

I AM aware that there is a general persuasion that the present system is radically bad, that it is demoralizing and ruining many in this community; and that a reformation is intended by the Justices of the Peace in their present Session. This is so far good; it is what every good man—every man who really values the prosperity of this infant settlement, must rejoice to hear. Surely a change is much required. Let facts speak for themselves. For two miles and upwards, from the spot where we are now met, and that the most populous spot on the River, one house out of every three, or thereabouts, retails spirits. If this is not a proof that intemperance prevails to an alarming extent among us, I know not what will be taken as proof. Surely none will pay for licences who do not find drinkers. Here is another fact deserving our consideration, and bearing upon the same point. It is computed that the Merchants of this Port, measure out from their stores not less than 10,000 gallons of ardent spirits, annually, and the purchasers pay in return, between £3000 and £4000 currency, yearly. Between £3000 and £4000 annually, for the means of intemperance! We are complaining of the want of roads, of public buildings, of schools, and similar important objects. Here is a sum, which, if devoted to such purposes, only for a few years, would raise us to vie with the most favored spots in the Province. Must not a community always remain poor which consumes so large a portion of its earnings in this manner; and have we not reason to anticipate shortly, a load of poor-taxes, which will be difficult to bear, when many of those who are pursuing a course of intemperance, with their families, are taken from that part of the population who pay poor rates, and are added to the number of those who are supported by them.

If the settlement be not prospering in worldly matters, under this system, how do religion and morality thrive under it? Take this part of it, where the system is carried to its greatest height—where nearly every third house is a resort for the intemperate and profane: how is the Sabbath spent as often as it returns? I pretend not to say, but certainly it is spent by the population generally, in this section of the parish, in any way but in the service of religion, and preparation for eternity. When all are invited on that sacred day, to leave the world and assemble in the House of God, to praise him for all his goodness and supplicate his mercy, and to hear the Gospel preached, which is the power and wisdom of God, to the salvation of sinners,—how many are found to attend? Few indeed. Here is an