

something in malt liquors which tends to modify the effect. 'That some men can drink two or three gallons a day and keep as sober as they ever are proves no more than that an opium eater can take enough before he feels sleepy to kill ten or more men who are not accustomed to it.'—*Temperance Worker*.

DRINKING AND MORALITY.

The most frightful effects of the drink-habit are not those which can be tabulated in statistics and reported in the census. It is not the waste of corn, nor the destruction of property, nor the increase of taxes, nor even the ruin of physical health, nor the loss of life, which most impresses the mind of the thoughtful observer of inebriety. It is the effect of this vice upon the characters of men, as it is exhibited to him, day by day, in his ordinary intercourse with them. It is the spiritual realm that the ravages of strong drink are most terrible.

Body and mind are so closely related that when the one suffers the other must share the suffering; and the injury of the physical health resulting from intemperate drinking must, therefore, be accompanied by similar injury of the mental and moral powers. But the inclination of the popular thought is so strongly toward the investigation of physical phenomena, that the spiritual consequences of drunkenness are often overlooked. Degeneration of tissue is more palpable than degeneracy of spirit; a lesion of the brain more startling than a breach of faith; but the deeper fact, of which the senses take no note, is the more important fact; and it would be well if the attention of men could be fixed upon it.

The phenomena to which we have referred often report themselves to the quickened perceptions of those who stand nearest to the habitual drinker. Many a mother observes, with a heart that grows heavier day by day, the signs of moral decay in the character of her son. It is not the flushed face and the heavy eyes that trouble her most; it is the evidence that his mind is becoming duller and fouler, his sensibilities less acute, his sense of honor less commanding. She discovers that his loyalty to truth is somewhat impaired; that he deceives her frequently, without compunction. This effect is often observed in the character of the inebriate. Truthfulness is the fundamental virtue; when it is impaired the character is undermined. Coupled with the loss of truthfulness is that weakening of the will which always accompanies chronic alcoholism. The man loses, little by little, the mastery over himself; the regal faculties are in chains. How many of his broken promises are due to a debilitated will, and how many to a decay of his veraciousness, it would be impossible for the victim himself to determine. Doubtless his intention to break off his evil habit is sometimes honest, and the failure is due to the paralysis of his will; doubtless he often asseverates that such is his purpose at the moment when he is contriving how he shall obtain the next dram. It is pitiful to mark the gradual decay of these prime elements of manliness in the character of the man who is addicted to strong drink.

The loss of self-respect, the lowering of ambition, and the fading out of hope are signs of the progress of this disease in the character. It is a mournful spectacle—that of the brave, ingenious, high-spirited man sinking steadily down into the degradation of inebriety; but how many such spectacles are visible all over the land! And it is not in the character of those alone who are notorious drunkards that such tendencies appear. They are often distinctly seen in the lives of men who are never drunk. Sir Henry Thompson's testimony is emphatic to the effect that "the habitual use of fermented liquors, to an extent far short of what is necessary to produce intoxication, injures the body and diminishes the mental power." If, as he testifies, a large proportion of the most painful and dangerous maladies of the body are due to "the use of fermented liquors, taken in the quantity which is conventionally deemed moderate," then it is certain that such use of them must result also in serious injuries to the mental and moral nature. Who does not know reputable gentlemen, physicians, artists, clergymen even, who were never drunk in their lives, and never will be, but who reveal, in conversation and in conduct, certain melancholy effects of the drinking habit? The brain is so often inflamed with alcohol that its functions are imperfectly performed; and there is a perceptible loss of mental power and of moral tone. The drinker is not conscious of this loss; but those who know him best are painfully aware that his perceptions are less keen, his judgments less sound, his temper less serene, his spiritual

vision less clear, because he carries every day a little too long at the wine. Even those who refuse to entertain ascetic theories respecting these beverages may be able to see that there are uses of them that stop short of drunkenness, and that are still extremely hurtful to the mind and the heart as well as the body. That conventional idea of moderation, to which Sir Henry Thompson refers, is quite elastic; the term is stretched to cover habits that are steadily spoiling the life of its rarest fruits. The drinking habit is often defended by reputable gentlemen to whom the very thought of a debauch would be shocking, but to whom, if it were only lawful, in the tender and just solicitude of friendship, such words as these might be spoken: "It is true that you are not drunkards, and may never be; but if you could know, what is too evident to those who love you best, how your character is slowly losing the firmness of its texture and the fineness of its outline; how your art deteriorates in the delicacy of its touch; how the atmosphere of your life seems to grow murky and the sky lowers gloomily above you—you would not think your daily indulgence harmless in its measure. It is in just such lives as yours that drink exhibits some of its most mournful tragedies."—*The Century*.

THE BRITISH JUGGERNAUT.

It is a melancholy fact that whilst upwards of one hundred and sixty millions of pounds sterling are spent at the shrine of Bacchus every year in Great Britain, in intoxicating drinks, but little more than a million is raised by all our Missionary and Bible Societies put together, for spreading the cause of Christ throughout the heathen world!

Who can reflect upon the expenditure of this immense sum of money, the tendency of which is to propagate misery, crime, disease, and death—filling our prisons with criminals, our asylums with lunatics, and our work-houses with paupers—without feelings of sorrow and shame?

Reader, have you ever seriously considered what would be the influence upon the various trades of our country, and also upon the domestic comfort of the people, if this large amount of capital, now worse than wasted, was yearly employed in the production of useful manufactures? If not do so now.

These one hundred and sixty millions would pay for—

8 Millions of Coats, at 40s 0d each.....	£16,000,000
8 Millions of Trousers, at 20s each	8,000,000
8 Millions of Waistcoats, at 10s each	4,000,000
8 Millions of Hats, at 6s each	2,400,000
8 Millions of Boots, at 10s per pair	4,000,000
8 Millions of Stockings, at 1s 6d per pair	600,000
8 Millions of Shirts at 5s each	2,000,000
8 Millions of Blankets at 12s 6d per pair.....	5,000,000
8 Millions of Gowns, at 12s 6d each	5,000,000
8 Millions of Bonnets, at 10s each	4,000,000
16 Millions of Caps, at 2s 6d each	2,000,000
20 Millions of Chairs at 4s each	4,000,000
4 Millions of Tables, at 20s each	4,000,000
2 Millions of Bookcases at 40s each	4,000,000
40 Millions of Books at 1s each.....	2,000,000
8 Millions of Clocks, at 22s 6d each	9,000,000
20 Millions of Bibles, at 2s each.....	2,000,000
100,000 Cottages for men to live in, rent free (£200 each)	20,000,000
In addition to which there would be left for the poor rates for the whole kingdom	12,000,000
Pensions to 100,000 Publicans, and Beer and Gin-Shop Keepers, say £200 a year each...	20,000,000
And for Savings' Banks.....	30,000,000
Total	£160,000,000

—*Starlight Companion*.

Or, take this view of the case: The above-mentioned sum of one hundred and sixty million pounds sterling, if employed for the amelioration of the condition of the tenant farming class of Great Britain, by emigration to the old Province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada, would secure for EACH of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND FAMI-