

"Of the cases to which I have referred, one man, when in a state of intoxication, fell into a hot water tub of a brewer and was scalded to death, and several different persons fell into the docks or river, and were drowned. A female, having been drinking in a public-house, received an injury in a quarrel, of which she almost immediately died; another woman, much addicted to drinking, was burnt to death; another, of similar habits, when apparently tipsy, jumped out of a window and was killed; another unhappy female who was described in the minutes of the inquest as a very disorderly person, having been taken to the bridge-well for safe custody, when in a state of inebriety, hanged herself. One man met his death by drinking in a very extraordinary manner; leaning on the side of a puncheon of rum lying on the dock quay, he indulged himself in the stolen draught by sucking it through a reed, the effect of which was almost immediately fatal. Another man, who had been very much intoxicated the night before, under the depression of returning sobriety, cut his throat; and another of similar habits hanged himself. One person in a more respectable situation of life died of a rapid disease stated at the inquest to be hurried on by excessive drinking. Two boatmen in a drunken quarrel on the river fell overboard and were both drowned. One individual, when half intoxicated, fell only from the steps in front of a house, and was killed on the spot. Another unhappy man, who had just been released out of jail, went almost direct to the public house, to which, after an interval, he returned a second time, and when he retired to bed he fell into a lethargic sleep, from which he never awoke. A woman accustomed to drinking, accompanied a sister in iniquity to a social revel, where they drank till intoxicated; then returning to the house which one of them occupied, they went together to bed, but during the night one of them was taken to an eternal world whilst the other slept. Another wretched creature, pursuing the same destructive habit, was returning to her home in a state of drunkenness, when she fell into the opening of a cellar, and was killed on the spot. Besides these cases, two instances occurred in the same year of the death of children through the drunkenness of their parents. In one case, which happened on the Sabbath, a wretched woman drank to excess; when, in a quarrel with a lodger in the house, she received a push which threw her off her balance, when, staggering, she fell upon her poor tottering infant, and killed it in a moment. In the other case an infant child was taken to bed by its parents, both being in a state of intoxication, when, in the insensibility produced by

the dissipation, the child was overlaid, and smothered by the wretched creatures who had given it birth."

Capt. Brenton, R.N., corroborates these results from an observation of the effects of intemperance in the navy during 46 years. The following is extracted from the minutes of examination, pages 423-5. "And many men are constantly invalidated from habits of intemperance, and obliged to be sent on shore to hospitals, who, if their habits were temperate, would be available for the public service?—Yes, that is strictly correct; I can illustrate it by a thousand facts; but I will give a few. During the late war, almost every accident that I ever witnessed on board ship was owing to drunkenness: a number of boats upset, and lives lost, and men falling from the mast-head, and from the topsail yards, in reefing topsails, may be all attributed to drunkenness.

Have there not also been many instances of ships having been set fire to by drawing off spirits for the supply of the men?—Many; I will relate some. To go beyond my own time, the *St. George*, of ninety-eight guns, in the year 1759, I think, was burnt at sea, and 550 of her men, or thereabout, lost. An old shipmate of mine told me that his father was one of the lieutenants of her, and was saved by jumping overboard; and that the cause of the fire, his father assured him, was drunkenness; the boatswain's yeoman, with some other men, had got drunk in the boatswain's store-room, and set fire to the ship.

Are you aware of the cause of the burning of the *Kent East Indiaman* in the Bay of Biscay?—Holding a candle over the bung-hole of a cask of spirits, the snuff fell into the cask, and set it on fire.

Many similar instances occur, both in the navy and merchant service, of ships being set fire to either by the drunkenness of an individual, or by the ignition of spirits on board?—Yes.

Are there not also cases in which ships run on shore, and sail against each other, and become lost, either by the drunkenness of the captain or the crew?—Yes, many; but I have not done with instances of the other kind. The *Edgar*, of seventy guns, was burnt at Spithead, owing to spirituous liquors being on board, not to drunkenness; the *Ajax*, of seventy-four guns, was burnt at the mouth of the Dardanelles, in 1806, by the drunkenness of the purser's steward; 350 people were drowned. The late Sir Henry Blackwood commanded her."

John Simpson, Esq., Insurance Broker and general agent, London, answered the questions put to him as follows, page 434: "Has the destruction of life and property in ships, occasioned by intemperate habits

among the men, been much the subject of your observation?—It certainly has, for a great many years. I have been in the house that I am at the head of now for thirty-five years, and in the habit of covering a million and a half, sterling, per annum, of property floating on the waters, and generally, in the whole of that time, it has been most lamentable to see the great destruction of property, in a vast number of instances, notoriously owing to drunkenness.

In what way does this destruction of property happen?—In a great variety of ways; one of which is this: A man goes to a liquor cask, using a candle incautiously, as has been the case in many instances, and, in others, running the ship on shore, running foul of one another, and all the mischiefs attendant upon their being under the direction of a person totally unable, from the effects of liquor, to take care of the property.

(To be Continued.)

## THE Canada Temperance Advocate

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