The Serpent's Trail.

RESULTS OF LICENSED RUIN AND RUM.

Sorrow, Suffering, Sin and Shame—Misery, Madness and Murder—Terrible Tales of the Traffic in Crime—The Wretchedness, Brutality and Degradation Through which Christian(?) Communities Raise a Revenue.

Murder and Suicide Through Drink.

On Wednesday morning, of this week a fearful tragedy, growing out of drink, was enacted in the town of Galt. John Currie, a carpenter and barn builder, a skilful workman when he was not under the influence of strong drink, had been on a spree for sometime. He had committed an assault about a week ago upon his father-in-law, and a warrant was out for his arrest. Early on the morning named he purchased a revolver, went into the office of Mr. Henry Main, banker, shot him dead, and crossing the street to a tavern-shed, committed suicide with the same weapon Mr Main was a gentleman widely known and respected, over 50 years of age. There is no doubt whatever that strong drink was the inciting cause of the fearful tragedy. Each of the men leaves a wife and four little children.

"Down With the Sunday"

Has High License made the liquor-traffic less aggressive, or more moral in the city of Chicago? Is the public tone improving under the operation? Perhaps an answer may be read in the following ordinance which was recently adopted by the council of that great city which is supposed to be vastly benefited by the High License system. "*That the sale of beer and native* wine on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, be and the same is hereby permitted. That all ordinances and parts of ordinances conflicting with this ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed."

Poisoned with Alcohol.

A dispatch, published in a daily of the 4th inst., states that: "A few weeks ago a number of canvassers came to Dixon pretending to represent the grocery house of John Devlin & Co. of Chicago. They canvassed the surrounding country and took a good many orders for groceries, etc. With these orders they also took orders for high-wines, to be shipped with the groceries. Parties in Pine Creek township bought largely of the highwines, and the result is that Abraham Morrison died yesterday, and two more victims are reported to have died last night. Mr Morrison was a married man and leaves a wife and six children The rest of the victims, six in number, not out of danger, are young men."

What They Want.

Something of what the liquor-sellers want may be gathered from the following paragraph, which was published recently in the Chicago *Champion*, a recognized organ of the whisky party of the Western States:—"As the Champion of Freedom and Right we demand: (1) For all citizens the enjoyment of the Personal, Civil, and Religious Liberty guaranteed to us by the Constitution of the United States, and of every individual State. (2) We demand for the manufacturer of and dealer in beer, wine and alcoholic spirits the same protection and privileges which are accorded to every other branch of industry and commerce in every State of our Union (3) We oppose and battle against the grand Prohibition humbug seeking to destroy the liquor traffic in the whole United States, and it is our special endeavor to bring into life protective liquor-dealers' associations in every State, county, city and town, for the purpose of resisting the enactment of State laws unjustly or oppressively restrictive of the liquor traffic, and for mutual aid and protection. (4) We also hope yet to unite all the State Associations in one grand National Protective Liquor Dealers' Association."

One More Unfortunate.

A dispatch from Seattle, Washington Territory, to the New York *Herald*, says:—"The body of a woman was found on the beach a few days ago It was identified soon after as that of a woman who had registered as Mrs. F. Mauger, of Tacoma, whence she arrived December 22 under the influence of liquor. Her story, which has since transpired, is a sad one. She was a good-looking brunette, about forty years old, was the daughter of a New Yorker, and was highly educated. One brother-in-law was a prominent lawyer in New York, another is a prosperous Chicago merchant. When quite young the woman became the wife of a merchant in San Francisco. Drink led to her fall. The first disaster was separation from her husband. Then in 1879 she married a gambler named George Chapman, with whom she went to the Sound. She met Frank Mauger in 1885, ran away with him, and finally, in October last, was left by him at Los Angeles on account of her drunken ways. Mauger left $200 in a bank for her there, and left also an affectionate letter. The two came together again at Tacoma, but drink again wrecked such happiness as they had Mauger fled, and the sad story ended on the beach."

Increasing Business.

