

things, and was penurious in regard to small sums of money. One day in driving he accidentally dropped a shilling down the slit of the carriage window; he at once drove round to his coach-maker and asked that the shilling be taken out for him. A few days after he received from the coach-maker a bill to this effect: "To extracting coin from the slit of the carriage window, five shillings." That was, you say, a poor financial transaction. But that is just what, as a people, we are doing in sanctioning the Liquor Traffic. We are paying five shillings in order to get one shilling. Nay, worse than that, we are paying *forty-one millions* in order to raise a revenue of *five millions*. And what return does the traffic yield us for this vast outlay? You see the return in the indolence, irreligion, profanity, quarrels, fights, murders, suicides, with which our daily papers are almost constantly filled. You have it in the broken hearts, impoverished homes, diseased bodies and lost souls of which perhaps the world never hears. I put it to you, my Christian reader, is this right? At a time when thousands are perishing for bread, and tens of thousands for lack of knowledge, is it right directly or indirectly to countenance a traffic that is the occasion of such a frightful waste of food and money? Our missionary schemes are languishing for lack of funds. The cry of the heathen is sounded in our ears, "Come over and help us;" labourers are saying, "Here am I, send me;" but we must turn a deaf ear to both for lack of money; and yet we are spending annually in that which is ruining the bodies and souls of our fellow-men, *two hundred times* as much as is raised for sending the gospel throughout the world. Is this right? How long shall this continue?

But the great question before us rises infinitely above the measurement of dollars and cents. Even if there were no financial loss connected with the Liquor Traffic, though it were a source of princely revenue, the State could ill afford to encourage it. Health, happiness and good morals are of more importance to the State than even gold. Let those be wanting, and though the State treasury should constantly overflow with money, the true patriot and Christian may well repeat with anxious heart the dying words of the Prince of Orange: "God have mercy on my poor country!"

Look at