

is the chief reliance of the gambling hells, of the houses of prostitution, of the brutalities of the prize ring, and of everything that is low and debasing in life. Everybody knows that there is nothing in or about the whisky shop or the beer saloon that tends toward correct living or the good of any community. Everybody knows that where rum is, criminality of every degree and pauperism exist; that it is the concomitant, the very essence, of everything that tends to degrade a people.

And everybody knows or should know that the control of this infernal traffic is almost the first duty of a governing power, and that in no civilized country is it permitted freedom. Germany, where it does the least damage, has it securely in the Government grip, France has it under complete control, and England, suffering more from it than any European country, is trying to solve the problem how best to destroy it.

It is nonsense to say that a trade that points the knife, and aims the revolver of the murderer, that every year kills the brightest, a trade that is the beginning and ending of everything that is bad, is the only one to go on forever absolutely uncontrolled by law. It is worse than nonsense to say that a traffic which imposes upon the public the cost of the police, the criminal courts, and the support of poor-houses and hospitals, shall be permitted to go on its devastating course, uncontrolled and above all law. And it is worse than madness to permit a traffic which has absolutely nothing of good in it and so much of evil, to not only go on uncontrolled, but to give over to its hands the government of cities and states.

Were it a mere passive nuisance it should be under the law and not over it, but it is not. The profits of beer and whisky making, and selling, are so enormous that it has absorbed vast capital and the best business talent. The brewers and distillers are not content with what comes naturally in their way. They are laboring, nights, days, and Sundays to extend their trade. They are using every appliance that shrewd men can devise to make drunkards, that they may have a mortgage upon their labor, they are educating stomachs in drunkenness, to create a market for their product; they are establishing pit-falls everywhere for the youth of the country and the laboring masses. The whisky power is as active as the allurements of the dollar can make it, and that its infernal work is successful the criminal reports in any paper abundantly show.

It is for the people to say whether this flood of criminality and pauperism shall flow on forever, or whether it shall be checked. It is the question of the hour, it is a question which in importance to the country, is above slavery, above tariff, above any question that can possibly come before the people. It is home against the rum mills. It is purity against corruption. The very perpetuity of Republican institutions is involved in it. The one question in America, as in England, is how best to *Pulverize the Rum Power*.

#### UNIVERSALITY OF THE CURSE.

It is the veriest stuff to talk about any attempt to restrain liquor-selling being the offspring of "intolerance," "fanaticism," "Puritanism," "muckering," etc.

The man who argues such a thing is either an intentional liar, or one hopelessly ignorant of the history of other lands.

There is not a people on the face of this earth—be they Christian, Mahometan, Jew, Buddhist or Confucian—whether they worship in the "meeting-houses" of Presbyterianism, in the gorgeous cathedrals of the Latins or Greeks, in the mosques of Turkey, of Central Asia or the temples of BUDDH and KONG FU-TSE—but what recognize the measureless evils of liquor selling and liquor-drinking, and endeavor to control or eradicate them by stringent measures.

Nor is it a matter of ecclesiastical concern merely. It is not something that only clergymen, priests, rabbis, sohis, brahmins and bonzes sorrow over. There is no form of government under the sun—there has hardly been one since the beginning of time—but what has recognized intemperance as one of the most frightful sources of demoralization of the people, and fought against it with severely stringent laws.

Whether the people are ruled by President Emperor, King, Prince, Sultan, Sheik or Chief—whether they sail the seas, or toil in work-shops, whether they till the soil, or dig in mines, or follow the chase, whether they are Europeans, Turks, Jews, Arabs, Hindus, Chinese, Japanese or American Indians, they have one and all groaned under the woes and miseries of the frightful trade in intoxicants, and sought by teachings and by law to mitigate the frightful curse.

It is a lamentable fact to confess, that to-day, in this boasted land of progress and morality, there is less legal restriction of the liquor demon

than in any other civilized or semi-civilized land. We send missionaries to Turkey, but in Turkey the degradation and misery which exist in this land on account of unrestrained liquor-selling are unknown.

