

## DRUNKENNESS.

Drunkenness is the parent of idleness; Poverty is the offspring of idleness. The drunkard's work is little, but his expenses are great.—Dr. JOHNSON.

The healthiness of Great Britain, was lately proved by the best of tests—the length of life which Englishmen enjoy over the inhabitants of other countries, provided they take no desperate courses to shorten their existence. We have now to contrast this pleasing statement, by pointing out one of the great and besetting sins of the land—one which, from its prevalence, brings with it, more than any other, the greatest mass of sorrow, wretchedness, and crime. We speak of drunkenness, and of drunkenness of the most dangerous kind, and which is brought on by the abuse not simply of intoxicating, but of poisonous liquors.\*

Those who are most fatally and obstinately attached to this vice, must, in some interval of reflection (for such moments will occur), admit that the use of ardent spirits has both corrupted their minds, and weakened their bodies—thus destroying both vigour and virtue at the same moment. The unhappy subject is rendered both too idle, and too feeble to work. So that while drinking makes man poor by the present expense, it disables him from retrieving the ill consequences by subsequent industry.

Dr. Willan, in his *Reports on the Diseases in London*, states his conviction, that «considerably more than one-eighth of all the deaths which take place in the metropolis, in persons above twenty years old, happen prematurely, through excess in drinking spirits.»—«Some,» he adds, «after repeated fits of derangement, expire in a sudden and violent phrensy. Some are hurried out of the world by apoplexies; others perish by the slower process of jaundice, dropsy, internal ulcers, and mortification in the limbs.»

Our present object is to show the RESULTS, the fatal results of drunkenness, as they affect, at the present moment, the good order and well being of society. Our facts and statements are derived from a valuable body of Evidence annexed to a «*Report of the House of Commons, on the observance of the Lord's Day;*» for it happens, that amongst the many bad consequences of drinking, none is more striking than the desecration of the Sabbath, both by the drunkard himself, and all who administer to his miserable passion.

DOCTOR JOHN RICHARD FARRE.

I consider that the use of spirits has greatly increased the diseases of the lower classes, and at the same time tended to demoralize their minds.

Are you acquainted generally with the habits, and wishes, and inclinations, and the general dispositions

\* In the year 1830, the home consumption duty on spirits was paid in England alone, on upwards of twelve millions and a half gallons, of which quantity, upwards of seven millions and a half were British. It is known that by different processes the quantity of raw spirits is increased very largely—the before mentioned quantity, therefore, great as it is, is very far indeed below the amount consumed.

of the lower orders of the people, from your practice?—In all classes; and during the earlier period of my life, as the physician of a public medical institution, I had the charge of the poor in one of the most populous districts of London. I have now been engaged in Great Britain in the study and practice of medicine forty years, and during that period, I have had an opportunity of seeing the destructive effects of spirits on all classes, on a large scale; and I have no hesitation in saying it is the great enemy of the British constitution.

MR. JOHN WONTNER, *Keeper of Newgate.*

I consider, that the allowing public houses and the gin-shops to be kept open before Divine Service in the morning causes a greater breach of the Sabbath than almost any thing else. In my immediate neighbourhood, I see them at five, six, seven, eight and nine o'clock in the morning, coming out of the houses in a state of disgraceful inebriation.

So that, in point of fact, the law permitting the public houses to remain open until the hours of divine service, gives the opportunity to many to get into such a state of intoxication, that they are quite unfit for the religious duties of the day; is not that so?—Quite; they are indisposed to it also.

In your experience, have you found these gin-shops to be the source of almost all the crime in the metropolis?—I have found prisoners innumerable, I may say, as to whom the love of drink, and the fault of being able to obtain it at so cheap a rate, has been the ruin of them, and the cause of bringing them to distress.

THE REV. J. E. TYLER, *Rector of St. Giles.*

There are many families of the lower class of English mechanics and labourers, which I know from my own knowledge to be truly religious and within their sphere very exemplary; but they, especially the younger branches of their families, are now more than ever exposed to the worst sorts of temptation in the streets, and round the doors of gin-shops and public houses. It is lamentable to see the number of young girls especially, to whom the present gin-shops give such facilities for their wicked doings as they never had before.

Drunkenness has been lamentably on the increase; and notwithstanding all the efforts of myself and those inhabitants who act with me, great outrages are constantly taking place whilst we are going to church and returning. I earnestly press on the gentry in my parish, not to use their carriages to come to church on Sundays, but the dreadful scenes of intoxication and debauchery to which they are exposed as they walk along the street, quite disarm me in this respect.

Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee the observations that you have made, applicable to the observance of the Lord's day?—I have been most painfully reminded of the habit of drunkenness, dissipation and profligacy, prevailing on Saturday night and Sunday, in a degree far more lamentable than through the rest of the week. The cases of cholera are reported to me, as chairman of