

drives the soldiers to commit the greatest enormities, such as the repeated destruction of human life, murders, and other crimes of great enormity."

And with regard to our Navy, to the same cause must we not attribute much, if not all of the evil contained in the following extracts:—

Including all nations there are at least three millions of souls occupied on the great deep. If we take into our estimate our Royal Navy, marines, and fishermen, we have at the lowest computation, 390,000 British seamen. Of these, not 20,000 have any practical or experimental knowledge of the truths of Christianity: so that not fewer than 280,000 of the most deserving portion of the community are in moral darkness and ignorance. The number of British ships which are lost is about one to twenty-five; and from this cause alone, from 2000 to 3300 souls perish every year!

#### *Loss of National Character resulting from it.*

In a speech delivered at the public meeting of the New British and Foreign Temperance Society in Exeter Hall, London, May 16, 1838. Assaad Yokob Riyat, a native Syrian, stated that in attempting the conversion of the Mohomedans, the greatest difficulty arose from the question being asked him, "Do not Christians drink strong liquors and get drunk?"

Total abstinence from wine, enjoined upon the Nazarites at all times, and upon the priests during their ministrations, appears to me to be a strong intimation of the unsuitableness of wine to those who wish to aim at perfection.—*Hartley.*

Among the Hindoos, the words Christianity and drunkenness are synonymous terms, and the word Christian is commonly made use of as a reproach to all drunkards. In France too, when a drunken man is seen staggering through the streets, it is common to hear some one exclaim, "ce n'est qu'un Anglais!" There is also more drunkenness in Bombay, amongst one European regiment, than the whole 210,000 native troops.

#### *Extinction of tribes resulting from it.*

"We were once," says a Chippewa chief, in a letter to Lord Goderich, "We were once very numerous, and owned all Upper Canada, and lived by hunting and fishing, but the white men who came to trade with us, taught our fathers to drink the fire-waters, which has made our people so poor and sick, and has killed many tribes, till we have become very small. This testimony is fully borne out by the Parliamentary Report on the Aboriginal Tribes of North America. "The Copper Indians, through ill management, intemperance, and vice, are said to have decreased within the last five years to one half of their number. Nor is the language of the Rev. Mr. Ellis less remarkable. "The depopulation of the South Sea Islands has been most fearful," he says, "and is traceable, in a great measure, to the demoralization arising from European intercourse—the introduction of ardent spirits and fire-arms. It is accordingly declared by no fewer than forty-five physicians, in a single province of the United States, that "Alcohol is as decidedly a poison as arsenic, operating sometimes more slowly, but with equal certainty.

#### *Desecration of the Sabbath resulting from it.*

It is a fact, that on an average there are forty thousand persons employed every Lord's day in the breweries and distilleries of Great Britain, attending to one or other of the processes necessary to furnish intoxicating liquors."

From Saturday night to Sunday night there is a great increase of drunkenness, and its consequences which, together with the amount of evil already spoken of in a former part of this essay, shews a fearful desecration of the Sabbath in every way.

#### *Loss of souls resulting from it.*

Hundreds every year die drunk; and, therefore, die in the commission of a crime which prevents the possibility of repentance. B. H. Fitzgerald, Mayor of Limerick says, I have held about one hundred and forty inquests since the first October, and I can safely affirm that half that number were caused either directly or indirectly by intoxicating liquors. There were eight cases of death by drowning, while in a state of intoxication; several by burning while do; many from apoplexy, &c.; and within a short period of each other, four persons committed suicide while under its hellish influence; but thank God, a brighter prospect is now dawning.

Nor can we forget the testimony of Mr. Wakely, editor of the *Lancet*, and Coroner for the county of Middlesex, an excellent chemist, and a physician of no mean order. "Gin," says he, "is the best friend that I have; it causes me to have annually a

thousand more inquests than I should otherwise hold. I have reason to believe that from 10,000 to 15,000 persons die in London every year, from the effects of gin-drinking, on whom no inquests are held. Since I have been Coroner, I have seen so many suicides and murders in consequence of ardent spirits, that I am confident the Legislature will, before long, be obliged to interfere with respect to the sale of liquor containing alcohol."

#### *Temperance Address,*

BY DR. BEADLE OF ST. CATHERINES.

On entering the temperance ranks, and surveying the wide field of contest, it is cheering to discover one important achievement. I mean the abandonment of intemperance by all its advocates. Not that I have the pleasure of saying there is no more intemperate drinking, but that there remain none so vile as to openly justify it. All who now abet it, hide themselves under what they call "a temperate use." It is, therefore, on this ground that I purpose to meet them.

I do not design to cavil about the meaning or extent of the term *temperate use*; but to show the effect of intoxicating drinks upon the human system in any quantity, however small, that can become a subject of consideration as a beverage for a person in health. A state of health then first requires our attention, that we may be the better able to discover any deviation from that standard. This state varies in many particulars according to age and other incidental circumstances. We shall select for the exemplification of our subject a person in the vigor of life, the organs of whose body are performing all their appropriate functions. This is supposing a person free from pain, unnatural excitement, &c. &c., and in perfect possession of all the faculties of the mind. We will also suppose the flow of blood to be seventy-five pulsations in a minute. This delineation, although brief and defective, may be sufficient for our purpose.

Let such a man take a "temperate beverage" of intoxicating drink in a quantity only sufficient to increase the circulation of the blood one pulsation in a minute. In health it was seventy-five, it is now seventy-six. Is this still to be called health? Let me illustrate. Take a clock that makes precisely sixty vibrations in a minute, accelerate its motion one tick, and is it still a good time-keeper? No one who has not been drinking will pretend it. And will any then persist in saying that the pulse may be increased from seventy-five to seventy-six without a proportionate deviation from health? Perhaps some may persuade themselves into an opinion as absurd as this, especially if they have a wish to take a few drops of the "pure stuff," and for the benefit of such let us test it.

If the pulse may be increased without harm from seventy-five to seventy-six, by the same rule may it not be raised to seventy-seven? And if to seventy-seven, why not to one hundred, or one hundred and twenty. But it may be said that so great an increase would produce head-ache, thirst, delirium, and every other symptom of fever. True these may be the consequences, and is not all this sufficient evidence that raising the pulse from seventy-five to seventy-six is an approximation to disease?

It may, however, be said, that although "a temperate use" of intoxicating drinks may tend to disease, it is not certain that it will invariably make drunkards. This is true, but it is equally certain that none become drunkards who do not first drink a little. When we see drunkards spring from any origin except a "temperate use," we may truly expect to "gather grapes of thorns, and figs of thistles." We are not certain when the serpent deposits its eggs in the sand that they will all hatch; but such as do, we are sure will prove snakes. And if we compare the number of drunkards with the number of "temperate users," have we not reason to fear there are but few addle eggs in the nest?

These few reflections unavoidably bring home to the temperate drinkers all that fearful amount of responsibility which is the result of intemperance; and here, under ordinary circumstances it would be no presumption, in the language of the lawyer, to "rest our case," but as every effort is made to evade even matters of fact, I shall now endeavour to show why the "temperate use" of intoxicating drinks naturally produces intemperance.

This part of my subject is rendered difficult to elucidate, from the circumstance that the great principle of nature by which intoxicating drinks become so formidable has not, so far as I am aware, yet received a name; and before I proceed to speak of this principle, I shall set forth this difficulty by directing your attention to the mariner's compass. We see the needle vibrating,