his proper level."

"Intemperance frequently occasions insanity.

No doubt a large proportion of the cases of mental alienation in the United States, are referable to this cause. The structure of the brain becomes so changed that it cannot serve as a healthy medium for the manifestation of mind. The mental diseases, thus generated, are no doubt often entailed upon the posterity of the drunkard. If he has children, their bodies are apt to be feeble, and their minds base, and the propensity to drink often becomes hereditary. *Delirium tremens* is a modification of insanity, almost peculiar to those who are addicted to the intemperate use of distilled spirits. It is quite as common in such as are continually pouring down spirits, and yet, as their friends say, are never the worse for liquor, as in the downright and disgusting drunkard."

If such a train of evils, the bare enumeration of which ought to awaken alarm, follow the use of strong drink, and if intemperance be a disease that perpetuates itself, the thirst for spirits being excited by indulgence, how can they who fall by it escape the charge of self destruction? and how can any who know the weakness of our nature, who reflect upon the uncounted multitudes who fall unsuspecting victims to this sin, refuse to secure safety by flight?

If confirmed intemperance be itself immorality, then a moderate use of ardent spirits must be an approach to it. But we refer more particularly to the influence of spirituous liquors in blunting moral sensibility, lowering the tone of moral feeling, in stupifying the conscience.

Often a deterioration in moral character has been observed. a departure from high and honorable deportment has been remarked, the lofty bearing and manliness of spirit which commanded respect, have disappeared and the cause was not known, till

subsequent disclosures have proved that *love of strong drink* was the worm at the root of the tree which despoiled it of its foliage.

This unnatural poison pollutes the soul while it prostrates the body. Intemperance leads to profaneness, Sabbath breaking, and every species of iniquity. Let him, therefore, that would preserve the treasure of his innocence, or regain lost virtue, "touch not, taste not, handle not." Abstinence has clothed many, possessed with this evil spirit, in their right mind, and affected a renovation in moral no less than in intellectual and physical character.

The anguish which has wrung the heart of a mother mourning over a profligate son; the unrevealed agony of a distracted wife weeping in secret over the dissipation of a husband, once the object of her confidence, even now of her affection, while the contagion threatens to reach her children, in whose minds the loathsomeness of the sin is greatly lessened because seen in the daily habits of a parent; the accumulated sufferings, abject want, deep disgrace and literal ruin of many once flourishing and happy families now deprived of a home or a shelter—these sad effects have been repeatedly described by the hand of a master; the forbidding picture therefore need not now be drawn.

The direct tendency and universal effect of intemperate habits, is to relax exertion, to destroy independence of mind, to induce a recklessness and imprudence which must end in utter destruction. A leak in a vessel will not more certainly sink it, than this sin will bring ruin. Domestic peace is sacrificed, confidence is destroyed; broils contentions, thriftlessness, bailiffs, poverty and desolation follow in rapid succession.

Let this scourge pass through a neighborhood,

and the blight of mildew, of murrain, of pestilence, were less dreadful. The heart sickens at the wretchedness, waste of all that is valuable, blasting of all that is lovely, occasioned by this evil. — Could we collect into one view, or group into one assemblage all the widows, indeed, made widows by drunkenness, all the broken hearts, wasted fortunes, blasted hopes, abused talents and wretched families, the sickness and sorrows, the disgrace and sufferings produced by strong drink, a scene would be presented which would be surpassed only by the opening of the seven vials.

Our own land, the fairest and most free of any, the sun shines upon, rescued from foreign oppression by treasures of wealth and blood, enjoying a free government, equal laws, an asylum for the oppressed, of all other lands, suffers most from this abomination. Though delivered from a foreign yoke, we are slaves to this sin, which lays a heavier tax, and binds us to a baser servitude than any earthly tyrant. And thousands every year who flee from oppression and poverty in Europe, come here to find an inglorious grave. Our free institutions lure them away, but the innumerable temptations presented and the cheapness of distilled liquors work their ruin. What a drain upon the resources of the nation is this sin. How does it impair its physical strength. How many valuable lives has it destroyed, how many strong rods has it withered, how many eloquent tongues has it silenced, how many able statesmen has it slain, how many brave officers has it subdued; how many hospitals and poor-houses has it erected and filled, how many gaols and penitentiaries has it crowded with convicts.

I have examined the calculations that have been made in relation to the lives that have been sacrificed, in the enormous expenditures occasioned by

this vice, and I see not but they are correct. They are too great almost to be credited and yet too accurate to be set aside. It is said that 30,000 *lives* are destroyed annually by this terrible evil, and that 400,000 more are endangered by it: that our country pays at the rate of *One Hundred and twenty Millions of Dollars per annum, by Intemperance*. "This sum is five times as large as the revenue of the United States government—it would pay off our national debt in six months—it would build twelve such canals as the Grand Erie and Hudson Canal *every year*—it would support a navy four times as large as that of Great Britain—it is sixty times as much as the aggregate income of all the principal religious charitable societies in Europe and America—it would supply every family on the earth with a bible in eight months—it would support a missionary or teacher among every two thousand souls on the globe!"

It has recently been ascertained by one of the members of the British Parliament, from the treasury itself, that the revenue collected during the last eight years in Great Britain on these poisonous beverages, which were principally paid by the classes commonly denominated poor, amounted to more than \$500,000,000. In 1828 it was more than 72,000,000 Dollars. To these duties must be added the *cost* of these poisonous articles. Can we wonder at the distress, which we are told, prevails among the operatives and mechanics in that country?

The poor now suffer the most from this dreadful evil. They have no command over their passions; their indulgence renders them objects of disgust—they place themselves beyond the reach of that influence which preserves others from ruin; and thus they are drained of their hard earnings and sink down to death unlamented.

Why do not these facts electrify the nation and drench the whole land in tears? We shudder at the imminent danger of those places which lie at the foot of volcanic mountains or that are visited with earthquakes; alas, all the volcanoes and earthquakes that have ever consumed and swallowed up towns and cities, have not destroyed one tenth part the number of lives or amount of wealth of this one evil. The crimes and cruelties of the French Revolution filled the world with horror and awaked the nations of the earth to a sense of danger, but a destruction of a hundred fold more direful character but just begins to excite a salutary fear in some parts of our land. The evils of the slave trade are beyond description, but they bare no comparison to this destruction that walketh in darkness and wasteth at noon-day.

The wide spread ruin that follows this great evil resembles the opening of the seven seals in succession; the melancholy effects are like the successive blasts of the apocalyptic trumpets. And if the burning tide of disolation that is rolling over our land be not arrested, we might say with the angel flying through the midst of heaven whom John saw, woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, by reason of the other evils that are to follow. There is no power in language to describe the miseries that will be produced by this most withering of all the curses of God. It combines in itself all the ten plagues of Egypt.

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