Midway through Walt Whitman's temperance novel Franklin Evans, or The Inebriate (1842), the eponymous Franklin Evans finds himself traveling to Virginia on a journey that seemingly disrupts a narrative that has previously been mostly concerned with his travels between rural and urban northern spaces. A southern plantation afford him a firsthand account of slavery, and the southern, or "Creole," episode of Franklin Evans becomes the ideal place for Whitman to explore the parallels between intemperance and slavery. Although Evans finally signs a temperance pledge, his sobriety remains haunted by the often contradictory and unsettling changes in antebellum American culture. The editors' substantial introduction situates Franklin Evans in relation to Whitman's life and career, mid-nineteenth-century American print culture, and many of the developments and institutions the novel depicts, including urbanization, immigration, slavery, the temperance movement, and new understandings of class, race, gender, and sexuality. Whitman's often-banned novel about the love of a white man and a creole slave, a tragic tale and some of Whitman's best penmanship. flag Like · see review. "Whitman's Literary Intemperance": Franklin Evans, or the Power of Love. Anne Dalke. ISSN 0737-0679 (Print) ISSN 2153-3695 (Online). Copyright © 1984 Anne Dalke. The totally unearned reward of Franklin Evans, in flaunting the conventions of consequential plotting, demonstrates the great rejuvenating power of unjustified, unqualified love. Franklin Evans's end reinforces the point made with increasing force by each of the interpolated stories: a man like him, whose "great failing is his weakness of resolution and liability to be led by others" (p. 212), can only be saved by charity.