

**WHAT SHOULD WE DRINK?:
AN INQUIRY SUGGESTED BY
MR. E. L. BECKWITH'S
'PRACTICAL NOTES ON WINE'**

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What Should We Drink?: An Inquiry Suggested by Mr. E. L. Beckwith's 'Practical Notes on Wine' by James L. Denman

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JAMES L. DENMAN

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AN INQUIRY

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MR. E. L. BECKWITH'S 'PRACTICAL NOTES ON WINE.'

By JAMES L. DENMAN,

AUTHOR OF 'THE VINE AND ITS FRUIT.'



LONDON :

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

1868.

IF in the following pages I have exaggerated the importance of Mr. Beckwith's "Report," my excuse must be found in the assertion upon its title-page,—“A Reprint, by special permission, of the Report on Wines and other Fermented Liquors, prepared by command of Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Paris Exposition Universelle, 1867,”—which indicated that Mr. Beckwith's opinions were endorsed by persons of the highest authority, both in this country and in France. It is but fair for me to add, however, that since the following pages were in type I had occasion to procure another copy of his "Report" from the publishers; which, I perceive, altogether omits the words I have above placed within inverted commas. The Report is nevertheless worthy of consideration as the work of an Associate-Juror and Reporter on Wines at the Paris Exhibition, 1867, and on account of the influence it may have had in this country.

J. L. D

20 PICCADILLY, LONDON (W.)

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WHAT SHOULD WE DRINK ?

"I have faith in truth, whether it be called, at the moment, error or calumny. Every truth that is oppressed is a force augmented, a day of triumph which is opening."—E. DE GIBARDIN.

IN the persistent warfare which I have been waging for several years against one of the many forms of adulteration with which this country is oppressed, I have discovered it to be of the very first necessity to speak of things by their proper names, and to insist upon reference to first principles at each stage of my argument. The wine controversy depends for its settlement upon the answer given to the very simple, straightforward question, "What is wine?" If we can once decide upon the reply, dispute must cease; at all events there is no mistaking the conclusion to which persons must come who define wine to be "the fermented juice of the grape;" namely, that whatsoever is more or less than this, is not entitled to be styled Wine. It, perhaps, would not sound well for a lady to substitute the offer of a "glass of sherried brandy" for "a glass of sherry" to a morning caller; nor would it add any zest to the enjoyment of gentlemen