

ness) tried by those courts were collated with those tried by the higher tribunals, it is quite probable that even at this day the proportion of four-fifths given by Sir Matthew Hale would be found to be correct.

The records of the prisons, which embrace all grades of crime, are more likely, therefore, to be accurate in their estimate of the proportion which, wholly or in part, grows out of the use of intoxicating drinks. A late Inspector of English prisons says: "I am within the truth when I state that in four cases out of five, where an offence has been committed, intoxicating drink has been one of the causes." And the Chaplain of the Preston House of Correction (an English prison) said: "Nine-tenths of the English crime requiring to be dealt with by law, arises from the English sin which the law scarcely discourages."

In 1875, a Committee of the House of Commons of Canada reported that out of 28,289 condemned to the jails of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec during the three previous years, 21,236 were committed either for drunkenness or for crimes perpetrated under the influence of drink; and the report of the State Board of Charities of Massachusetts for 1869 declared that "the proportion of crime traceable to this great vice must be set down, as heretofore, at not less than four-fifths;" and the Inspector of State Prisons of that State gave the same proportions. In 1874 the Board of Police Justices of New York city in their official report said: "We are fully satisfied that intoxication is the one great leading cause that renders the existence of our Police Courts necessary." An examination of later reports will fully justify the facts and conclusions above quoted; but these earlier figures have been purposely chosen, because they cannot justly be said to have been affected by the later and more general agitation of the subject of temperance. The action of the New York Grand Jury for October, 1884, is, however, so *apropos* that it might well be cited. In its report to the Court, the Grand Jury declared that nearly all the cases of homicide passed upon by them were committed in drinking-saloons when the actors were under the influence of strong drink; and the report comments unfavorably on the non-enforcement of the Excise laws.

To ascertain the true relations of intemperance to the crimes triable only in the higher courts doubtless requires a classification to some extent of those crimes.

Of murders and manslaughters the proportion would probably fall within that stated by Chief Baron Kelly, those crimes being often instigated by other causes, such as hate, avarice, jealousy and revenge. And yet the late Dr. Harris, Corresponding Secretary of the Prison Association, states that of seventeen cases of murder separately examined by him fourteen were instigated by intoxicating drinks. It is a rare thing in cases of homicide to find one that is not directly or re-