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THE TERMS OF THE STAR

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AN ENQUIRY

Into the effects of *Spirituous Liquors* on the *Human Body*; to which is added a moral and physical thermometer, by *Benjamin Rush*, M. D. of Philadelphia.

(Concluded.)

THERE are certain classes of people to whom I beg leave to suggest a caution or two upon the use of spirituous liquors.

1. Valetudinarians, especially those who labor under disorders of the stomach and bowels, are very apt to fly to spirits for relief. Let such people be cautious how they repeat this dangerous remedy. I have known many men and women, of excellent characters and principles, who have been betrayed by occasional doses of gin or brandy to ease the cholick, into a love of spirituous liquors, insomuch that they have afterwards fallen sacrifices to their fatal effects. The different preparations of opium are a thousand times more safe and innocent than spirituous liquors, in all spasmodic affections of the stomach and bowels. So apprehensive am I of the danger of contracting a love for spirituous liquors, by accustoming the stomach to their stimulus, that I think the fewer medicines we exhibit in spirituous vehicles the better.

2. Some people from living in countries subject to the intermitting fever endeavor to fortify themselves against it by two or three glasses of bitters made with spirits every day. There is great danger of men becoming sots from this practice. Besides, this mode of preventing intermittents is by no means a certain one. A much better security against them is to be found in the Jesuits bark. A tea spoon full of this excellent medicine taken every morning during the sickly season has in many instances preserved whole families in the neighborhood of rivers and mill ponds from fevers of all kinds. Those who live in a sickly part of the country, and who connot procure bark, or who object to taking it, I will advise to avoid the morninng and evening air in the sickly months, to kindle fires in theirs houses on damp days, and to put on woolen clothing about the first week in September. The last part of this direction applies only to the inhabitants of the middle states. These cautions I am persuaded will be more effectual in preventing autumnal fevers than the best preparations that can be made from bitters in spirit.

3. Men who follow professions that require a constant exercise of mind or body, or perhaps both, are very apt to seek relief from fatigue in spirituous liquors. To such persons I would beg leave to recommend the use of TEA instead of spirits. Fatigue is occasioned by the obstruction of perspiration. Tea, by restoring perspiration, removes fatigue, and thus invigorates the system. I am no advocate for the general or excessive use of tea. When drank too strong, it is hurtful, especially to the female constitution; but when drank of a moderate degree of strength, and in moderate quantities, with sugar and cream or milk, I believe in general it is innocent, and at all times to be preferred to spirituous liquors. One of the most industrious school masters I ever knew, told me that he had been preserved from the love of spirituous liquors by contracting a love for tea in early life. Three or four dishes drank in an afternoon, carried off the fatigue of a whole day's labor in his school. This gentleman lived to be 71 years of age, and afterwards died of an acute disease, in the full exercise of all the faculties of mind.

To every class of my readers, I beg leave to suggest a caution against the use of TODDY or GROGG. I acknowledge that I have known some men, who, by limiting its strength, constantly measuring the spirit and water, and who by drinking it *only* with their *meals*, have drank toddy or grog for many years without suffering in any degree from it; but I have known many more who have been insensibly led from drinking toddy for their constant drink, to take drams in the morning, and have afterwards paid their lives as the price of their folly. I shall select one case from among many that have come within the compass of my knowledge, to shew the ordinary progress of intemperance in the use of spirituous liquors. A gentleman, once of a fair and sober character, in the city of Philadelphia, for many years drank toddy as his constant drink. From this he proceeded to drink grog. After a while nothing would satisfy him but slings made of equal parts of rum and water, with a little sugar. From slings he advanced to raw rum, and from common rum to Jamaica spirits. Here he rested for a few months; but at last he found even Jamaica spirits were not strong enough to warm his stomach, and he made it a constant practice to throw a table spoon full of ground pepper into each glass of his spirits, in order, (to use his own expression) "to take off their coldness." It is hardly necessary to add, that he soon afterwards died a martyr to his intemperance.

