

EFFECTS ON IRISH SOCIETY—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Before turning to the labors of Mr. Mathew done out of Ireland, we will entreat the reader's attention to some statistics necessary to complete this section. Between 1838 and 1846, Father Mathew claimed to have enrolled five millions, out of the eight in Ireland, under his banner. The following figures, from official sources, will show how early and how thoroughly his labors were known by their fruits:

"As a conclusive proof that the diminution of crime was one of the necessary consequences of the spread of temperance among those classes of the community most liable to be tempted to acts of violence or dishonesty, some few facts from the official records of the time may be quoted here. They are taken from 'returns of outrages specially reported by the constabulary,' from the year 1837 to the year 1841, both included. The number of homicides, which was 247 in 1838, was only 105 in 1841. There were 91 cases of 'firing at the person' reported in 1837, and but 66 in 1841. The 'assaults on police' were 91 in 1837, and but 58 in 1841. Incendiary fires, which were as many as 459 in 1838, were 390 in 1841. Robberies, thus specially reported, diminished wonderfully—from 725 in 1837, to 257 in 1841. The offence of 'killing, cutting, or maiming cattle,' was also seriously lessened; the cases reported in 1839 being 433, to 213 in 1841. The decrease in cases of 'robbery of arms' was most significant; from being 246 in 1837, they were but 111 in 1841. The offence of 'appearing in arms' showed a favorable diminution, falling from 110 in 1837, to 66 in 1841. The effect of sobriety on 'faction fights' was equally remarkable. There were 20 of such cases in 1839, and 8 in 1841. The dangerous offence of 'rescuing prisoners,' which was represented by 34 in 1837, had no return in 1841.

Without entering further into detail, the following return of the number committed during a period of seven years—from 1839 to 1845—must bring conviction home to the mind of any rational and dispassionate person, that sobriety is good for the individual and the community:

Year.	Total No.
1839.....	12,049
1840.....	11,194
1841.....	9,287
1842.....	9,875
1843.....	8,620
1844.....	8,042
1845.....	7,101

The number of sentences of death and transportation evidenced the operation of some powerful and beneficial influence on the public morals. The number of capital sentences in eight years—from 1839 to 1846—were as follows:

Year.	No. Sentences.
1839.....	66
1840.....	43
1841.....	40

Year.	No. Sentences.
1842.....	25
1843.....	16
1844.....	20
1845.....	13
1846.....	14

The sentences to transportation during the same period—from 1839 to 1846—exhibited the like wonderful result:

Year.	No. Sentences.
1839.....	916
1840.....	751
1841.....	643
1842.....	667
1843.....	482
1844.....	526
1845.....	428
1846.....	501

OTHER IRISH TEMPERANCE STATISTICS.

The figures already quoted are most valuable, as they prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that national drunkenness is the chief cause of crime, and that national sobriety is, humanly speaking, one of the best preservatives of the morals of a people. The figures which are to be now given exhibit the marvellous change effected by Father Mathew's preaching in the drinking habits of his countrymen. These figures show the number of gallons of Irish spirits on which duty was paid, and the amount of duty, from the year 1839 to the year 1844, both included:

Year.	Gallons.	Duty.
1839.....	12,296,000	£1,434,573
1840.....	10,815,709	1,261,812
1841.....	7,401,051	836,126
1842.....	6,485,443	864,725
1843.....	5,290,650	904,908
1844.....	5,516,485	852,418

It is thus seen that, even in the year 1842, the consumption of Irish spirits was reduced to one-half of what it had been in the year 1839.

And though the Famine, which had its origin in the partial failure of 1845, and was developed into frightful magnitude by the total failure of 1846, produced a baneful effect on the temperance movement, by impairing its organization, closing the temperance rooms, and inducing the people to seek in false excitement a momentary forgetfulness of their misery; still the consumption of spirits did not recover from the effects of Father Mathew's mission, and for years exhibited the result of his influence, as the subjoined returns will show:

Year.	Gallons.	Duty.
1845.....	6,451,137	£ 860,151
1846.....	7,005,196	1,014,026
1847.....	7,952,076	1,060,276

The figures which we have quoted exhibit, it is true, most important results; but an extract from the trade article of the *Freeman's Journal*, for February, 1842, will indicate, in an equally striking manner, the happy influence of the temperance movement upon the comforts of the Irish people. The writer says:

"The people, we have abundant proofs, are happier and better, and the nation is more intelligent and prosperous. Perhaps the best proof which can be given of the former is the increase of the Customs revenue, more particularly as regards those articles which are es-