

extort a little more work out of his wearied limbs than without that incentive he would have been able. The horse, we will suppose, did not fall down exhausted before landing us at our destination : but no one would say that he was at all the better, some might maintain that he was decidedly the worse, for the operation. Similarly, alcohol excites and rapidly consumes force, but cannot add to it. It is, to adopt another comparison, like the bellows blast poured upon a fire, making it burn more intensely, and generate perhaps a greater amount of steam, which may enable the machinery to work for a time more rapidly. But this it does simply by causing a more rapid consumption of the existing stock of fuel. It may be justifiable to work a ship's engines up to or beyond their registered power on an emergency, as when the alternative lies between running into port by such means or going to the bottom in deep water. The end in this case justifies the means, fraught with danger as they are; but the position is something like, although not quite so bad as, that of the besieged garrison, who having spent their ammunition, charged their pieces with the stones of their own fort, missiles which might possibly do some damage to the enemy, but would almost certainly burst their own guns, besides helping to make a practicable breach in their entrenchments. And yet even this might be excusable if the besieged knew that relief was at hand, and sure to reach them if they could only keep the foe at bay for an hour or two longer.

But the respondent is down upon us again, and alleges that nothing is easier (he might also say, more odious) than comparisons, and that analogy, if held valid as an argument at all, can prove anything. Well, be it so. What has been said proves nothing; but if it raises a presumption, however low, in favour of the tenability of our main position, it has done nearly all that the great Bishop Butler claimed to have effected in his greatest work.

IV.

No more comparisons, then, but an additional fact or two, and we have done. And first, the habitual use of alcoholic drinks puts the whole body into such an abnormal state, that it becomes equally unable to bear either a disease or the remedies of that disease; and obviously, where alcohol would be the proper remedy, it must in such cases lose more or less its efficacy. Again, there is no more fatal agent than alcohol in the process whereby the white man is rapidly, not only displacing, but destroying the native races of North America, for instance, and New Zealand. The aborigines are rapidly dying out, and that in a great measure through the introduction of fire-water amongst them by Euro-