

and if out of it all the struggling owners of small properties are burdened with needless taxes and discouraged in their efforts to provide that surest asylum of the domestic, civic and religious virtues, a home, is it or is it not a case for the interposition of the clergyman? Should he go to town meeting and object, or stay in his quiet study and read the "Saint's Rest" or "Holy Living and Dying"? The former will compel him to sit in an atmosphere of tobacco-smoke, to jostle against Tom, Dick, and Harry, to give and take in debate with men who, there at least, are no respecters of persons; will expose him to the chance of being voted up or down according as he or some other practical politician succeeds best in catching the ear of his fellow-citizens, and send him home perchance with his cheeks burning and his heart sore; the latter will leave him calm and serene—firmly resolved to "do and suffer the will of God," admirably equipped for the next sermon or round of calls—but what about the pauperized poor and the demoralized hard-working citizen, and the increasing public expenditure, with its bait to incompetent would-be public servants, and the growing tax bill which he and his people have to pay? If a town like Hartford is able to cut down the annual alms expenditures by \$30,000 inside of a year and a half, without suffering and without complaint, is it not possible that there are benefits to religion in the step not altogether unworthy of the efforts of a clergyman?

#### DRUNKENNESS.

Or consider intemperance, both in itself and in its relation to crime and pauperism. The arrests for drunkenness alone in the twelve years between 1879-90 in Hartford average 62.8 per cent annually of the whole number of arrests, while for drunkenness and immediately allied offences, as breach of the peace, assault and neglect of family, the percentage is 80.67—more than four fifths. And even the remaining fifth includes such offences as theft and licentious behavior all but universally in close relations with excess in drink. Remember that the police cost alone of making each one of these 2813 annual arrests was \$15.68; that every such arrest was a step toward jail, almshouse, State prison or insane retreat—a goal actually reached by nearly one thousand of the arrested annually, at a total public outlay in the case of scores of them of over \$200 a year; remember that the list of arrests for drunkenness has been lengthening with sickening rapidity the past two years; consider the wretchedness and suffering caused to innocent women and children by it all; consider the pauperism it produces. By a careful estimate—the most careful that, with the present very inadequate materials, I have been able to make—I find that 56.7 per cent of our expenditure for public alms is directly due to intemperance; and the proportion of private alms would probably go beyond this. Remember all these things, and then ask whether this is not a case for the intervention of the clergyman? Who, if not he, shall concern himself for these disinherited of the kingdom of heaven?