The plea for this guilty complicity in the traffic of souls, is that the revenue, forsooth, would suffer by its suppression.

> " The excise is fattened with the rich result
> Of all this riot.   The ten thousand casks,
> Forever dribbling out their base contents,
> Touched by the Midas finger of the State,
> Bleed gold for Parliament to vote away.
> Drink and be mad, then, 'tis your country bids ;
> Gloriously drunk—obey the important call :
> Her cause demands the assistance of your throats.
> Ye all can swallow, and she asks no more."

In the first place, it is a mistaken notion, as has been abundantly shown, that the budget of the country is aided by the liquor traffic.   Although the revenue derived from the excise and customs' duty on liquor is large, when we consider the immense *contra* account, representing the cost of the pauperism and of the repression of crime caused by the traffic, as well as the perversion of capital from productive industries, there will be found an enormous balance of loss, instead of gain.

The Rev. John Wesley puts this very clearly in a letter addressed to the Right Hon. Wm. Pitt, dated Sept. 6, 1784. The excise on spirits, that year, amounted to £20,000. " But have not the spirits distilled," he says, "cost 20,000 lives of his Majesty's liege subjects ?   Is not, then, the blood of these men vilely bartered for £20,000—not to say anything of the enormous wickedness which has been occasioned thereby, and not to suppose that these poor wretches had any souls ?   But to consider money alone, is the King a gainer or an immense loser? To say nothing of millions of quarters of corn *destroyed*, which, if exported, would add more than £20,000 to the revenue, be it considered *dead men pay no taxes;* so that by the death of 20,000 persons yearly (and this computation is far under the mark) the revenue loses far more than it gains."

This was also shown from the fact that when, in consequence of Father Mathews' temperance labours in Ireland, the revenue from liquors fell off £300,000, that, from the taxable increase of