

**THE WINE QUESTION
IN THE LIGHT OF THE
NEW DISPENSATION**

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The Wine Question in the Light of the New Dispensation by John Ellis

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JOHN ELLIS

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WINE QUESTION

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NEW DISPENSATION.

BY

JOHN ELLIS, M. D.,

AUTHOR OF "THE AVOIDABLE CAUSES OF DISEASE, INSANITY, AND DEFORMITY," "AN ADDRESS TO THE CLERGY," "SKEPTICISM AND DIVINE REVELATION," "PURE WINE, FERMENTED WINE," ETC.

"Must signifies the same as wine, viz., truth derived from the good of charity and love." "Falses from evil may be compared to such wine and strong drinks as induce drunkenness."—EMANUEL SWEDENBORG'S A. E. (695 and 1035).



NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

1882.

Recd, in place of the wine,

HV5180
:E7

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62

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE,	5-8
CHAPTER I.	
PHILOSOPHY OF THE NEW CHURCH BEARING UPON THE SUBJECT OF INTOXICATING DRINKS.	
Does Alcohol Correspond to Faith Alone ?	9-20
CHAPTER II.	
IS ALCOHOL A POISON ?	
Consequently is Fermented Wine, owing to the Presence of Alcohol, also a Poison ?—Is it Wrong for a New Churchman to Teach that Fermented Wine and other Intoxicating Liquids are Poisons?— Moderation Fallacy—Action of Alcohol on the Mind,	21-37
CHAPTER III.	
TWO KINDS OF WINE RECOGNIZED IN THE WORD OF THE LORD AND IN THE WRITINGS OF THE NEW CHURCH.	
One Kind, Unfermented and Unintoxicating, and the Other Fermented, or Leavened, and Intoxicating,	38-44
CHAPTER IV.	
TWO KINDS OF GRAPES, TWO KINDS OF MUST, AND TWO KINDS OF WINE—ONE GOOD AND THE OTHER BAD.	
New Wine in Old Bottles—Two Kinds of Strong Drink,	45-58
CHAPTER V.	
WINES OF THE ANCIENTS.	
Ancient Methods of Preserving Wine, so as to Prevent Fermentation —Preserving Wine Unfermented by Boiling—Present Customs in Wine-Growing Countries—Preservation of Unfermented Wine by Evaporation to Comparative Dryness—Preserving Wine by Keep- ing Cool in Springs, Rivers, and Cisterns—Filtering Wine to Prevent Fermentation—Preservation of Wine by the use of Sweet Oil—Preservation of Wine by Fumigation—Modern Unfermented Wine,	59-84

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI.	
DRUNKENNESS IN WINE-GROWING AND BEER-CONSUMING COUNTRIES.	
The Testimony of Residents and Travellers,	83-87
CHAPTER VII.	
THE "NEW JERUSALEM MESSENGER" AND INTOXICATING WINE.	
Falses from Evils—Intoxicating Wines and Strong Drinks,	88-97
CHAPTER VIII.	
THE "NEW JERUSALEM MAGAZINE" AND THE WINE QUESTION.	
An Original Idea—Does Fermentation Produce Unfermented Bread and Wine?	98-121
CHAPTER IX.	
"WORDS FOR THE NEW CHURCH" AND THE WINE AND "WHISKY" QUESTION.	
The "Academy of the New Church," as Represented by the Above Serial,	122-148
CHAPTER X.	
THE COMPARISONS OF EMANUEL SWEDENBORG.	
The Academy's Interpretations of the Same in its Serial,	149-158
CHAPTER XI.	
A NEW VIEW.	
Wine in the Most Ancient Church—Vinegar,	159-164
CHAPTER XII.	
COMMUNION WINE.	
Wine Used by Our Lord and His Disciples in the Original Institution of the Sacrament of the Most Holy Supper—How shall we Prepare our Communion Wine,	165-192
CHAPTER XIII.	
PROHIBITION.	
Opinion of Governor St. John, of Kansas—Swedenborg's Views, 193-200	
CHAPTER XIV.	
FINAL APPEAL TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEW CHURCH.	
Swedenborg's Formula for Sacramental Bread, and His Ideas as to the Wine Used by the Lord and His Disciples—Importance of Organizing—Our Periodicals Should be Renovated and Filled with New Life—Great Reforms are Rarely Commenced by the Clergy,	201-228

P R E F A C E.

