

customs often lay certain industries desolate, and divert commerce into entirely different channels, to the great suffering and loss of multitudes. In such changes there may be great hardship and undeniable destruction of property; but the thing cannot be helped, and compensation is never thought of. The spinning jenny ruined thousands of hand-loom weavers, and railways have shut up many a turnpike tavern, without remedy and without compensation. So can it be with intoxicating liquors, and those engaged in their manufacture or sale." If, through the advocacy of Temperance principles, any man would succeed in persuading the community to abstain from drinking, the tavern-keeper might as consistently as at present say to that man: "You have depreciated the value of my property; I want compensation." But certainly no compensation would be thought of.

We are constantly being told that Britain paid twenty million pounds sterling for the abolition of slavery. But the cases are not at all parallel. The money was paid to the slave-owner to compensate him for property that was actually taken from him, but he received nothing for the loss of a hitherto lawful and remunerative business. But the passing of this Act in these countries, at the present time, would deprive the liquor seller of no property. Their buildings will still, as much as ever, be their own; and after the passing of the Act they will have eight or nine months to get out of the old business, and to adapt themselves to their new circumstances. Nor has Prohibition been suddenly or abruptly sprung upon these men. For forty years public opinion has been gradually acquiring strength against their traffic. Almost every year additional restrictions have been laid upon it. The present Act has been on the Statute Book for thirteen years. The dealers have been constantly reminded that the days of their traffic were numbered. But at all this they affected to sneer, and, with a full knowledge of all the circumstances, they invested their money in the business, simply because of the enormous profits connected with it. These are far more than those of any other business in the world, being reckoned not at ten, twenty, or even fifty per cent., but at several hundred per cent. And to-day these men are building new taverns; banding together, publishing newspapers, collecting enormous sums of money; hiring