What are Christian nations not doing for the degradation and ruin of their fellows. In a recent article in the London *Times* it is stated that:—"In the two principal manufactures of Dublin, porter and whisky, there has been a large increase, as shown by the exports. In porter they amounted to 405,000 hogsheads, an increase of 15,000 hogsheads over those of last year, chiefly owing to the extended trade of Guinness & Co The exports of whisky were also larger. They amounted to 5,700 puncheons, 11,500 hogsheads, 1,100 casks, 7,200 quarter casks, 620 octaves, and 120,000 cases

In New South Wales

From every part of the world comes the same sad story of the awful ruin wrought by the drink curse. In a late number the London *Lancet* says.—"We have lately remarked with pain on the drinking habits of some of our colonies, notably of New South Wales A Royal Commission has been occupied for many months in taking evidence on this subject, and arrives at conclusions which should excite the concern of every inhabitant of the colony. The premier colony has the distinction of drinking more intoxicating drink, and that of a worse quality, than almost any other English speaking community in the world. This is a bad distinction, which the following figures seem to confirm. The drink bill of the United States per head is £1 13s. 6d, of New Zealand £3, of the United Kingdom £3 7s. 10d., of Victoria £4 13s. 11d, of New South Wales £5 14s' In the city of Sydney alone there are said to be 3,000 persons known to be habitual and absolutely hopeless drunkards Dr. Maurice O'Connor, visiting surgeon of Darlinghurst Gaol, gave evidence that of 34,266 persons in six years and a half, 5,685 were under actual medical treatment for diseases caused by drink We are informed that not only does the colony drink more than other similar communities, but that it drinks much more than it did twenty years ago. The best symptom we read of is that the commissioners and the working classes are decidedly in favor of a restriction on the number of public-houses, and the entire prohibition of Sunday traffic. There is a law for Sunday closing, but it is shamefully evaded. One explanation for this sad state of things is perhaps the number of single colonists with little home life or comfort. But nothing can justify such drinking, or the community which, in the name of liberty, sanctions it. Ministers of religion and members of the medical profession should combine to amend a state of matters so fatal to health and morals.

The Genuine Article.

How ready people are to be humbugged, and what fools people do make of themselves in their professed ability to judge of liquors, etc., professing special favor for certain brands of ported spirits and paying often a good high price for the privilege of airing their silliness. To all *lovers of "Prime French Spirits,"* we recommend the following extract from a recent report of Vice-Consul R S. Warburton, who was stationed at La Rochelle:—"It has come to my knowledge that extensive frauds are being carried on at the expense of English buyers of French brandy, who do not know so much about it, by sending over from this country as cognac spirits of an inferior and unwholesome kind made from potatoes in Germany, and which, if anyone cared to drink it, they might do much better by buying themselves for what it is, at its proper value. If this stuff were sent to England direct from Germany it would be suspected, and, therefore, the fraud is carried out in the following manner - A firm engaged in the brandy trade in London will have a branch house, or perhaps an agent, at Hamburg, or some other place where this potato spirit is made. They do not send it direct to England, but get it sent to Bordeaux or some other French seaport in its proper character, and apparently for consumption in France, but, in reality, with the object of concealing its origin, and enabling it to travel by land to districts where cognac is still produced, and thence to some port well known as an export port for brandy, whence, after a more or less long stay, it is sent over to the house in London as 'Cognac,' either on the authority of the bills of lading, or in some cases actually re-marked as such before being put on board ship."

Drink's Dread Deluge Denounced.

The *Catholic Temperance Advocate*, organ of the Catholic Total Abstinence Society of the United States, comments forcibly upon a recent drink-death, in the following terms:—"Some days ago at Louisville, Ky., Mrs. Anna Weber of that city was found dead in a sitting posture, on a stump at the North side of the National park She had wandered from home the previous evening in a state of intoxication, and having lost her way, succumbed to the damnable poison, that has caused more ruin and desolation than all the wars that ever devasted the earth's surface.

Such is the horrible news which was flashed over the wires, adding another to the countless indictments that are daily, nay hourly recorded before God's tribunal against those who traffic in that which robs God of the souls redeemed by the blood of His divine Son. The unfortunate woman whose life was sacrificed to the demon of drink, was the mother of eleven children, and her husband, the account assures us was both sober and industrious.

What a lesson is herein contained for him who is a constant patron of these "Roads to Hell," and what a fruitful source of reflection for him who calls himself a moderate drinker and who sneers at those who are engaged in the glorious work of endeavoring to "stamp out," the only obstacle to worldly happiness, and the most dangerous foe of men's eternal salvation. The world's civilization may yet be compelled to adopt heroic measures to protect itself against the ravages of this deadly foe. The saloon keeper is a pirate who preys upon the peace and happiness of his brother. He respects neither age, sex or condition in life, and revels in fiendish glee over the misery he creates He is the enemy of Society, the destroyer of homes, the patron of evil, the open and defiant foe of law and order, and the most powerful agent of the Devil in dragging souls to hell.

