

prise to see him in such uncomfortable circumstances. The poor fellow shivered and covered his face with his hand, and burst into tears.

"Oh," he said, "heaven only knows what I have suffered through that woman. Drink, drink, she would sell her soul for drink. To-day she came out of prison, and the very first thing she did was to pawn everything she could carry away. Bed-clothes, dishes, even the food was carried out and sold. And then she has ruined my lads. Two of them are in the Penitentiary already, and the other two will soon follow. She trains them to steal and lie, and even to drink. They are out now prowling about the streets, and may be in the hands of the police for aught I can tell."

When asked when or how she learned to drink, he informed us that prior to coming to Canada, fifteen years ago, she had been a respectable, sober woman, but falling in with drunken neighbours, she had learned to drink, and is scarcely ever sober. We tried to comfort the little man, and came away; and when we came through the lower room, we were once more regaled with a tirade on the villain up stairs. We felt heartily sorry for him.

In the course of our expedition, the fact impressed itself more and more upon us, that the most of the domestic misery existing in these localities is caused by the drunkenness of women. Scarcely did we come across a woman that was not more or less under the influence of liquor. In one house was an old creature, stone blind, sitting on a pallet of straw. Even she was drunk; and what a pitiable spectacle it was to see her impotently shaking her withered arm in the air, and declaring, if she could only see to do it, she would break the heads of every one in the room. In another, we saw two women lying helplessly drunk in a bed, among seven or eight children, while another lay on the floor in the same condition. In another house we came upon a woman who was singing merrily an old Irish ballad. Her husband