

centage of suicide, violent and sudden death, drunkenness, financial failure, domestic misery, ruin of families, and ultimate poverty, as among liquor makers and sellers. The traffic in those liquors and their manufacture in the United States employ a quarter of a million of men, prostituting their industry to the destruction of the commonwealth; powerfully aided by the example and influence of those who practise and foster social drinking in their own homes, this traffic keeps up besides a constant army of idlers, loafers, drunkards, thieves, murderers, prostitutes, gamblers, libertines, maniacs and paupers, numbering probably over three-quarters of a million people, whom it has directly seduced from the ranks of the honest, sober, and industrious, or indirectly forced into the present wretched condition, by robbing families and children and women of the support of their parents and protectors, depriving them of food, raiment, and schooling, and reducing them to beggary and crime. It is supposed to kill off in various ways every year about one-fifth of its half-million or so of drunkards, recruiting annually of new material an equal or rather increasing number, whom it entices into its thousands of traps and snares. To afford a very imperfect protection against the criminals created by the liquor-trade, we have to employ and pay another vast army of policemen, sheriffs, constables, detectives, jailers, guards, etc., etc., withdrawn from their industries among the busy, sober productive classes. Further, taxation is quadrupled to build and maintain prisons, penitentiaries, madhouses, hospitals, poorhouses, police courts and stations, etc., etc., in which to warehouse the manufactured products of the traffic, while, by its pauperizing ravages on the community, the value of property is destroyed utterly, the commercial and industrial interests crippled, and the sober, enterprising, better class of citizens driven away to seek a living elsewhere. It would require a large volume to enumerate all the evils, wrongs, and curses wrought solely and directly by the liquor-sellers and their sympathizers; suffice it to say here that every year of the murderous plundering warfare they wage against their country is more costly in life and blood, and health and virtue and money, and much more disastrous to the moral,