

and the cholera, exclusive of individual expenditures and the disbursements of public and private charities, according to the comptroller's report, cost D.102,575 85. Making D.418,358 83. It is demonstrable by official reports and the concurrent testimonies of distinguished civilians and jurists, whose attention has been directed to the subject for a series of years, that a great proportion of this expenditure is the necessary and inevitable result of licensing about 3000 spirit vendors, who for the odious privilege of dealing out the poison to the spirit drinking public, paid into the city treasury, the paltry sum of D.22,157. Again, if one-half the expense of the cholera, five-sixths of the expenses of the criminal, police and pauper establishments, with half of the salaries of the officers, be the legitimate results of this vice, they exhibit an aggregate of D.302,099 15, paid as a tax for licensed vice. For every ten dollars paid by the dealer into the city treasury, D.100 are taken out of the earnings of the temperate and industrious. If government is instituted to protect the natural rights of its subjects, is not here a direct violation of those rights, and consequently of the immutable principles on which all government is founded? Can that legislation be deemed just and moral which sanctions oppression and legalizes this prolific source of wretchedness and crime?

But for a more full and satisfactory proof of the direct tendency of the license system to debase, demoralize and impoverish our population, the committee would exhibit a brief summary of the official statistics of pauperism and crime in this city, and the enormous expenditure consequent thereon, as reported by the comptroller and the commissioners of the city prison, bridewell and almshouse for the past year. As the facts are presented on authority which no one can reject, they commend themselves to the serious consideration of the political economist, the philanthropist and christian.

The number of persons committed to the city prison and bridewell during the year, for various misdemeanors and disorderly drunken conduct, according to the report was 6089, more than three fourths of which was certified by S. M. Jaques, deputy keeper, were intemperate. The number supported and relieved at the almshouse for the same period, was 23,329; and on the certificate of E. M. Guion, clerk of the establishment, more than three fourths of this number were made paupers by intemperance. Here then is exhibited on unquestionable authority, the annual total of the police and pauper establishments of the city, making an aggregate of

30,398; three fourths of which is 23,548 persons who have been plunged into vice and wretchedness by habits of inebriety. Reckoning, therefore, as is the fact, it appears susceptible of mathematical demonstration, as every man may satisfy himself, that a tenth part of our population are made felons or paupers by intemperance; and that there is an average of nearly nine paupers and felons for every licensed liquor store in the city. And the pernicious influence of the system appears to be annually augmenting. The increase to bridewell alone, as compared with the preceding year, is 161. A proportionate increase of commitments for vagrancy and pauperism would require an additional tax of twenty thousand dollars per annum for their support.

At the last two meetings of the New York State Temperance Society, the executive committee were directed, with hardly a negative, to take the highest ground and advocate the principal of entire abstinence from all intoxicating drinks — *Amer. Intelligencer*.

*Simultaneous Meetings.*—The last Tuesday in February, 1836, is to be observed by the temperance societies throughout the United States, as a day of simultaneous meetings.

*From the last report of the Prison Discipline Soc.*

Of 125 convicts in the State Prison of Vermont, there were 90 who had intemperate parents, and 73 who were in intemperate habits when they came to prison. All except five of these 73, acknowledge that intemperance influenced them to commit the crimes for which they were imprisoned.

Of 200 convicts in the Connecticut prison, more than three-fourths have been intemperate. 88 out of the 200 committed the crimes for which they were convicted, while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and nearly every crime involving an act of personal violence, was committed under the same influence. No temperate and industrious farmers, mechanic or owner of real estate was found among the 200.

Of 747 convicts in the Auburn prison, on the first of August last, or committed since that time, there were excessively intemperate, 267

Moderately intemperate, 274

Intemperate, 561

Temperate drinkers, 137

Total abstinent, 9

Intoxicated when they committed crimes, 448

Had intemperate parents or guardians, 283

ENGLAND.

*Preston.*—The total abstinence men of Preston are nobly and courageously urging onward, in the midst of opposition, but without discouragement, their great work. A correspondent of the Penny Magazine, speaking probably in accordance with the received opinions of a majority of the people of England, condemns their principles. "It may be said," writes this man "that malt liquor is as good a beverage as can be used. Taken with meals habitually by all classes, and especially the laborious, it is very salutary." This bold assertion will be bound up in many thousand sets of the Penny Magazine, and will afford a few years hence a convenient reference to any who may wish to illustrate the trite maxim, that *times change and we change with them*. The same writer records his very unqualified condemnation of ardent spirit. How few the years that have elapsed since it was thought not only proper, but even necessary for men to drink distilled liquor in moderation? Many of the English periodical publications contain notices or articles, which evince clearly that the subject is fully before the mind of the people. Of discussion and the accompanying diffusion of information, the inevitable result may be easily foretold. It is manifest that the age of universal or even general drunkenness has passed away. The moderate use of intoxicating liquors by persons in health, will not probably be continued unless some hitherto undiscovered benefit, something else than habitual drunkenness and all its appalling consequences can be shown to flow from that custom.—*Amer. Intelligencer*.

IRELAND.

Temperance tents are making their appearance at the fairs in Ireland. Tea, coffee, and bread are served out instead of whiskey.

If ardent spirits be necessary to health and activity, how did the world get along without it for forty-eight hundred years? How could the Roman soldiery withstand the frightful onset of Hannibal, with nothing to drink stronger than vinegar and water? Take a soldier of the present day, clothe him with heavy Roman armor, and give him the pilum and short sword, weapons which "conquered the world;" and it will soon appear what blessings we have derived from alcohol. The modern Archilles cripples under his load, unable to raise from the ground the instrument with which he is to meet his foe.