

## Blood Money.

"What about the revenue?" we are asked. Our Government derives a revenue of \$7,101,557 from this traffic, and how will this be replaced in case the traffic is prohibited? Speaking generally, we reply that health, happiness and good morals are of more value to a people than gold. The awful harvest of poverty, crime, disease and death revealed to us by official statistics, is too great a price even for millions of revenue. In the words of Hon. W. E. Gladstone, "A question of revenue must never stand in the way of moral reform." "Give me," says the same great statesman, "a sober people, not wasting their earnings, and I will easily raise the revenue." Surely a sober people will be as able to pay their taxes as a drinking people.

There would be no loss to the national treasury from the passing of a prohibition law. The millions that are now wasted, and worse than wasted on strong drink, would go into different branches of legitimate and useful trade; and thus the customs would be greatly increased, and the exchequer more than compensated for the loss of the liquor revenue. The money now wasted in strong drink would then be invested in dry goods, shoes, furniture, food, etc., thus yielding a revenue to the Government. Sir Stafford Northcote, ex-Chancellor of the British Exchequer, says, "If the revenue diminishes from increased habits of temperance, the amount of wealth such a change would bring to the nation would utterly throw into the shade the amount of revenue that is now derived from the spirit duty." This is no untried theory, it has been demonstrated in the history of Ireland. Sullivan, the historian, tells us that during the great temperance movement in that country, conducted by the famous Father Matthew, between the years 1839 and 1845, "The whiskey trade was for the time anni-