

last year spent \$81 per family for strong drink; and poor, distracted Ireland \$52 per family. Let us cross the Atlantic. How does license restrict in the United States? Fifteen gallons *per capita* are consumed, or four times as much *per capita* as in 1840. The New York *Independent* says "the drink bill of the nation is more than \$2,000,000 a day, for every day in the year. The drinking usages of the American people constitute far the most serious evil in the land." In New York under license they have 4,000 more places for the sale of liquor than for the sale of food, including all the bakeries, butcher-shops and groceries. Beautiful restriction that! In Boston they have a bar-room for every 100 of the population. Again a fine showing for license, and so in other places.

BREAKERS AHEAD.

Not least among the dangers of the traffic is its tremendous and constantly increasing political power. Already it controls the municipal affairs of most of the large cities, and openly boasts of its power. And woe to the man who by fair deeds, and respect for the law and his oath of office, incites the enmity of the traffic. He is crushed without mercy and a more pliant figure-head set up in his place. Miss Willard expresses the calm, sober judgment of many of the most far-seeing statesmen and philanthropists of the United States, when she says "the experiment of free government

in our large towns and cities is a failure loudly confessed." Rev. Dr. Josiah Strong, in his book, "Our Country," is still more emphatic. He says, p. 78, "the alternative, then, seems simple, clear, certain, that civilization must destroy the liquor traffic or be destroyed by it." The eminent Joseph Cook strongly holds the same views.

The force of these statements is in no way weakened by the results of high license wherever tried. High license may, for a short time, lessen the number of liquor sellers, but any amount of conclusive evidence can be submitted to prove that it has never lessened the quantity of liquor consumed: or consequently the resulting evils. The reverse is true. High license invariably gives compactness, power and permanence to the traffic; and thus increases drunkenness and crime. The Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* (Oct. 20th, 1890) says "it is one of the most notorious facts of the day, frankly admitted by all intelligent observers, and fully confirmed in every particular by the wholesale liquor and beer men, that there is not one drop less of their wares consumed since the passage of the Brooks High License Act." The wholesale liquor men are all advocates of high license. They understand their own interests, and their testimony is conclusive that high license increases the consumption of liquor.