

"Are most of the crew temperate men?—Many of them are."

"What spirits do you allow them at sea?—None; I have never had a drop of spirit on board for the men or officers for 15 years; if we choose to carry one bottle of brandy or whisky in the medicine chest, there it remains till it is necessary to take it out."

"Mr. Hume.—Do you carry wine?—The captain carries wine, but none is allowed to the crew."

"Mr. Liddel.—What do they drink?—Tea and coffee."

"Admiral Dundas.—Then you attribute the difference of wages between American seamen and English to that, that the English seamen are allowed spirits on board ship?—No, the English seamen will go on board an American ship because they get higher wages."

"But you have said that you give £2 5s. to English seamen. Do you mean to say that there are English seamen paid £2 5s. in the same ship where the American seamen receive £3 4s.?—Yes, because the American seamen are not paid off in Liverpool; they are shipped in Orleans or New York for the whole voyage, and if the English seamen come at the 11th hour, they must be paid less."

"What do you give the seamen?—Coffee in the morning, and tea at night; and in bad weather we give them coffee in the middle of the nights."

"Mr. Hume.—Do the English seamen fall easily into the American habits in regard to drink?—Yes, we knew no difference. We ship to-day an Englishman that was never on board an American ship before, and in three days he gets quite used to it."

"You have no drunkenness on board your ships?—No, we have nothing they can get drunk from. The general order put up on the ship is, 'No ardent spirits admitted on board.'"

"Has that rule been adopted universally?—Yes, I do not think there is one ship in a hundred that ever carries spirits out."

"Is there any law of America requiring that?—No; that rule has been adopted by the captains and merchants."

"Admiral Dundas.—In the Navy you do allow spirits?—Yes."

"But not so much as in the British Navy?—That I cannot say; but in our Navy they very often take rations instead of spirits."

"Mr. Hume.—How long is it since the temperance system has been generally adopted?—It is 14 years since I joined it myself."

"Can you, from your recollection, state how far the discipline on board, and the conduct and health of the seamen, have been affected by that change?—My firm belief is, that all the disturbances that formerly took place on board ships were on account of the grog not coming at the proper time; the men made more fuss about their grog not coming forward than their dinner."

"Then withholding ardent spirits has, in your opinion, been the means of promoting better discipline on board the ships?—Yes, and of making many men officers who would otherwise have remained before the mast all their lives."

"Do you take any ale on board?—Sometimes; but the Americans are not particularly fond of ale."

"There is no objection to that?—Not for the captain, but to the crews we do not allow ale."

"Then the whole beverage of the ships consists of cocoa, coffee, and tea?—Yes."

Here is evidence that speaks volumes in reference to the probable results of the course adopted by the Board of Admiralty; and we sincerely hope that the present order may form a precedent for many others equally valuable, equally equitable, and as well calculated to maintain the honour, credit, and respectability of a service which is so indissolubly united with the honour, character, and credit of the British empire.

NATIONAL INTEMPERANCE AND NATIONAL EDUCATION.

The Reports of the Education Inspectors recommend national education. The evils they describe can be met, they say, by no other remedies than a system of national education. Armies of schoolmasters, officered by inspectors, and led by a minister of public instruction, are the only assailants they recognise as worthy to do battle against ignorance, sedition, and crime. Journalists who wish to become inspectors, and inspectors who are journalists, are likely to take some pains to urge upon the Government the sort of remedy for the evils they expose, which will give the Government patronage, and the journalists and inspectors prominence.

We should put a more patriotic and generous interpretation upon their labours, if we saw them studying the evils, simply to discover their remedies. But instead of this, their accounts of the evils appear in support of a preconceived and predetermined remedy. They are used to prove a case. Our journalists and our inspectors are not seen, in the first instance, in the character of students of the evils which afflict the people. They are educationists, first, and observers afterwards.

However, their facts are instructive, if as much cannot be said of their lucubrations. The Rev. H. Mosely, the inspector of schools in the midland counties, says:—

"The miners of Bilston are 5030 in number, and it is computed that £50,000 are spent by them annually in the purchase of ale and liquors. In the adjacent ecclesiastical district of Moxley, there are said to be 440 houses, and from thirty to forty beer-shops, being one beer-shop to every twelve houses."

"The improvidence of the people may be studied with advantage in the Bilston market. No other market is supplied with finer poultry, or comparatively to the population, in greater abundance, and this is chiefly, if not entirely for the consumption of the labouring classes; for the resident inhabitants not directly associated with these classes are few in number. There sordid and ill-favoured men may be seen buying, on Saturday, chickens, and ducks and geese, which they eat for supper; and in some instances, of which I was informed, drink bottled porter and wine. Yet, so little have they beforehand in the world, that, if the works were to stop, as I was informed by the intelligent proprietor of one of the largest, they would begin within a fortnight to pawn the little furniture of their cottages, and their clothes for subsistence and for drink."

Mr. Mosely found, in the mining districts of South Staffordshire, the *puddlers*—as they are called, who make wrought iron from cast iron—earning average wages of £2 10s. per week. Yet "these men and their families nevertheless live in more squalid and miserably dirty, and worse furnished abodes, their children appear worse clad and more neglected, their wives more sullenly and poverty-stricken, and about each of them fewer appliances of comfort, and fewer sources of happiness have been collected, than I have observed in respect to any other labouring population." Their wages are spent in eating and drinking—on meat, poultry, porter and wine.

Now, we submit there may be somewhat of exaggeration in this picture. The publishers of cheap literature in London say that their chief customers are in Scotland and the potteries. But the national schoolmaster is not the only assailant suited to these evils, even if he be suited at all. The evils are not evils of ignorance, they are evils of intemperance. But intemperance is a vice to which many most intelligent persons are addicted. Thousands of men have found their information a snare to them in reference to this vice. They find themselves sought, and courted, and flattered, and treated, because their information made their society profitable and agreeable, until the indulgences of the table became habitual and ruinous to them. Let us suppose that education is universal in the mining districts. The *puddlers* can discuss philosophy and enjoy art. Poets,