

their residences, and in villages several miles apart from each other.

You will, doubtless, remember, that a few years ago, a certain officer of Excise, then residing within a hundred miles of York Minster, became connected with a large and popular Sunday-School, well known to yourself. At the time of his doing so, the nature of his business did not necessarily involve Sabbath-labor. But, subsequently, certain alterations were made, by which there was placed under his survey, amongst other things, a malt-house, which, somewhat singularly, belonged to two of the superintendents of the Sunday-school in which he himself was the conductor of a class of senior youths. Sabbath-labor now became indispensable to this Sunday-school teacher. The malt-house of these two superintendents must be visited and surveyed by him once, or more, every Sabbath. Often, after accompanying the school to its usual place of worship, has he, with permission of the respective superintendent for the day, repaired to the Excise-office, in an adjacent street, to make the necessary entries concerning the malt-house, and returned before or during the opening service. Or, otherwise, he has performed this necessary part of his duties at the close of the service. I refer to this merely as an instance which has fallen under your own observation.

Sabbath-labor in connexion with the manufacture of malt, is not only involved in its survey, but is indispensable to its accomplishment. It would be difficult to give an exact description of the process of manufacture, as it varies considerably, according to the mode adopted, and the state of the weather. The following sketch, however, may be regarded as an average specimen, and will give you some idea of the nature and amount of Sabbath-labor required in the manufacture of an article so extensively patronised by the religious public!

The almost universal practice of maltsters is to commence a fresh operation every fourth day; and as the grain used in each operation is legally required, in the first place, to be steeped in water at least forty hours, and can only be begun to be steeped during certain hours of the day, and subsequently can be emptied from the cistern only during certain hours of the day, it is evident that, on two days of every four, there will be either a steeping or an emptying of the cistern, and, consequently, that either one or the other will frequently occur on the Sabbath. Part of the labor of steeping may be avoided on the Sabbath, by either running the corn, or pumping the water into the cistern on the previous day. The grain used in each steeping is required to be manufactured separately; and during such process, from the time of being emptied from the cistern to being placed on the kiln, is termed a "floor." There are generally three or four floors in consecutive stages of manufacture, spread out from two or three to five or six inches in depth, all of which require to be turned over, or ploughed, (a partial turning) from time to time, varying in frequency, according to circumstances, especially in reference to the weather—say from one or two to four or five times each day. The last part of the process of manufacture is drying on the kiln. A floor is placed on the kiln, and dried off, either whole or in two or more parts. During the time it is on the kiln, it will require occasional turnings, or ploughings—say two or more each day. The loading and unloading of the kiln, on the Sabbath, might generally be avoided, but is seldom done. Steeping and emptying the cistern on the Sabbath might be avoided, but either of them would interfere very materially with the business, and would entail the entire loss of a day. Cases of this kind are of very rare occurrence. Generally speaking, the amount of labor performed on the Sabbath, in manufacturing malt, is but very little less, if any, than on any other day, and, under no circumstances whatever, is malt made without a very considerable amount of Sabbath-labor.

It is, therefore, undeniably, a question of deep and indivi-

dual importance, whether a religious professor can consistently and conscientiously countenance either the manufacture or the use of an article, the making of which necessarily involves so large an amount of Sabbath-labor, and which is declared by the most eminent medical authorities to be not necessary to health, and the customary use of which is continually producing such a fearful mass of wretchedness, crime, and sin.

I am, my dear sir, yours very truly,

GEORGE BUDD.

Mr. T. B. Smithies.

A CHAPTER ON DRUNKENNESS.

1. Yesterday morning week, Joseph Newby, a mechanic, aged 55 years, who had been drinking to excess, was found drowned in a lodge of water, Rhode's-bend Oldham.

2. The same evening, Betty Cheetham, aged 67 years, who had been drinking several days, was found drowned in a small river at Copster-hill, Oldham.

3. On the same day, John Milnes, aged 49 years, farmer, Milnrow, Rochdale, who had been drinking to excess for a week, hung himself with a rope fixed to his bed-railing.

4. Last week, an engine driver at Saddleworth was sent to gaol for two months for being drunk on duty; and for a similar offence a driver on the London and North-western Railway was fined 20s. and costs.

5. On Sunday afternoon, a man named William Summer, residing in Gilbert-street, Manchester, 54 years of age, put an end to his existence by hanging himself whilst in a state of intoxication.

6. On Saturday last, James Curry, late postman between Blackburn and Over Darwen, was brought before the magistrates, charged by Mr. Butterfield, postmaster at Blackburn, with having, on the 18th March last, got drunk, and neglected to deliver several letters to Over Darwen. The prisoner was remanded until Monday next.

7. On Saturday last Mr. Rutter held an inquest on the body of a man named Robert Wardle, who was found in an upright position, only the feet and part of the legs being in the water, in the river Irwell, at the Salford side, on the day previous. It appears that the deceased had been drinking all the week, and was last seen (drunk) near to where he was found dead. Verdict, "Found in the Irwell, apparently drowned."

8. On Monday, Mr. Rutter held an inquest at the King's Arms, Pendleton, on the body of a man named John Sharples, aged 50 years, found drowned in the wheelrace of Mr. Douglas's mill. On Thursday week deceased left his home, Stand-lane, Pilkington, and went to Clifton. About half-past seven o'clock the same evening, he left the Seven Stars public house, Clifton, to return home, and walked by the river side towards Rungby-bridge; he was then intoxicated, and must have fallen in and been drowned, and his body floated into the wheelrace, where it was found on Saturday morning. Sharples's wife stated that he was a man addicted to drink. Verdict, "Found drowned."

9. On Sunday evening last, a young man named Samuel Buckley, a collier, was returning to his lodgings at Tyldesley, having been at the Bowling Green Inn, Westleigh; when, on reaching the small bridge over the Atherton Brook, in Orchard-lane, he missed his footing and fell into the brook. He was not quite dead, but the means adopted were ineffectual in producing a restoration; and some time elapsed before a surgeon was obtained, when it was too late to render that assistance which, had it been given earlier, might have saved the man's life. He and his companions had taken too much liquor, although it was stated that they were not intoxicated. —*British Temperance Advocate.*