I shall conclude what has been said of the effects of spirituous liquors, with two observations. 1. A people corrupt with strong drink cannot long be a *free* people. The rulers of such a community will soon partake of the vice of that mass from which they are secreted, and all our laws and governments will sooner or later bear the same mark of the effects of spirituous liquors which were described formerly upon individuals. I submit it therefore to the consideration of our legislatures, whether more laws should not be made to increase the expence and lessen the consumption of spirituous liquors, and whether some mark of public infamy should not be inflicted by law upon every man, convicted before a common magistrate, of drunkenness.

The second and last observation I shall offer is of a serious nature. It has been remarked that the Indians have diminished every where in America since their connection with the Europeans. This has been justly ascribed to the Europeans having introduced spirituous liquors among them. Let those men who are every day turning their backs upon all the benefits of cultivated society, to such habitations in the neighborhood of Indians, consider how far this wandering mode of life is produced by the same cause which has scattered and annihilated so many Indian tribes. Long life, and the secure possession of property, in the land of their ancestors, was looked upon as a blessing among the ancient Jews.—For a son to mingle his dust with the dust of his father, was to act worthy of his inheritance; and the prospect of this honor often afforded a consolation even in death. However exalted, my countrymen, your ideas of liberty may be, while you expose yourselves by the use of spirituous liquors to this consequence of them, you are nothing more than the pioneers, or in more slavish terms, the "hewers of wood" of your more industrious neighbors.

If the facts that have been stated, should produce in any of my readers who have suffered from the use of spirituous liquors, a resolution to abstain from them hereafter, I must beg leave to inform them that they must leave them off *suddenly* and *entirely*. No man was ever *gradually* reformed from drinking spirits.—He must not only avoid tasting, but even smelling them, until long habit of abstinence have subdued his affection for them. To prevent his feeling any inconvenience from the sudden loss of their stimulus upon his stomach, he should drink plentifully of camomile or of any other bitter tea, or a few glasses of sound old wine every day. I have great pleasure in adding, that I have seen a number of people who have been *effectually* restored to health, to character, and to usefulness to their families and to society, by following this advice.

A detailed view of the proceedings of the House of Representatives, on Thursday, March 3, 1803.

The committee of the whole house on the petition of Joseph M'Lellan and Hugh M'Lellan, John Taber, and Daniel Taber, were discharged from the consideration thereof, and the petitioners had leave to withdraw their petition.

Mr. Southard, from the committee on the amendments of the senate to the bill entitled an act to revive and continue in force an act in addition to an act entitled an act in addition to an act regulating the grants of land appropriated for military services, &c. reported their agreement to them, in which report the house immediately concurred.

[This is the final vote on this bill—which, among other things, makes a donation of a certain quantity of land to General La Fayette.]

The bill from the senate "directing a detachment from the militia of the United States, and for erecting certain arsenals," went through its several readings and passed without a division.

On motion of Mr. Varnum, the house unanimously came to the following resolution:

Resolved, that the thanks of this house be presented to NATHANIEL MACON, the speaker, in testimony of their approbation of his conduct in discharging the arduous and important duties assigned him, while in the chair.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker made his acknowledgments to the house as follows:

"Gentlemen,

"Accept my sincere thanks for the votes which you have been pleased to pass, expressive of your approbation of my conduct in the chair; they are also due to each of you, for the liberal support which I have uniformly received.

"Permit me to wish you a safe return home, and happy meeting with your friends."

The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill further to alter and discontinue certain post roads; the committee rose, and the house refused them leave to sit again.

Mr. Nicholson, from the committee appointed yesterday, reported, that, in obedience to the order of the house, the committee had been to the senate, and in the name of the house of representatives, and of all the people of the United States, had impeached John Pickering, judge of the district court of the district of New Hampshire, of high crimes and misdemeanors; and had acquainted the senate, that the house of representatives will, in due time, exhibit particular articles against him, and make good the same.

And further that the committee had demanded that the senate take order for the appearance of the said John Pickering, to answer to the said impeachment.

