

the victim is insane. There could not be a greater proof how easily Parliament may be made to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel, than the way in which Mr. Dalrymple's Bill has been swallowed up and put out of sight without the least regret. The Regent's Park explosion gave rise to a legislative enactment regarding explosive compounds, which contains a much more numerous set of clauses and produced much greater changes in the law, and made us more dependant upon a paternal government than ever need be the case by the details of an Habitual Drunkards Bill. The people constantly cry out for protection against occasional evils such as may arise from a possible explosion, and which can only affect a narrow region. They call for legislative enactments against railway companies because one passenger in a million is killed by circumstances over which he has no control. A new danger from so-called garrotting is quickly put down by a change in the law; but a disease which is only curable in its early stages, which is more or less a "skeleton in the cupboard" of almost every large family circle in the kingdom, is permitted to go on unchecked, and to send every year its tens of thousands into eternity, and leave as many others without hope, either in this world or the world to come, because it is supposed that an alteration in the law (which I shall show presently to be no alteration at all, but a re-arrangement) might interfere with personal liberty: as if personal liberty were not interfered with, and had not been interfered with, in a hundred different ways, in all ages, without serious injury to the commonwealth, when the exigencies of the State required it.

It is not now my intention to take up Mr. Dalrymple's Bill as he framed it, and submit it to you for your approval, because I do not think public opinion is at