

XXI.

THE SUNDAY DRINK TRAFFIC.¹

THE subject allotted to me by the Committee which has summoned this Conference is, "The Influence of the Sunday Traffic in Strong Drink on our Sunday Schools." I heartily wish that the Committee had selected some one to prepare this paper who could have given more time to its preparation. What, however, I have been able to do, in the midst of multiplied occupations, I have done willingly; and I am cheered by the remembrance that the paper is not designed to exhaust the subject, but only to provide the text, and give the outline, of the sermon which the Conference itself will preach.

My subject brings before us two of the mightiest agencies in operation in this country—agencies which every patriot should try to estimate, and understand.

First, we have the Sunday school, with its 600,000 teachers, and between three and four millions of children. An agency so vast, and so blessed, that it has well been called "England's glory."

Then, second, we have the drink traffic—a system vaster, and more influential, than the other. When we remember that besides those shops where drink is sold occasionally, there are 150,599 houses employed solely for this traffic, and that allowing a frontage of thirty feet to each house, they would reach, if put side by side, over 900

¹ A Paper read at a Conference of Sunday-school Teachers, held in the Town Hall, Manchester. The Bishop of Manchester in the chair.