Curse of Drink.

The appetite for strong drink in man has spoiled the life of more women—ruined more hopes for them, scattered more fortunes for them, brought them to more sorrow, shame and hardship than any other evil that lives. The country numbers tens—nay, hundreds of thousands of women who are widows to-day, and sit in hopeless weeds, because their husbands have been slain by strong drink. There are hundreds of thousands of homes scattered over the land in which women live lives of torture, going through all the changes of suffering that lie between the extremes of fear and despair, because those whom they love, love wine better than they do the women they have sworn to love. There are women by thousands who dread to hear the step that once thrilled them with pleasure, because that step has learned to reel under the influence of the seductive poison. There are women groaning with pain, while we write these words from bruises and brutalities inflicted by husbands made mad by drink. There can be no exaggeration in any statement in regard to this matter, because no human imagination can create anything worse than the truth. The sorrow and horrors of a wife with a drunken husband, or a mother with a drunken son, are as near the realization of hell as can be reached in this world at least. The shame, the indignation, the sorrow, and the sense of disgrace for herself and children, the poverty, and not unfrequently the beggarly—the fear and the fact of violence, lingering, life-long struggle and despair of countless women, with drunken husbands, are enough to make all women curse wine, and engage unitedly to oppose it everywhere as the worst enemy of their sex.

A CORRESPONDENT writing to *The Telegraph* from the Seychelles Islands, thus describes the condition of the living freight of an Arab slave captured off Madagascar: "When the 'Vulture' was near enough, a boat, in charge of a young officer, was sent on board the Arab, whose true character and the nature of his cargo was soon made known. On going below, the men found a framework of bamboo constructed on each side of the hold, ranging fore and aft, in which 238 human human beings were packed, tier upon tier, like bottles in a rack. The occupants of each tier were placed in the closest personal contact with each other. When taken out and placed upon the deck, their limbs were useless. They were seized with vertigo and fell from sheer inability to stand. One or two young children were found crushed to death. The lower tier had been laid upon the sand ballast and was half buried. One poor woman really was buried, with the exception of her face. Her mouth was full of sand, and when taken out she was on the point of suffocation. There was a woman of this lot the only survivor of a whole band in the middle of Africa. The rest had perished on their four months' march to the coast."

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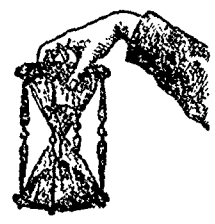

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