

government figures; for the government makes no note of the vast expansion of distilled liquors by adulteration since the imposition of a heavy tax in 1863, this tax having made the art of adulteration most profitable. Thirty years ago the consumption of beer was about two gallons per inhabitant; last year it was over *ten* gallons for every man, woman and child in the land; and at the same time there has been an increase *per capita* in the consumption, as a beverage, of distilled liquors (whisky, brandy, gin, etc.).

The increase of foreigners and the drinking habits of the negroes are elements which help to swell this increase; but that which remains to be accounted for is exceedingly large, as is easily demonstrated.

A notable fact is that this stupendous increase in the consumption of liquor is not confined to America. It seems to mark this era of our civilization. In Berlin the *whiskey* saloons are increasing threefold more rapidly than the population; the beer saloons are also increasing, but less rapidly. So is it in Switzerland, in France, and throughout Europe. Beer and wine are but developing the appetite for whiskey and brandy. Crime of every kind is increasing with startling rapidity, and this is attributed to the great increase in the consumption of liquors. European statesmen are becoming profoundly alarmed.

Every civilization has had its great mastering evil, growing upon it as a parasite, and in the entire past history of the world this nourished evil has destroyed the civilization that fed it, and has thrown the world back toward barbarism. Alcoholic mastery is the evil our present European and American civilization is developing with an ever-increasing rapidity; we must find the way to end it, or it will end us.

The conservative London *Times* is constrained to cry out:

"Drinking baffles us, confounds us, shames us, and mocks us at every point. It outwits alike the teacher, the man of business, the patriot and the legislator. . . . Let us do something towards staying the huge mischief which, one way or another, confounds us all and may—for we cannot be sure—crush and ruin us all."

And says Carron Farrar, who certainly is no fanatic:

"It has come to this, England must in this matter mend her ways; she must get rid of this curse and crime, or she must ultimately perish."

These solemn words are as true of America as they are of England.

The remedy with which the advocates of party prohibition propose to supplement past methods is: *National Prohibition through an amendment to the Federal Constitution, backed by a successful National Prohibition Party.*

Against this policy many objections are presented with consummate skill by the Rev. Dr. Spear in his opening paper. Let us carefully examine these objections:

"Whether intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured and sold in a given State is a question for that State to determine; it cannot be determined by Congress without a fundamental change in our system of government."