

or religion, the army or navy ; it costs England and America a sum sufficient to support 50,000 ministers, with a salary of 1,000 dollars, or more than 100,000 missionaries. The students in one college pay more than 6,000 dollars for cigars yearly. It weaves a winding-sheet around 20,000 in our land every year." The annual expenditure for tobacco in the United States is set down at \$30,000,000. \$5,000,000 of it is charged to members of the churches ! while only \$6,000,000 is paid for ministers.

The Internal Revenue Report of the United States government for the fiscal year ending June, 1876, instructs us that the amount of government taxation from the whole country for cigars, tobacco and snuff, during 1876, was \$39,795,339. The number of cigars on which duties were paid in the same period was almost two thousand millions. Adding to these one hundred and ten millions of pounds of tobacco, manufactured for smoking and chewing, and we have an amount of actual losses and wastes from this tobacco indulgence of not less than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars a year. It is hardly necessary to add that this enormous burden is one chief cause of abounding pauperism and vagabondage.

But surely Methodists—the people who of all others talk most about self-denial, and mortifying the lusts of the flesh—are not guilty of so much wastefulness ? Let however the following statistics speak concerning the matter. By a competent authority it has been conjectured that the great M. E. Church of the United States consumes annually about \$13,000,000 worth of tobacco, while they raise, all told, about \$500,000 annually for missionary purposes, or an average of forty-three cents per member. At the late New England Methodist Episcopal Conference held in Massachusetts, 1877, Bishop Harris is said to have expressed the opinion that "the Methodist Church spends more for chewing and smoking than it gives towards converting the world." This is a sad statement to make of a large religious body.