

the use of intoxicating drinks in every country inhabited by man: for unhappily, even the uncivilized tribes of barbarian lands are supplied with the poison by the traders and adventurers of Europe and America. Thus, besides the misery which it creates among them by its use, it renders abortive all attempts to civilize or elevate them in the scale of being, or to bring them under the blessed influence of Christianity: the uniform testimony of the missionaries of every denomination of the Christian church, concurring in the expression of their belief, that nothing operates so powerfully to prevent their adding converts to the truths of the Holy Gospel, as the use of strong drinks, introduced among the native tribes by their more civilized European visitors; while some, indeed, of their chiefs or leaders, have implored the British and American governments not to permit the traffic in this "fire-water," as they call the destructive poison, seeing that its use has already led to the entire extinction of some tribes, and the deterioration and corruption of all into which it has ever been introduced.

If these were the opinions of this Convention only, they might apprehend some difficulty in their ready acceptance, by those high Potentates and Rulers to whom they presume to offer this Address; but they are enabled to cite an authority of the most unquestionable kind, one emanating from the British Legislature itself, and, therefore, clothed with all the securities against error or misrepresentation with which the severe scrutiny and impartial examination of a large body of intelligent and upright men surrounds it.

On the 3d of June, 1834, a Select Committee was appointed by the British House of Commons, "to inquire into the extent, causes, and consequences of the prevailing vice of intoxication, among the labouring classes of the United Kingdom, in order to ascertain whether any Legislative measures could be devised to prevent the further spread of so great an evil."

This Committee was composed of thirty-eight members, and included Lord Althorp, then Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House of Commons; Sir Robert Peel, the late Prime Minister of England; Admiral Fleming, of the Royal Navy; Colonel Williams, of the King's Army; Mr. Alexander Baring, the most eminent of British merchants; and Representatives of the agricultural, manufacturing, and maritime counties of England, Scotland, and Ireland; so that every interest in the empire was represented in its composition. It extended its daily sittings from the 9th of June, to the 28th of July, 1834: in the course of which, no less than fifty-eight witnesses were examined at great length, and these included physicians and surgeons of the greatest eminence, magistrates and officers of justice, ministers of religion and education, officers of the navy, the army, and the mercantile marine, large landed proprietors, opulent merchants, extensive manufacturers, chemists, distillers, keepers of hotels and taverns, and laboring men in several departments of industry. Never, perhaps, in the Annals of Parliament, was a Committee composed of more eminent or more impartial members—never was there a greater variety of witnesses from all classes of society, and all professions in life, carefully examined—and never was there greater unanimity than in the conclusions to which the Committee came in the Report which they ultimately founded on this evidence, and which was adopted and printed by order of the House of Commons, as well as the large body of evidence itself, forming a folio volume of several hundred pages.

The Convention propose to append to this Address, a copy of the Report only, apart from the evidence, the bulk of which alone precludes its presentation; but in this place it will be their duty to mention a few at least of the more prominent facts which this evidence proved.

1. That intoxicating drinks produce these painful consequences to individuals—disease in variety of form, stunted

growth in the young, premature decay and death in middle age, apoplexy, paralysis, idiocy, madness, suicide, and violent death; by all which, more lives are wasted and destroyed in a single year—than in all the great battles of the last century.

2. That intoxicating drinks are the chief cause of the pauperism, prostitution, and crime, which fill the workhouses, asylums, prisons, hulks, and penitentiaries; and which require an enormous expense in the maintenance of a police, and the machinery of criminal justice to restrain and repress.

3. That the greatest hinderance to the education of youth, the promotion of morality among adults, and to the propagation and reception of Christian truths, in all ranks at home and abroad, is the general and extreme use of intoxicating drinks.

4. That many millions of quarters of grain, given by a bountiful Providence for the food of man, in wheat, barley, rye, oats, rice, &c., are now entirely destroyed as food, by being used for distillation.

5. That the loss of productive labour (the chief source of national as it is of individual wealth) in consequence of the idleness, sickness, debility, and incapacity, occasioned by the drinking usages of the labouring classes, may be fairly estimated at not less than one-sixth of the whole disposable time, or amounting in value to many millions annually.

6. That the destruction of property by sea and land, in shipwrecks, fires, incendiary or accidental, robberies, plunderings, and waste or spoiling of goods in every department of industry, is almost incalculable, amounting to many millions more.

It would be easy for the Convention to add much more upon this painful subject; but they trust they have said enough to justify the step they take in endeavoring to awaken the attention and enlist the sympathies of those who are entrusted with Sovereign Power in this great subject. If those Rulers, at least, are desirous of purifying the respective countries subject to their dominion from the greatest of all moral pestilences that ever afflicted the earth, sweeping annually to dishonored graves more victims than ever were destroyed by war—visiting with disease a larger number of persons of all ages than either plague, pestilence, or famine combined.

To such chiefly we address ourselves, in the spirit of a Christian regard and Christian frankness, when we say, Rulers of Nations, and Protectors of the people committed to your care! if you desire to prevent your labour-created wealth from being destroyed—to see the resources of your industry fully developed—your golden harvests of grain husbanded for the food of man—your population preserved in vigorous health and industry—the youths well instructed and morally trained—the men sober—the women chaste—the public authorities just and temperate—your subjects happy and obedient, and the great duties of morality and religion cheerfully and willingly performed, under the influence of love for their excellences, and a hearty participation in their enjoyments, rather than from a fear and terror of the punishments that await their neglect.—If these be the objects of your high and noble ambition, O! Rulers and Potentates of the Earth! we entreat you, in the name of the World's Convention, now assembled together in friendly union from the varied countries that have sent us here to represent their feelings, hopes, and desires, that you unite with us in doing whatever in your wisdom may seem best calculated to arrest the progress of Intemperance in your respective dominions—to encourage all Societies, institutions, and measures for abolishing the drinking usages and customs of your people—to honour by your august presence, as well as patronage (as their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden have recently done, attending in their royal persons the great Temperance Convention at Stockholm, held in that city during the last month only), similar gatherings together,