

are, in most cases, the dire effect of intemperance. A gentleman lately told me that out of twenty-seven bad debts recorded on his books, eighteen, or two-thirds, had been contracted by persons who were addicted to drinking; and therefore had robbed their creditors, and given the money to the wine merchant. Besides the property actually wasted in these poisons, tradesmen, beguiled by the excitement they produce, look at many an undertaking under the blind stimulus of what they call a moderate glass, and speculate, to the ruin of themselves, and those who were foolish enough to trust them. Let abstinence be adopted, and the vices and extravagances which intemperance engenders or cherishes will be abandoned, men will live within their means; will use their reason and foresight in trade; and then the names of insolvents will rarely appear in the columns of the *Gazette*.

There is not the shadow of a doubt but the greater part of the pauperism which now taxes the country is the effect of drinking. There are very few but might have provided for themselves, or would have been provided for by their relatives and friends, if the funds necessary for these purposes had not been spent in intoxicating drinks. Should total abstinence prevail, natural affection and providence and foresight will be the characteristic of all classes: and then parents will not doom their children, nor children their parents, to the mercy of a poor-house or overseer. Men will no longer lie under the reproach of being less provident and prudent than the insignificant ant which they trample in the dust with so much disdain; and thus an increased value will be given to property, and, at the same time, the comfort, happiness, and independence of all classes will be augmented.

It can scarcely be requisite to mention the crime and corruption which intoxicating drinks occasion at every election. The designing aspirant to power, or office, or emolument, who has neither intellect, principle, knowledge, nor character to recommend him to a seat in Parliament; who, in fact, has no other qualification than that of a few pounds to waste on the rabble and drunken electors in beer; by distributing largely these demoralizing liquors, ousts the honest representative from his well-merited place, and rises to an eminence which enables him to vote away the money, blood, liberties, and morals of the people at pleasure. The history of electioneering drunkenness, and its causes and effects, would open one of the blackest pages in the exploits of corruption; but only induce the people to abstain, and you almost instantly defeat the stratagems of whig, conservative, or radical bribery.

Every one knows how intimately drinking and prostitution—the brothel and the pot-house—are connected together. There is, perhaps, scarcely a holiday-season throughout the year but greatly adds to the lists of

the victims of seduction. Probably there is not a Sabbath evening passes by, without hundreds of the unwary of both sexes being beguiled to those deeds which terminate in ruin. How ill this country, or indeed any country, can afford to have the flower of its citizens worse than slain in the prime of their age; yet the drinking habits of the day are subjecting us to this heavy sacrifice. But let the principles of total abstinence prevail, and then the gin-shop, the ale-house, and the house of ill-fame, will be avoided at the same time. And it should be remembered that, to accomplish this reformation, total abstinence is especially needed; because it is not drunkenness, but moderate drinking, that inflames and arms the prostitute and the seducer. What an increase of trade, also, would immediately be the result of abandoning these destructive liquors! There is not the least doubt but the sum wasted upon these poisons, either directly or indirectly, amounts to twice the value of our present export trade. And it is equally certain, that if our drinking habits were abolished, nearly the whole of this property would be employed and spent in the manufactures, commerce, and agriculture of the country. Our trade would be more than doubled immediately. In fact, total abstinence would produce an effect equal to the instant calling into existence of four or five such countries as the United States of America, and bringing to our market an order from each of them equivalent in value to our present exports to the United States.

We often alarm ourselves lest our arts and manufactures should be learnt by foreign nations, and our export trade should thus be ruined: but the adoption of total abstinence would, by increasing our home consumption, more than double the demand for whatever useful articles our markets at present supply, and thus render us independent of foreign trade altogether. This assertion may appear startling to some; but it is only far such to consider the immense waste and expenditure connected with drinking, to perceive that facts most fully substantiate this estimation. And when we contemplate the misery and vice, which, in numberless instances, are connected with poverty; and the comfort, morality, and happiness, which must be the consequence of having full employment for all the people, then the duty of total abstinence assumes, in the breast of every patriot, the character of a most imperative obligation.

It is now generally admitted that the education of the people is a most desirable object; and schools are erected in most parts of the country; still who is there that does not lament over the numbers of children who are kept from these charitable institutions? And if we inquire into the cause of this, we shall in many, probably in most cases, find, that the intemperance, or the