

was in gaol, and she was solacing herself with a glass of whiskey. On inquiring after the children, she lighted a candle, and guiding us up stairs, pointed to what seemed a mass of straw. As we did not exactly understand the meaning of showing us such a sight, to enlighten us she took a broom, and with the handle brushed aside a portion of the straw, and there we discovered the children nestling, like so many little pigs. "They keep each other warm, you know," being her explanation. Another woman we saw sitting shivering with ague, and wasted to a skeleton. Not long ago she was the most vigorous woman in the locality, but drink had destroyed her, and killed her husband, and now on the brink of the grave, her only support is her daughter's dishonor.

In short, from what we saw and heard, the amount of drunkenness among the women of these localities is absolutely frightful to contemplate, and when we take into account the training for evil which falls to the lot of their children, there is little wonder that other vices develope to such a sad extent, and we have not far to seek for the cause of so much immorality in our city. This is a subject which requires to be treated with much delicacy in the columns of a newspaper, yet it is one which merits more attention than it receives. In the course of our tour on Christmas eve, the magnitude which this vice appears to have reached in our city was something beyond belief. Figures were given with respect to it, which we hesitate to quote without further inquiry, but undoubtedly the number of unfortunate women in Toronto is perhaps equal to, if not beyond that of almost any other city, according to the population. Over and over again we came across old women, who were rather comfortably situated, yet who had no apparent means of making a livelihood of any kind. When questioned on this point, some refused to give any reply; others prevaricated in the most transparent fashion; while by others the reply was that they *kept* lodgers who *were all out*. In some instances these