

mere tenement of clay." Yet, with a glaring inconsistency, the Government, whose function is surely not less the prevention of crime, where that is possible, than its punishment, will authorize the manufacture and sale of that, the legitimate and inseparable consequences of which it relentlessly punishes.

Does it not thus become accessory to the act—aid and abettor in the crime—*accessorius particeps criminis*? In the Province of Ontario, the law does regard the liquor dealer as responsible for the result of the traffic; and if any disastrous consequences accrue from the sale of liquor, he may be amerced in a heavy fine. But much more is any Government morally responsible for the resulting evils, which, for paltry pelf, will legalize a traffic injurious to the best interests of society, which supplies the stimulant that nerves the assassin's arm and kindles the incendiary's torch, and then inflicts the extreme penalty for arson or murder. "How can they justly," says Dr. Edgar, of Belfast, "condemn a poor wretch to be hanged for a crime committed in the raging of drunkenness to which they have themselves ministered?" Thus Christian England protects in her midst a legalized Thuggism a thousand times more atrocious and destructive than that of India; thus she nurses in her bosom a viper that with its envenomed fangs poisons the whole body politic; thus she cherishes a traffic which, like the unrenewed heart of man, is evil, and only evil, and that continually; a traffic that every year sends 60,000 victims, reeling and staggering, into the presence of their Maker; which sends 10,000 raving maniacs or drivelling idiots to the lunatic asylums; which maddens about 400 a year with such ungovernable frenzy as to kill with heartless ferocity as many innocent victims, and 600 more to kill themselves; which keeps an army of 100,000 conscripts of crime in the prisons of the land, and creates a vast and dangerous host of paupers, thieves, and prostitutes; which destroys, in loss from disease, wasted industry, perverted capital, and abridgement of human life, not less than £300,000,000 a year; and which brings into the public exchequer a paltry £20,000,000 of unhallowed gain.