On motion of Mr. S. Smith, Resolved, that the secretary of the treasury be, and he is hereby directed to lay before this house, early in the next session of congress, a digest of the laws to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, with such alterations as may be deemed necessary thereto; and a digest of the laws for recording and registering of ships and vessels of the United States, with such amendments thereto, as he may deem useful and proper.

Resolved, that the clerk of this house be authorised to employ an additional clerk in his office, until the first day of the next session of congress, at the same rate of compensation allowed to the engrossing clerks, and to be paid out of the contingent fund of the house.

A message from the senate informed the house, that they had disagreed to the act for settling sundry claims to public lands of the United States, south of the state of Tennessee; and had postponed until the 4th instant, (a virtual rejection) an act to enable the president of the United States to make restitution to the owners of the Danish brigantine, called the Henrick.

On motion of Mr. S. Smith, Resolved, that the secretary of state be, and he hereby is directed to lay before this house, early in the next session of congress, a view of the light money payable by vessels of the United States, entering the different ports of the nations of Europe, and of the same payable by ships or vessels of such nations entering their own ports.

Mr. Bayard offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that inquiry ought to be made relative to the authority of the commissioners of the sinking fund, to make sale of the shares of the stock of the bank of the United States belonging to the United States; and also, as to the expediency of the said sale, and the profit or loss resulting therefrom to the United States.

On which a debate arose, which continued until an adjournment took place, till six o'clock in the afternoon.

Thursday Afternoon, March 3.

Mr. Randolph from the committee of ways and means, yesterday directed "to inquire whether the commissioners of the sinking fund have, agreeably to the directions of the act, entitled an act making provision for the redemption of the whole of the debt of the United States; applied the sum of seven millions three hundred thousand dollars, provided by the same, to the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt; and to inquire, generally, into the accounts and proceedings of the commissioners of the sinking fund"—made a report thereon, which was read:

Whereupon, ordered that 2,000 copies of the report and the documents, be printed for the use of the members, and that they be transmitted to the members, under frank, by the secretary of the treasury.

[This report principally consists of the elucidating letter of the secretary of the treasury, and of explanatory documents.]

The house resumed the consideration of Mr. Bayard's motion; when after debate the question was taken on it by yeas and nays, and carried in the negative—yeas 25—nays 40.

Mr. S. Smith then moved the following resolution:

Resolved that the commissioners of the sinking fund were authorised by law, to make sale of the stock of the bank of the United States; and the sales made by them agreeably to their resolution of the 7th day of June last, were expedient, and the result highly beneficial to the United States.

Mr. T. Morris moved a postponement of this resolution until the first Monday in November.

This motion was supported by Messrs. T. Morris, Bayard, Huger and Mott, and supported by Messrs. S. Smith, Nicholson, Varnum and Bacon.

When the question was taken by yeas and nays, and the postponement lost—yeas 19—nays 46.

Mr. Bayard moved to refer the resolution to a select committee.

Lost without a division.

Mr. Huger moved to amend the resolution, by adding these words: "and therefore deserve the thanks of this country."

Mr. Huger desired the calling the yeas and nays on this amendment; but only seven members rising, they were not called.

The question was then taken on the amendment, which was lost—only four members rising in the affirmative.

The following amendment then obtained, viz. to strike out the word "law," next after the words "were authorized by," and insert in lieu the words "the act making provision for the payment of certain acts of the United States, passed the 31st day of May, 1796.

Messrs. Griswold and Huger then spoke at length against the main resolution; when Mr. Bayard moved to amend it by striking out the words, "and the result highly beneficial to the United States."

Messrs. Bayard and Griswold supported, and Mr. Randolph opposed this amendment, which was lost—yeas 15—nays 40.

After a short desultery conversation a final question was taken on gen. Smith's resolution, amended as follows:

Resolved that the commissioners of the sinking fund authorized by the "act making provision for the payment of certain debts of the United States," passed the 31st day of May 1796, to make sale of the stock of the bank of the United States;—and the sales made by them, agreeably to their resolution of the 7th day of June last, were expedient, and the result highly beneficial to the United States.

And carried—yeas 42—nays 12.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the treasury transmitting sundry statements in relation to the mint.

