

160.81 - MAR 14, 1871

...of which, though I could not find any, we conclude it to be...
...the most abominable and disgraceful institution that has ever been...
...seen in the world. How can such a system be allowed to exist in...
...a country like ours? How can such degradation and misery...
...exist in a land where all this is allowed while thousands are dying of...
...famine and pestilence, and other lands? You, while hundreds of...
...men are on the verge of starvation in the cellars and garrets and open fields...
...of the cities of our own beloved Britain and other lands?

We may calculate the loss of property to the nation or to the individual,
but who can compute the wretchedness caused to families, the poverty,
cruelty, violence, disappointed hopes, broken hearts, and withered
lives, diseased constitutions transmitted by drunkards; and the vice and
crime which this traffic occasions, together with the happiness it prevents,
and above all the awful misery in the eternal ruin of so many millions of
lost souls? Reports of Parliamentary commissions show that three-fourths
of the crimes committed in Christian lands, nearly half the cases of infi-
rmity, and four-fifths of the pauperism which afflicts Britain, result from
the use of intoxicants.

In order to realize the infamous nature of this traffic we must individualize or give cases. Think of the struggles, tears and agonies of some
hapless victim of this vice, as he resolves and resolves again to break his
habits, and at length, exhausted with his efforts, gives up in despair, and
dies the hopeless death of the drunkard, or is driven by the demon ruling
the brain to the commission of some great crime, for which the law de-
prives him of liberty, and casts him to the felon's cell with the brand of
infamy upon his once fair name. How many poor victims of the liquor
have not only lost their liberty and good name, but have been de-
prived of life for the murder of some one, who, when sober, they called
by the sacred name of friend! No Christian should have anything to do
with a traffic that leads to such fearful results. The curse of God most
manifestly rests upon it. An aged Christian told me that he had married
and buried six children in intoxicants for more than sixty years, and it never
left the property made by them go down to the third generation. Gener-
ally either they or their children go to destruction. The price paid
is paid in the blood of souls destroyed by this traffic, and a fearful reck-
ing will be made at the great day of accounts.
The curse of a holy and loving God rests upon it, and money made by
one evil way promises. To those who make money by it we say, "Woe to
the house of warning." Go to now ye rich men, weep and howl for your
days of rest shall come upon you." Let every one嗤笑 the rich
man, and say, "Lot to thee from Sodom to get rid of that load of gold I
will give you in God's name, that no Christian soul need be
condemned in our day when so much light shineth."

It is to be hoped that all Christians should not
only condemn the sins of the divine enemy, but also
condemn the sins of their fellow creatures, and
that they should do this with all their might, and
not shrink from doing their duty.