

thousand during the last year is, however, alarming, especially in view of the exceptional activity of all forms of temperance effort.

II. The places with the largest totals for drunkenness, and their figures for the last three years, are the following, and show, in most cases, an increase which in some instances is remarkable:

	1880.	1881.	1882.
London.....	32,710.....	27,368.....	29,044
Lancaster County.....	15,650.....	16,661.....	19,005
Liverpool.....	14,252.....	14,237.....	16,003
Durham County.....	8,308.....	9,124.....	10,650
Manchester.....	8,815.....	9,297.....	9,409
West Riding.....	8,717.....	7,642.....	8,045
Stafford County.....	4,445.....	4,854.....	5,890
Newcastle.....	4,123.....	4,268.....	4,245
Glamorgan County.....	2,484.....	2,756.....	3,185
Chester County.....	2,632.....	2,443.....	2,804
Worcester County.....	1,684.....	2,016.....	2,584
Northumberland.....	1,967.....	2,145.....	2,529
Birmingham.....	2,218.....	2,345.....	2,443
Derby County.....	1,849.....	2,001.....	2,248
Shropshire.....	1,543.....	1,823.....	2,020
Salford.....	2,148.....	2,480.....	1,928

It will be observed that a decrease compared with 1881, is only found in the cases of Newcastle and Salford. In London the figures for the last few years hardly represent the real state of affairs, owing largely to the effect of the police order whereby drunkards are not detained when they become sober in the police-station. The figures for Manchester for the last five years are 8,045, 8,596, 8,815, 9,297, 9,409, a serious and steady progress downwards, unless the population has increased out of proportion to the increase in other places, and this hardly supports the optimism of the Bishop of Manchester, who recently declared that it was long since he had seen a drunken man in the city.

III. Other offences against the Licensing Act, 1872, amount only to 14,588, a decrease of 115 in spite of the general increase in apprehensions for drunkenness, and as there are at least 15,800 licensed houses in London alone, and as over 300,000 licenses are issued in the United Kingdom, and as licensed "victuallers" are constantly complaining of the oppressiveness of this Act, and the number of possible offences under it, it is obvious that these offences are either far more rare than anyone believes, or that the offenders are remarkably successful in escaping conviction.

IV. Amongst those apprehended for indictable offences, or summarily proceeded against, 39,845 (300 more than in 1881), of whom 11,000 are females, are described as habitual drunkards. This indicates, of course, cases and not individuals. Many, however, come under other heads, *e. g.*, disorderly prostitutes, of whom there were 22,944 apprehended; and, moreover, habitual drunkards have not invariably the fortune to fall into the hands of the police.

V. Under the head of Coroners' Returns, 443 deaths are described as being from excessive drinking. A perusal of the daily papers will, however, show that this verdict is rarely, from various reasons, recorded when it can be avoided.

VI. Of 933 houses, the resort of thieves, depredators, and suspected persons, 433 are public-houses, and 346 beershops. As it is an offence to harbor such persons, we may wonder why this item appears year after year in undiminished, and even in increasing size.

VII. The offenders who have been convicted for any crime above ten times are 4,391 males, and 8,946 females, or 8.9 and 29.3 per cent. respectively, on the total commitments. In other words, more than a quarter of all the women in prison, whose offence is not the first, have been in over ten times. A comparison of five years will show how women have been steadily getting worse in this respect—1878, 5,673 females, 1879, 5,800 females; 1880, 6,773 females; 1881, 7,496 females; 1882, 8,946 females. This preponderance of women is almost entirely due to the special character, and the increase, of female intemperance.

VIII. The daily average population of the local prisons was 17,876, at a cost of £20 19s. 3d. a head: of the convict prisons, 10,192, at £32 8s. 4d. and there were 873 criminal lunatics, *i. e.*, a daily average of 28,941 criminals in confinement (not including 4,487 juvenile offenders in reformatories, and 11,027 in industrial schools), at a cost of £754,146. As three-fourths of crime is directly or indirectly attributable to intemperance, the unnecessary cost to the country may readily be computed. It may be added that the cost of the police is £3,264,378.—*Temperance Record.*

THE NATION'S CURSE.

A SERMON PREACHED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY, ON NOVEMBER 19TH, ON THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY, BY THE REV. ARCHDEACON FARRAR.