STAMP HIM OUT

Great Britain's Awful Record

The *Alliance News* for January 14th, 21st, and 28th, records the death at Limehouse of James Henry Bamford, a commercial traveller, who died through drunkenness; a brutal assault by John Mason on a police constable at London, the constable being very severely injured, the sudden death in the police cells at Liverpool of James Joyce, a drunken prisoner, 70 years of age, the death through delirium tremens of a coachman named John Paisley, in the same place, the stabbing at Manchester of a man by a drunken woman named Margaret Caffrey; the death through excessive drinking, in the same town, of James Stokes, the shocking abuse, in London, of his little boy by Henry Moore, the death through drunkenness, at Liverpool., of a labourer named Arthur Donelly, a brutal fight at Liverpool, in which Michael Faux seriously wounded another young man, the death at Manchester of Catherine Rosetter, who fell down stairs while drunk; the sudden death at Gateshead of Terence Smith, a cattle drover, who had been drinking heavily; the death, at Westminster, of Mrs. Gibbs, who was run over by a drunken van driver, the drowning, at Bootle, of Richard Moss who was found in a pit of water after a night's debauch, the death through burning of a woman whose room took fire and she was too helplessly drunk to walk out of it, the death at Liverpool of George Todd, a butcher who died from delirium tremens, at the same place, the death of George Barnfather through apoplexy brought on by excessive drinking; the brutal abuse, in a drunken quarrel, of James Delaney, resulting in his death a few days after, the death through drinking whisky of Mary Mable Pryce, aged five, at Newton Montgomery, the falling down stairs while intoxicated of Michael Nolan at Manchester, and his death from the effects of the accident, the trial at Westminster police court of Rev. George Burcroft Butterfield, for drunkenness and vagrancy; the reckless discharge of firearms of a drunken man, John Hollis, at Bootle, the death by alcoholic poisoning of Sarah Newland, at Leeds; brutal abuse of his wife by a drunken pensioner named James Gough, at Liverpool; the suicide at Falmouth of Rear-Admiral Louis Hutton Vesturmo, who thrust a red hot poker into his body after a spree, declaring that whisky was the cause of his trouble. Besides these named there are recorded other heart-sickening cases of neglect of children through the drunkenness of the parents, and there is published a letter to the *North British Daily Mail* from a correspondent who says. "I have been well nigh two decades a reader of the *Mail*, but I cannot recall a New Year season during that long period in which there has appeared in your columns so many lamentable cases of death through drinking in Glasgow and district. I only allude to cases where the evidence is clear, that had the unfortunate individual been sober death would not have resulted. It is well known that many deaths through drinking take place that are not recorded in the newspapers. From the South Side three cases were reported in the *Mail* on Monday—two men and a woman; on same day a man in Falkirk On Tuesday Wednesday, and Thursday, no fewer than eight cases were reported—seven males and one female. Two of these cases were of young persons— one, a boy of five, emptied a bottle of whisky which had been left at hand, and was poisoned; the other, a boy, 14, was found dead by his companions; he had been drinking and lay down to sleep, but could not be awakened. This is a death-roll of twelve persons through drink.

How They Hinder.

As a fair specimen of the difficulties which Scott Act enforcers have to encounter, and the technicalities on which violators of the law sometimes escape the punishment they deserve, we call attention to the following statement taken from last week's *Leeds and Grenville Independent*.—"Last week one Warren, a hotel-keeper of Kemptville, who had been serving a term of imprisonment in Brockville gaol, was liberated by an order from the superior court, and his sentence annulled The circumstances as far as we can learn are these —The summons for infraction of the Scott Act was left at his house as he was in hiding, and upon that service he was twice convicted, and P. M Judd sent him to Brockville for two months. The higher court holds that the service of the summons was insufficient and that it must be served upon the defendant personally This new decision is a great draw-back, and will make the act more difficult to enforce, as the principal in a violation of the law may successfully evade service, while his agents may do the selling. There will doubtless be further developments in this phase of the law before many days."

Rhode Island on the Road.

From the Detroit *Center*, a sturdy prohibition journal, we learn that our friends in the little state "have just held their best meeting since the adoption of the constitutional amendment—the state committee and other workers holding joint conference The action on the national financial question was prompt and cordial, the city of Providence alone agreeing to furnish one-half of the desired $2,000; many towns pledged from $5 to $100 each A state organizer was voted. The state committee has called a convention to meet in Providence Feb. 29 to nominate state officers for the election of April 4, and to elect delegates for the Presidential convention. Rhode Island is on the road not with a whiskey band wagon, but steadily marching and working for the saloon's destruction."

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