

whole night." Another unlicensed place is reported to be "open almost all night." And another unlicensed den, out of which three cabmen issued on a recent *Sabbath-morning about four o'clock*, in time to find their sleighs *en route* for the Police Station,—of which it is reported, "kept open all night as a rule, from sunset to sunrise throughout the greater part of the year." The cabmen were fined by the Recorder,—but the Magistrate could not reach the keeper of the place, (there being no noise or disturbance on *that* occasion,) the power to prosecute lying with the Revenue Inspectors.

In this connection it should be mentioned that authority to prosecute under the license acts is vested exclusively in the Revenue Inspectors. At the door of the General Government, therefore, lies the heavy responsibility of allowing all this violation of law to pass unpunished. For example, by sec. 12 it is enacted that no gaming whatsoever, by which "money, or anything which can be valued in money, shall be lost or won," shall be permitted in places licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. Yet it is notorious that gambling is practiced regularly in certain licensed houses; and it is well enough understood that billiard, bagatelle, pigeon-hole, and Mississippi tables are in constant use in Montreal, in violation of a city ordinance which imposes a tax upon each of them of \$100

Worse still, are not the liquor traffic and the drinking customs, the stepping-stones to the great "social evil" that, like a cancer, is striking deep into society? There are said to be thirty common houses of prostitution in our city, kept in premises made comparatively respectable by a corporation license to sell liquor; and there are, besides, as many houses of assignation where liquors are covertly sold. Comment is not desirable, further than to say, the names of the keepers have been shown. Why, for the sake of the morals as well as the finances of the city—as also for the pecuniary welfare of Government—do not Licensing Committees and Revenue Inspectors do their duty? There may not be any consolation in the circumstance, still it may be mentioned, that immunity from prosecution is not alone a city privilege. Information from municipalities in the vicinity justify the belief, that an official inquiry would uncover a large amount of transgression winked at by officers.

There is another point to be referred to. Hon. Justice Mondelet, in his address to the Grand Jury at the opening of the recent session of the Court of Queen's Bench, (24th March) called their attention in strong language to the intimate connection between intemperance and

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