A message from the senate informed the house that they had disagreed to the bill to allow a drawback of duty on sugar refined within the United States.

Mr. Otis communicated the following proceedings of the senate.

In Senate of the United States.

March 3, 1803.

"Whereas the house of representatives have this day, by two of their members, Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Randolph, at the bar of the senate, impeached John Pickering, judge of the district court for the district of New Hampshire, of high crimes and misdemeanors, and have acquainted the senate, that the house of representatives will, in due time, exhibit particular articles of impeachment against him, and make good the same: and have likewise demanded, that the senate take order for the appearance of the said John Pickering, to answer to the said impeachment: therefore,

"Resolved, that the senate will take proper order thereon, of which due notice shall be given to the house of representatives."

Resolved, that Mr. S. Smith, and Mr. John C. Smith be a committee, on the part of this house, jointly with such committee as may be appointed on the part of the senate, to wait on the president of the United States, and notify him of the proposed recess of congress.

Soon after, a message was received from the senate, stating their having appointed a similar committee on their part.

Mr. S. Smith, from the above committee, reported that the committee had, according to order, performed the service assigned them; and that the president signified to them, he had no farther communication to make during the present session.

Mr. Dawson made a resolution, which was carried without a division, for allowing 200 dollars to the principal and engrossing clerks of the house respectively, for extra services.

Mr. Bayard moved a resolution, which was also agreed to without a division, allowing the sergeant at arms, the door keeper and assistant door keeper 200 dollars each, and Alexander Claxton 50 dollars, in addition to their present allowance.

A message was received from the senate by Mr. Otis, their secretary; as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I am directed to inform this house, that the senate, having completed the legislative business before them, are now ready to adjourn.

Whereupon, at about 15 minutes before 12 o'clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the house *sine die*.

The next meeting of congress will be on the 1st Monday of November.

From the Aurora.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

There does not appear to be a man of understanding in our country, however, unfriendly to the federal administration, or inimical to the constitution, who does not admit the *indispensible necessity* of maintaining our right to the Mississippi, and to a place of deposit on its banks.—It is plain therefore, that we shall have them secured by the measures, which the president is now pursuing in his negociations with foreign powers, or that we shall enter, with unexampled unanimity, into a just war. If we are to have peace *with that security*, it is worth a little patience; if we are to have war, it will come soon enough for our happiness and we shall be much better prepared to command success, and to secure all its advantages.

The national questions about the navigation and banks of the Mississippi are as old as the declaration of independence. It is not the fault of the present executive, if its predecessors in our national government have not put it upon best of all possible footings. The treaties of 1782-3 had the assent of Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Adams in Europe, and of the old congress in America. No more was then thought necessary or found practicable. The treaty of 1795 was made by Mr. Pinckney, under powers from general Washington. It was approved by the latter and advised probably by the whole senate of 1795. General Hamilton and Knox were of the councils of this country at that time. None of those public men appear to have thought that more was necessary or practicable. In 1797 a plan in conjunction with a foreign power, at war with Spain, was taken up, the object of which was to wrest the Mississippi country from Spain, and that too without any intention that it should belong to the United States. The offenders were detected. They were not prosecuted by our administration. The consequence must be that Spain implicated our government in censure for the project.

Let this give a momentary moderation to our present passions. It is not asked, that it shall have that effect long. If a reasonable period for negociation shall pass away, let our moderation then be laid aside, and let the intrepid business of war be the object of all our energies. Let us not, in the mean time, storm, rave, insult and excite sedition and insurrection to defeat negociation.

The *mysterious* cause of the injurious and unlawful conduct of the Spanish intendant is certainly not publicly known. It may not perhaps be ascertained by the government. The principles of *natural* right which France maintains in regard to the Scheldt, and which Britain has not admitted as to the St. Lawrence, are entirely in our favor. The right, *by treaty*, is expressly in our favor. It is not to be forgotton, that, if we had declared war against Spain, that treaty right would have been abandoned by the nullification of the treaty. This consideration may appear of no weight to the military man