

**THE TASTE. A
TEMPERANCE TALE**

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The Taste. A Temperance Tale by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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THE TASTE.

A TEMPERANCE TALE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"THE FATHER'S MESSAGE."

"Say what is taste, but the internal pow'rs,
Active and strong, and feelingly alive
To each fine impulse? a discerning sense
Of decent and sublime, with quick disgust
From things deform'd or disarrang'd or gross
In species?"

DR. AKENSIDE.

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251. g. 201.

PREFACE.

We are invited to write a Preface. With an "Introduction" we scarcely perceive the necessity, our only desire being to express sympathy with the cause of Temperance. We would willingly ring out the charming bells could we hope to follow by a piece of musical composition. We trust to gentle treatment by the critics of the day, and encouragement from the supporters of Abstinence.

DECEMBER, 1880.

INTRODUCTION.

TEMPERANCE is steadily on the increase. Supported by devoted, earnestly active, friends to the cause, the advantages of sobriety are becoming more obvious to all classes.

Though some may not choose to benefit by the evidence of facts, which admonish them, that vapour is not substance; the fume which clouds the brain has neither liquid nor solid capability for strengthening the body: it is an effervescence that leaves no trace, save the poison which generates maladies; which poison is not inclined to be dislodged; it has a will of its own; a resolution to work its way within the arteries: to clog the free passage of the blood through the heart; frequently causing sudden death; sending the debauched, degraded soul into the presence of its Maker, to hear the awful words—Depart, I know you not.

Look through Holy Writ, “No drunkard shall inherit eternal life.” “No drunkard shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” Study ancient

writers, historical and classical. Wine is treasured according to its special qualities; but the wine-bibber is despised.

Are the folks of modern date satisfied with wine? No, the aim of distillers is to evoke the strongest spirit—the fiercest alcohol that can destroy mind and body. Here is a problem. Of the five senses it would seem that taste is the most rampant. The preacher takes for his text, “Taste and see how gracious is the Lord.” To personify spirituous liquor, it says—

O taste, O taste, and see :
And henceforth worship me.

which is too frequently the result.

The sight, the touch, the hearing, the olfactory powers are nothing compared with the marvelously retentive action of the taste. To most of the refined movements of life we apply the word taste. With children we endeavour to cultivate a taste—versus principle—for everything that is good and high-minded—even for that which is simply pleasant. We bow down to taste. It very much directs our friendly or unfriendly feelings as we glide through this vale of smiles and tears. But the taste which dwells on the tip of the tongue or pervades nearly the whole substance

thereof—on the roof of the palate—and burns the thorax as with fire; although the gift of God in its essential quality, and the most genial of the five senses, is, by its variety of perversions, prolific of wonderful strife. The tongue is an unruly member in many ways. It destroys others and it destroys itself.

The wild horse taken away from the desert may be tamed; like man in his first passion for strong drink; but, allowed again to range at large, who shall promise to bridle and bit the same animal? Thus it is with the ever increasing temptation of alcoholic beverages. Children may be made sensible of the pride of abstinence, hence the praiseworthy institution of Bands of Hope. But man, if he breaks the pledge of self-restriction, is as difficult to be repossessed within the limits of restraint, as his similitude, snuffing the open breeze and galloping under the influence of absolute freedom.

How then to combat the taste—to lower the feverish desire of the tongue—to meliorate the palate—to subdue the burning of the thorax—to reduce the fever of the brain—of the impeded circulation—to preserve life until it should be

recalled in its due course—how? This is another problem, which we are glad to concede is being slowly and surely worked by the friends of the Temperance cause, so prominently before the public at the present moment.

The blessing of success must eventually attend their efforts. The blessing of that Omnipotence who gave all things for man's use but not for his abuse.

Science will ultimately prove—legislation will give its aid—and medical knowledge will be uniform—that, alcohol is destructive to human life; and, subversive of the prosperity of the kingdom.

