

they are open,—that the supply will be regulated by the demand, and that the way to lessen the demand, is to teach the people not to patronize such places, and to supply them with other attractions. All very well, say we, so far. We temperance reformers are not enemies to such. It is a long time since we began to use moral suasion, and we are not disposed even yet to give that up, and we have not been backward, so far as we could, in providing or helping to procure other sources of attraction, of a proper kind, to keep the people from the public house. If it had not been for what temperance reformers have done, in both these ways, we know not what the state of matters might have been ere now. But while thus we have been doing, and while thus we are resolved to do, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact, that the great facilities afforded for drinking produce and foster intemperance. The traffic creates demand as certainly as the demand leads to the supply. This happens in other things, though not so strongly or strikingly; and he would be a bold man who would deny it. Every one who opens a public-house where there was not one before expects to raise a trade, and, alas! generally succeeds, according to the amount of population around. When a new block of buildings is erected, it is not that there is a demand for a drinking shop, that one is set down at the corner or in the most conspicuous place, but that the proprietor is pretty sure that give the facility and the traffic will follow. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland obtained returns, in 1849, from 478 parishes, in that portion of the United Kingdom, and the result brought out by the answers to the questions was this, in the words of the report itself—"that the intemperance of any neighborhood is uniformly proportionate to the number of its spirit licenses." In some parishes there were no public-houses, and these were noted for their sobriety. Parishes in which there had been no place for the sale of drink, had immediately been injuriously affected by the opening of such; in cases in which there had been an entire suppression or a proportionate decrease of public-houses, there had been a corresponding improvement. If any one will take the trouble of looking to his own neighbourhood, he will find similar results. So decided is this—so natural, likely, and almost necessary a result—that we really marvel such ignorance could be manifested as that to which we have referred. In conclusion, however, we may quote the decisive testimony of the publicans themselves in proof of the well established fact, that drunkenness generally prevails in proportion to the facilities afforded for obtaining intoxicating drinks. The following is their notable confession on this matter: "It is clearly shown by Parliamentary returns, that vice and drunkenness are in proportion to the number of public-houses, and to the facilities for obtaining intoxicating drink."

We plead for education, and moral suasion, and harmless amusement—all of these have their effect; but not one or all of them can get fair play so long as places and opportunities are so multiplied for the obtaining of intoxicating drinks.

We have a striking evidence of the good effect of legislative measures in the results of the Forbes McKenzie Act in Scotland. That act we do not hold to be a perfect one. So far as it goes, however, it is in the right direction. One great defect it has, consists in its indefiniteness as to who are to look after

its enforcement. We are persuaded it would have worked much better, and been much more beneficial, had that point been more distinctly set forth. As it is, wherever it has been carried out with any degree of faithfulness, it has been highly useful, as official statements shew. For instance, in EDINBURGH the number of persons taken to the police office drunk, for protection or charged with offences, in 1856, on Sunday, from eight o'clock, a.m., till same hour on Monday morning, was 185; to 709 in 1852—the year before the act came into operation. The only other return we possess, as to the Sunday cases, separate from those of the other days of the week, is that of DUNDEE, which gives, for the year ending May 1853, the number of 321; to 164 for the year ending May 1856. It is thus evident that on the day on which the drink is withdrawn, much of the drunkenness and many of the offences arising therefrom are withdrawn with it.

If we take the general statistics of police, we find similar gratifying results. In EDINBURGH it runs thus:—The number of persons found drunk, whether charged with crimes or not, in 1852, was 9767; in 1856 only 7736, or a decrease of 2031! and the statistics shew the decrease to have been gradual. In the same city, the gross number of persons taken cognizance of by the police in 1852, were 13,932; and in 1856 the number was 14,353, or a difference in favour of 1855 of 4,579. In GLASGOW, the number of persons taken to the police office in 1853, drunk and disorderly, and drunk and incapable, was 10,649. In 1857 it was 5,615, or a decrease of 5,034. Taking all the police cases in that city, we have a total of 15,777 in 1853; while in 1856 we have 10,052, shewing a decrease of, 5,725.

In ABERDEEN, the number of committals for drunkenness, etc., was 3,989 in 1852; and in 1856 it was 2,415, or a decrease of 1,574. The number lodged in the watch-house drunk, in the same years were respectively 1,808 and 1,146, shewing a decrease of 662.

The preceding statistics most clearly prove the fallacy of the statements which used to be made with so much confidence, that although we may possibly succeed by legislative enactment in repressing drunkenness on the sabbath, there would be a corresponding increase on the following days, and that consequently no actual benefit would accrue to the community.

It is thus abundantly evident, that the removal of temptations to drink is followed by a corresponding decrease in the cases of intemperance and crime; and if it be, must it not be the duty of every one cognizant of such, to do what he can to get those who have the power, to lessen these dangerous facilities? Let not our friends be hindered from duty by any such cry as that of seeking to make men moral by Act of Parliament. Even were there any thing in the charge, those who are for the perpetuation or increase of such facilities, must be in a worse position, for their's must be, on similar principles, a making men immoral by Act of Parliament. But there is surely a distinction, sufficiently plain, between forcing any one to a course of conduct, compelling a man by Act of Parliament to be moral, and removing by Act of Parliament those temptations which Acts of Parliament have put in the way. Besides, there *must* within certain limits be an interference with the conduct of the people by the laws of the country, and consequently a bearing upon their morals. A law which forbids a course of criminal con-

duct, and threatens penalty, is intended, and that properly, to influence action, and against the promoters and upholders of any law having such a character and bearing, it might be as justly brought as a charge, that they are seeking to make men moral by Act of Parliament, as it is against us, in going to our legislature for enactments to remove the temptations to the use of intoxicating drinks.—*Bristol Temperance Herald*.

NIGHT PHASES OF DRUNKENNESS.

PHASE I.

The midnight hour hath chimed—
The night is wild and cold—
I see a trembling hand
Yon cottage door unfold;
A pale and furrowed face
Peers forth into the storm,
And o'er the threshold leans
A bent and tottering form.

Her white hair damp with tears
Clings to her wasted cheek—
With failing eyes she scans
The street—her son to seek.
His staggering form she sees,
His reeling steps she hears:—
Break widowed heart—how vain
Thy pleading words and tears!

PHASE II.

A dark dismantled room—
A wailing infant's cry—
A little weeping maid
Sings mournful lullaby—
Two baby brothers, pale
With hunger, cold, and fear,
Lie at her feet—while she
Keeps sobbing—"Mother dear,

Oh! shall I never see
Thy sweet and mournful face?
Oh! take thy baby home
Unto the blessed place—
No milk, no food have I
For her and brothers dear—
Father beats us when we cry,
And leaves us nightly here."

PHASE III.

A workman sought his home
When evening bells had rung,
Dark thoughts o'er brow and heart
Their sullen shadows flung—
A little ragged boy,
With hunger in his eyes—
Cries, Mother lies in bed,
And minds not baby's cries.

No light, nor food, nor fire
Is in the wretched room.
To where the inebriate lies
He rushes in the gloom—
He beats the senseless form—
He drags her from the bed,
Where crushed and livid lies
Her smothered infant—dead.

PHASE IV.

A slender, pallid boy,
With hectic on his cheek—
Moved by his mother's tears,
His father goes to seek.
The midnight moon looks down
Upon the wintry street,
And sees the shrinking youth
His ruffian parent meet.