Even in Germany, where "muckers," "fanatics" and "Puritans" are unknown, liquor-selling and liquor-drinking is held in control by laws the rigidity of which has no parallel in the world.

The universality of these repressive laws shows not only the universal recognition of the frightful evils of liquor, but the universal desire of men to curb its pestilential power by law.

To bring ourselves up abreast of the civilization of the world we must bend every energy to *Pulverize the Liquor Power*.—*Toledo Blade*.

#### HOW WORKING MEN MAY HELP THEMSELVES.

I met with a passage in the *Times*, which gave me some insight into this, and I never was so startled in my life. It is a quotation from the *Lancet* which is, I believe, the leading medical paper. The passage contains the statistics derived from twelve of the leading London hospitals, and there is a list of the amount of beer and spirits taken by numbers of the working classes who have been in these twelve great London hospitals during the last year. There are some fifty instances; I will only give you a few. It says that many of these patients were there because of their previous habits, and here is the quotation showing what certain patients are reported to have been accustomed to, previous to admission. One had a dail consumption of ten pints of beer and ten glasses of whisky, aged 33; one hard drinker, chiefly of rum, aged 30; another indulged in great excesses, often drank two bottles of brandy a day, aged 43; one, eight pints of beer a day, aged 42; one, two pints of beer a day, with ten glasses of spirits, aged 36; one, ten to twelve pints of beer a day, and four glasses of whisky, aged 22; one, twelve pints of beer and eight glasses of spirits, aged 38; and so on. Fifty or sixty items of this kind, ending with, "The largest consumer of beer said he never exceeded 26 pints a day, aged 35; the largest consumer of spirits only took twenty to thirty glasses of gin daily, aged 30."

Now, these are not statistics invented by me, or by anybody. The facts are taken and recorded by purely disinterested persons, and the remarkable thing is that in the long list only one total abstainer can be discovered. Another thing is in the absence of high ages. A third is that a large proportion of these diseases are self-induced. A single ounce of fact is worth a ton of argument or reason. And I put these plain facts before you, as a proof, not only of the vast quantities of drink taken at very young ages of members of the working class, but also that they are taken by members of a class, which, as I said, can least afford that enormous drain upon their resources.

And now, perhaps, you will answer me—"Very well, this man spent sixpence a day on something that was good for him—beer." In answer to that I will simply say, that whether it is good or not, this is certain—it is not necessary, and our illustrious chairman, to-night, Dr. Richardson, has done more than any living man to bring home to the minds of Englishmen the truth that alcohol is not in any way necessary as food. He would say—and I believe with absolute scientific truth on his side—that it is not a food. That, I will not say, because I know it is disputed; but at any rate it is not a necessary food. Baron Liebig came to the conclusion that nine quarts of beer contain exactly as much nourishment as you might put in a little sprinkling of meal, or on the end of a table knife. In other words, if you were to spend £36 in buying so many gallons of beer, you would have bought as much nourishment only as you could get out of a 5-pound loaf.

That it is not necessary for health, I think is capable of the most easy proof. I believe there are a great many people who say that after middle age they do not find it useful to them. I think that is because they have not discovered something which, without any danger to themselves, would produce the same result. But that alcohol is not a necessary for health can be proved in one moment by the fact that there are hundreds of thousands—it is said 5,000,000, but I do not know—of total abstainers in England who are notoriously as healthy a body as all England contains. It is proved decisively and irresistibly by the fact that there is, it is safe to say, less mortality among the 20,000 now in prison in England than among any other body, and there is no way of accounting for that so decisively as the fact that from the moment that they enter the prison, no matter how large the previous consumption of beer, they are not allowed a single drop, and the fact of their being deprived of alcohol is one of the causes which tend to their extraordinary longevity.—*Canon Farrar*