

enjoyment required—though in reality the sacrifice is very slight, as all who have tried the experiment find themselves better in health without those stimulating drinks than with them, and are consequently more happy—there is another important purpose to which the saving of the immense sum squandered in useless drinks might be applied—might be immediately and most advantageously applied.

One of the great evils under which this country, like every other in Europe, is suffering, is the vast number of persons who, having no employment by which they can earn their bread, become paupers, beggars, or thieves, by necessity; while thousands of even those who can obtain work are so scantily paid, that they have not the means of procuring sufficient food, raiment, or fuel, while their children are reared up in rags, filth, and ignorance.

Think for a moment, what a happy revolution it would be for all this large suffering class, abounding in every town and parish, and increasing every year, if the £50,000,000 per annum, thus wasted and lost, could be saved, or diverted from its present pernicious application into the giving employment, in productive agricultural labor, draining and cultivating all the bogs and wastes of Ireland, Scotland, and England, increasing the supplies of food and clothing for all—building healthy and comfortable cottages for the laborers—establishing schools for gratuitous education of the poor—asylums for the aged and infirm—and employing every individual able and willing to earn his bread by labor throughout the country. Think of such a blessed and bloodless victory as this, and I am sure you will be disposed to hasten it with all your power.

Or if this should be insufficient to absorb the whole of our unemployed population at home, what a magnificent fund might be formed out of these savings from intoxicating drinks, to defray the expense of emigration for the young and healthy persons of both sexes, who are most anxious to seek a new home in our fertile colonies, but have no means, either to pay the cost of their voyage, or to furnish themselves with the necessary materials for pursuing their avocations when they arrive there; in consequence of which, we see the melancholy and contradictory spectacle, of millions of acres of the most fertile land lying idle for want of cultivators in our colonies, and millions of hands lying idle at home for want of occupation, wanting only the money requisite to bring both into contact; the government declaring itself to be too poor to furnish the funds, and the community, who possess more than sufficient for the purpose, squandering £50,000,000 sterling a year in useless and pernicious drinks—a sum that would amply provide transport, land, and sufficient capital to commence its tillage, for a million of unemployed persons as emigrants every year.

Here then is a "Financial Reform" in every man's power, and the benefit of which would be a hundredfold greater, in its collateral consequences, than any other reform that could be thought of. No new charter of liberty, whether of five points or of ten—no improved constitution of government yet proposed, not even the abolition of war, fearful as is that scourge—nor all the other reforms, of colonial emancipation, improved prison discipline, voluntary education, universal suffrage, vote by ballot, or all the political changes advocated from time to time by every party, would effect anything like the benefit, in so short a time, as would the simultaneous and voluntary relinquishment of a practice more productive of wasteful expenditure, of generated diseases, of poverty, want, crime, and misery, than all other causes put together.

Does any one pretend to disbelieve this? Let him consult the evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee appointed to inquire into the subject, and its Report laid before the House of Commons in 1834, or let him ask the judges of the land, the guardians of the poor, the keepers of prisons and lunatic asylums, the magistrates of police, the teachers of religion, or any other class who have extensive experience in the habits of the population, and they will all confirm the fact, that besides the wasteful expenditure of £50,000,000 per annum in drinks which medical science, and the experience of millions, have proved to be wholly unnecessary for either health or strength, more than half the misery of the working people, of the embarrassments and bankruptcies of the middle classes, and of the vicious propensities and crimes of all ranks arise from the use of stimulating and intoxicating drinks. But in addition to the wasteful expenditure of £50,000,000, in their cost, the use of these drinks occasions a loss of time, and of the wealth which this time industriously employed

would produce, as well as a destruction of life and property beyond all calculation, besides being the most prolific source of the poor rates, the pence rates, the costs of our hospitals, lunatic asylums, jails, hulks, and penal colonies; since it is the use of these drinks which engenders the recklessness, indolence, theft, prostitution, and crime, which fill all these establishments, and require such enormous expense for their maintenance, making the whole cost to the nation exceed £100,000,000 at the very least, and leaving all other branches of financial extravagance and waste quite in the shade!

If it be said, that those who make only a moderate use of these intoxicating drinks, do not contribute to the evils thus described, they deceive themselves; because, besides contributing, in whatever proportion their consumption may be, to the wasteful expenditure, and to the sinful conversion of wholesome fruit, nutritious grain, sugar, and other valuable substances of food, into pernicious drinks, and thus lessening the quantity of sustenance available for the nourishment of the poor; their example, in making even a moderate use of these drinks, encourages and excuses their less intelligent countrymen, as they constantly refer to such examples for the justification of their own practice.

There may, possibly, be some, let us hope they are but few, who may say, "Why should I be called upon to make a sacrifice of my personal comforts and enjoyments, because others are unable to restrain themselves within the bounds of moderation?" The answer to such persons will be very brief, namely, "That the whole theory of the Christian religion is based on the principle of our so loving one another, as to be ready to make any sacrifice of our superfluities that may be required to supply our fellow creature's necessities." This, too, is the basis of all philanthropy, benevolence, and patriotism. No man can be truly said to be a Christian, whose bowels of compassion do not yearn towards a suffering fellow-being. No man can have the least claim to the title of benevolent, who is not willing to deprive himself of some enjoyment, if by so doing he can add to the happiness of others. And as for patriotism, how can any man pretend to that virtue, who does not love his countrymen as well as his country, or who can see his fellow-townsmen perish from hunger and nakedness, or live a life of drunkenness and misery, without stretching forth a hand to save him? Whether as Christians, philanthropists, or patriots, therefore, our duty is clear, if we claim to be either, and would support it by our conduct; if not, it is mere hypocrisy to pretend to these titles, and we should therefore either practise this Christian virtue, of making some sacrifice for the good of others, or relinquish all claim to the honor and credit of the Christian name.

Since, then, the entire abolition of the use of these drinks would save £50,000,000 a year in money uselessly spent, and at least £50,000,000 a year more, in time saved, and property rescued from destruction, as well as in the saving of the expenses of maintaining the paupers and criminals degraded by their use, making in the whole £100,000,000 a year, or ten times the amount you propose to cut off from the national expenditure, I am sure you cannot fail to see, that the language you have applied to the "Liverpool Financial Reform Association," on the abolition of the malt tax, would apply with tenfold force to this self-composed branch of useless and pernicious drinks; namely, that as by this expenditure "the supply of bread-corn is considerably decreased," (there being upwards of 8,000,000 of quarters of grain annually destroyed as food, by distillation and brewing, to say nothing of rice, sugar, and other grains in our colonies,) "and the comforts of the people, and the wealth of the country, greatly impaired," our National Budget would be wholly undeserving the name, if it did not include its total repeal."

#### SOIREE, I. O. O. F. R.

The Spring of Canada and Britannia Tents, the first and last Tents organized in this city, having formed themselves into one Tent, under the name of Samaritan Tent, with the view of more efficiently carrying out the principles of the Order, celebrated the event, on the evening of the 25th instant, by a tea meeting. The interest of the occasion was considerably enhanced, by the presence of a Rev. Brother of the Order, the Rev. Mr. Scott, Philpott, as well as the proximity of the day, (27th May) upon which we usually celebrate the introduction of the Order