It is doubtless known to most New Church readers that the writer has published a tract on "Pure Wine—Fermented Wine, and other Alcoholic Drinks." This tract is still in print, and will be sent with pleasure to any reader of the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg who has not seen it. The author has sent a copy of it to all whose names he has been able to obtain, and will continue to send it to such additional names as are forwarded to him, feeling that in no other way can he do as much service for the cause of the New Church with his time and money, as in spreading a knowledge of the truth on this subject among the members of the Church, the receivers of its doctrines, and the readers of Swedenborg's works. A letter addressed to Dr. John Ellis, New York City, will be quite sure to reach him. He also desires that a copy of the present work should be found in the library of every New Church family in the land. He would rather not receive the names of those who are not readers, for the world outside of the recognized New Church is too wide for his limited means. It has been suggested that the tract on "Pure Wine," etc., would be a good tract to send to the clergymen of the various denominations to invite their attention, not only to the cause of Temperance, but also to that of the New Church. But the writer does not feel that that tract is exactly adapted for this purpose, owing to the controversial character of some parts of it; and he does not desire to publish to the outside

world, that so many of his New Church brethren advocate and justify the use of intoxicating drinks, and in this volume he purposely withholds the names of all such, for he is sure that within a very few years they will thank him for having done so. But he fully recognizes the truth, that the light thrown on this subject by the Writings of Swedenborg, especially by the philosophy taught therein, and by the science of correspondences, is so clear, that the circulation of a suitable tract on this question cannot but be very useful in calling attention to the Writings, in which such clear views and insight into such a practical subject are to be found. Therefore, he hopes to prepare or cause to be prepared, at no very distant day, a tract for this purpose. Several articles have appeared in the *New Jerusalem Magazine*, and a lengthy review of the tract on the wine question in *Words for the New Church*, all in opposition to the views set forth in our tract; but in none of them, with but a single exception, has any serious attempt been made to meet the question in accordance with the philosophy and science of correspondences, set forth in the writings of the New Church. The writers have relied on comparisons made by Swedenborg between spiritual conflicts in man's regeneration and the physical clarification of wine by fermentation; and upon assumptions which have come down to us from the dark ages, unquestioned seriously, by New Church writers and teachers; the latter apparently forgetting what the Lord said: "Behold, I make all things new." Fortunately, while New Churchmen have been, as it were, asleep, many of the most intelligent men of the surrounding churches, observing the pernicious results which flow from the use of intoxicating drinks, have taken hold of this subject in sober earnestness. They have not only examined the Sa-

cred Scriptures in the original languages in which they were written and have been preserved, to find what they actually teach upon this subject, but they also have diligently searched the ancient records of Bible lands, as well as the traditions and present usages; until now a mass of testimony has been accumulated, which is completely overwhelming, and fully sustains the late Professor George Bush's testimony that there is nothing in the Sacred Scriptures which will justify the use of fermented wine as a beverage, and that the whole Christian world will be compelled, at no distant day, to come to this conclusion. When, a year or two ago, the writer, in response to an article advocating the use of fermented wine in the *New Jerusalem Messenger*, alluded to the above testimony, making quotations from ancient authors and recent writers, and calling attention to the fact that neither the philosophy of the New Church, the science of correspondences, nor the express teachings of Swedenborg, would justify the use of either fermented wine or other intoxicating drinks, a host of writers rushed to the rescue of intoxicating drinks, and the New Church periodicals, were plied with their communications; the *Messenger* hastily closed the discussion, giving no opportunity for a reply to the assumptions and arguments of the advocates of fermented wine. The *New Jerusalem Magazine*, after admitting several articles justifying the use of fermented wine, declined to admit any reply. When the tract on "Pure Wine—Fermented Wine, and other Intoxicating Drinks" made its appearance, the placid waters of the Academy of the New Church, as manifested in its serial, *Words for the New Church*, were moved to their very depths, as the reader will see from the quotations which we intend to make from its pages. Well, the truth upon this momentous subject, so