"Behold I set before you a blessing and a curse."—Deut. xi., 26.

It is with deliberate purpose that I mean the sermon this evening to be almost exclusively a plain statement of plain facts. I wish it to be an appeal, not to the imagination, not to the emotions, but to reason, to the sense of duty, to the conscience of Christians in a Christian land. If I say one word that is not true, I am guilty; if I consciously exaggerate a single argument, I am morally responsible; if I do so from ignorance, or from mistaken evidence, I hail any possible refutation of what I urge as a service to the sacred cause of truth. But if the facts be facts, indisputable, and for the most part even undisputed, and then if they do not speak to you for themselves, I know nothing else that can or will. If they do not carry with them their own fire; if they do not plead with you, clear as a voice from Sinai, in their barest and briefest reality, and spur you to seek redress—

"If not the face of men,
The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse,
If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
And every man home to his idle bed."

Those who plead for temperance reform are daily charged with exaggeration. Exaggeration is never right, never wise, even when moral indignation renders it excusable; but before you repeat that hackneyed and irrelevant charge, remember that there never was prophet or reformer yet, since time began, against whom the same charge has not been made. We have no need to exaggerate; our cause is overwhelmingly strong in its moral appeal to unvarnished realities, and we have nothing to do but to set forth things as they are, till not only the serious, and the earnest, but even the comfortable, even the callous, yes, even the careless and the selfish, unless they are content to forego altogether the name of patriot, and the name of Christ, shall be compelled to note them for very shame.

1. Begin, then, with the fact that the direct expenditure of the nation for intoxicating drinks is reckoned at £130,000,000 a year, and the indirect, which we are forced to pay from the results of drunkenness, £100,000,000 more. Maintain, if you will, that alcohol is a harmless luxury; you still cannot deny that for the vast majority it is not a necessity. Whole races of men, the votaries of whole religions, do without it, and gain by its absence. From 20,000 prisoners in England, it is cut off from the day of their imprisonment, and they are not the worse, but the stronger and the healthier from its withdrawal. There are some five million total abstainers in England, and the impartial statistics of insurance prove conclusively that longevity is increased by abstention from it. The most magnificent feats of strength and endurance of which mankind has ever heard have been achieved without it. At the very best, then it is a luxury. If it were not so, three Chancellors of the Exchequer would not have congratulated the nation on the diminution of revenue drawn from the sale of it; nor would a speech from the Throne have expressed satisfaction at this loss of income. Being, then, at the best a luxury, even if no harm came from it, I ask you seriously whether we can, in these days, bear the exhaustion which arises from this terrible drain on our national resources? We live in anxious times. The pressure of life, the intensity of competition, both in the nation itself and with other nations, is very severe. Of late two daily newspapers have been filled with correspondence which proves the state of middle-class society. One has given expression to the sorrows and struggles of thousands of clerks in our cities, and has told the dismal story of their hopeless and grinding poverty. The other has revealed with what agonies of misgiving thousands of parents contemplate the difficulty of starting their sons in the crowded race in life. Can there be a shadow of a doubt that the nation would be better prepared for the vast growth of its population, that the conditions of average life would be less burdensome if we abandoned a needless, and therefore, wasteful expenditure? Would not the position of England be more secure if that vast river of wasted gold were diverted into more fruitful channels?—if the 88½ millions of bushels of grain (as much as is produced in all Scotland) which are now mashed into deleterious drink, were turned into useful food?—if the 69 thousands of acres of good land now devoted to hops were used for cereals?—if England were relieved from the burden of supporting the mass of misery, crime, pauperism, and madness which drunkenness entails? Even in this respect, as Sir Matthew Hale said two centuries ago, "*perimus licitus, we are perishing by permitted things.*" A Chinese tradition tells us that when, 4,000 years ago, their Emperor forbade the use of intoxicants, heaven rained gold for three days. Looking at the matter on grounds simply economical—considering only the fact that the working classes drink, in grossly adulterated beers and maddening spirits, as much as they pay in rent—considering that there is hardly a pauper in England who has not wasted on intoxicants enough to have secured him long ago a freehold house and a good annuity—I say that if the curse of drink were thoroughly expelled it would rain gold in England not for three days but for many days.

2. We have assumed hitherto that intoxicating drinks are nothing in the world but a harmless luxury; but every man knows that they are not. The