

The relations of intemperance and crime are also plainly manifest in the poisonous educational influences of the former. At immense cost the people maintain public schools for the education of their children. By these it is hoped not merely to afford to every child opportunity for an elementary education, but also to inculcate just ideas of morality and virtue. Religious denominations of every creed and faith rear temples of worship in which to guide communities toward higher and purer lives. No one can question the vast and salutary influences of these institutions, nor doubt that the people as a whole are made better and happier by their existence. But who can measure the extent to which their influence is impaired and their benefits destroyed by the prevalence of intemperance? Against every school house and every church intemperance rears thrice as many rum shops and drinking saloons to pour forth antagonistic effects, always alert and active for harm. The school, the church, the grog shop are each and all the educators of youth—the first two undoubtedly for good, the last undoubtedly for evil. One needs only to visit the sessions of our criminal courts to see how truly and inevitably the education of the drinking saloon leads to vice and crime. It is safe to say that a large majority of the convictions in the courts of the city are of young persons, averaging under twenty-one years of age. They are the pupils of the saloons. They graduate directly from the drinking school to the prison. It is a well known fact that many thousands of the youth—mere boys—of our city are organized into bands, calling themselves by distinctive names, roving from saloon to saloon, committing petty offences against person or property. These are the offspring of the liquor shops, taking daily and nightly lessons at their bars, and progressing under their tuition step by step towards crime and its consequences. For this sort of education the people of the city and country are paying more heavily than for all their schools and churches, for it is this training that chiefly desolates homes, perpetrates crimes and populates prisons, almshouses and hospitals. Our common schools throughout the whole country are estimated to cost us eighty millions of dollars annually; our intemperance, in its crimes, evils and miseries, and for their restraint, punishment and relief, more than a thousand millions.

The lessons these facts teach us are that the prosperity and happiness of communities are in no sense dependent upon the use of intoxicating drinks; that such use is a pernicious and destructive agent, more potent than any other to lead to vice and crime and their consequences—pauperism, suffering and shame; and that the chief hope of our country for the diminution of crime lies in the promotion of temperance, the prevention of drunkenness and the ultimate suppression of the causes that lead to that vice.

It is not the design of this paper to consider how that may best be