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## AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT

We earnestly advise our readers to peruse this article carefully. It is worthy of deep consideration.—(Editor's Sos.)

The Presentment of the Grand Jury of Philadelphia, handed in last month to the Court of Quarter Sessions for that city, contains such an effective argument in favor of prohibition, that we shall present the greater part of it as one leading article this week.

The Jurors in their presentment say:

We have been in session twenty-six days, and passed upon six hundred and eighty-two bills—five hundred and twenty-four of which were returned true.

The Grand Inquest could not fail to perceive the lamentable effects of intoxicating liquors in every step of their progress. They have no doubt that they are the most potent cause of poverty, wretchedness and crime. Indeed they have no hesitation in declaring that three-fourths of all the mischiefs that afflict the community, are the immediate or remote effects of Alcoholic Liquors. There are 2126 licensed taverns for retailing ardent spirits, located so as to suit the convenience of all. We have also 1241 licensed beer houses. These together make 3367 places licensed to accommodate our citizens with liquor. If we allow one-half of this number for unlicensed places, viz: 1683, it will give us altogether 5050 places where we can exchange our money for intoxicating drinks. Our object is to show that it ought not to be matter of surprise that so much mischief is produced by our present license system. And we are not left to conjecture in this matter: we have positive data for our conclusions. During our visit to the County Prison, we were informed by the officers and directors that the commitments this year would probably amount to 12,000. And that four-fifths of them have heretofore been occasioned by intoxicating liquors. This would give us the number of 9600. Again, in our visit to the Alms-houses, we were told by the officers that three-fourths of their inmates were reduced to poverty from the same cause. Their average number last year was 1853,—three-fourths of this number would be 1389. Here, then, we have positive evidence from these two Institutions, that our groggeries have ruined nearly 11,000 men and women. But this is not all. The Mayor's Clerk has kindly furnished us with the Turnkey's report for 1853, by which it appears that of 9112 prisoners, 3618 were committed for intoxication, and 4034 for crime induced by intoxicating liquors. The gentleman alluded to, remarks, that 'we have occasional calls from poor fellows, to draw up a pledge for them to swear and sign, that by some binding operation of this kind, they may feel resolute enough to resist temptation. More frequently calls are made at the office, to be sent to prison for thirty days, begging it as an extreme favor, that, being shut up where they cannot get rum, they may thus acquire power to resist temptation to drink. All such appeals are felt to be powerful arguments in favor of total prohibition.'

Our boasted motto for legislation is, 'the greatest good for the greatest number.' We have furnished a small sketch of the good resulting to those who indulge in the stimulants, viz:—the loss of property a prison and an almshouse. We will now proceed to show the amount of good which the greatest number viz:—the tax-payers derive from

the license system. If four-fifths of the commitments to prison be the direct effects of this system, alcoholic liquors, instead of destroying both mental and physical faculties, operated injuriously on the eye only, that every draught weakened the delicate nerve of that organ, until total blindness ensued. From an accurate estimate, the interest of the original cost of the Moyamensing Prison, that, instead of drunken men, we should have our city full of blind men. Some one half blind, and some two-thirds full of blind men. The original cost of the Almshouses property was \$911,505, the interest of which is \$54,690. The amount raised in 1853, for the support of the institution was \$308,356. Three-fourths of the last sums, viz:—\$297,283, is the amount chargeable to the potent cause which we call our Almshouse. The annual expenses of the Court of Quarter Sessions is in round numbers \$32,000. One half of this sum viz:—\$16,000, is a low estimate for the settlement of the quarrels occasioned by our groggeries. The annual expenses of the Consolidated Police is \$100,000. The Mayor's Day and Night Police costs \$127,810. The aggregate expenses of municipal districts for similar purposes, say \$90,000. The ex-Marshall of police, after three years experience was asked what part of the mischief was chargeable to rum. His answer was, three-fifths which we think a low estimate. Three-fifths then of the police expense will amount to \$196,682, making the whole amount chargeable thus far to the account of alcoholic liquors, \$170,593.

The "House of Refuge" is the very best and most useful institution that we have for the reformation of juvenile delinquents. Of the 342, the average number last year, a very large portion have found their way to this school, from the effects either immediately or remotely, of intoxicating liquors. In the report of one of the teachers he observes, that "it is a fact too abundantly corroborated to need further elucidation, that many, who find a refuge in this institution, have inhaled from earliest infancy, an atmosphere fearfully contaminated by the pestiferous miasms of profanity, intemperance and their kindred vices; that they have had their birth in the home of want and suffering, and have been cradled, too frequently in the lap of dissipation, and received their first lesson from unhallowed lips.

The total cost of site, buildings and furniture of the institution is \$347,000. Deducting the amount earned by the boys from the total expenses of the year, it leaves the net cost \$19,515 65c. It would be a moderate estimate to charge our license system \$20,000 annually for this institution. Here the boys can earn \$7,852 75c. per annum, and if a House of Correction could be established, in which the inmates of our prison could be forced to labour it would be a blessing to themselves and the public. In this way the prisons in some of our States afford a revenue to the treasury instead of a drain.

If the above statement be correct \$470,954 must be withdrawn from the pockets of the people annually to pay for protecting society from the crimes and mischiefs occasioned by 3367 places furnishing alcoholic liquors. Poverty, crime and wretchedness, the direct effects of the system, are increasing in a fearful ratio. In 1848 the commitments to the county prison were 4568. Last year they were 11,632. This year they will most probably be 12,000. Now what is the remedy for this terrible scourge? Nothing but a prohibitory law! Some persons have become so familiar with the sight of drunken men, and so long accustomed to the present state of things, that they can scarcely

realize the extent of the evil. But suppose that alcoholic liquors, instead of destroying both mental and physical faculties, operated injuriously on the eye only, that every draught weakened the delicate nerve of that organ, until total blindness ensued. From an accurate estimate, the interest of the original cost of the Moyamensing Prison, that, instead of drunken men, we should have our city full of blind men. Some one half blind, and some two-thirds full of blind men. The original cost of the Almshouses property was \$911,505, the interest of which is \$54,690. The amount raised in 1853, for the support of the institution was \$308,356. Three-fourths of the last sums, viz:—\$297,283, is the amount chargeable to the potent cause which we call our Almshouse. The annual expenses of the Court of Quarter Sessions is in round numbers \$32,000. One half of this sum viz:—\$16,000, is a low estimate for the settlement of the quarrels occasioned by our groggeries. The annual expenses of the Consolidated Police is \$100,000. The Mayor's Day and Night Police costs \$127,810. The aggregate expenses of municipal districts for similar purposes, say \$90,000. The ex-Marshall of police, after three years experience was asked what part of the mischief was chargeable to rum. His answer was, three-fifths which we think a low estimate. Three-fifths then of the police expense will amount to \$196,682, making the whole amount chargeable thus far to the account of alcoholic liquors, \$170,593.

## BENEDICT ARNOLD.

Benedict Arnold was born in Norwich, Conn., in 1740. His father was a man of suspicious integrity and after a successful mercantile life, he became intemperate, lost his property, and was reduced in character to a miserable man. It is presumed the conduct of the father had a pernicious effect on the son, his example being so bad,—unable as he was to exert any suitable parental restraint or moral influence upon young Arnold.

At an early age he was put under the care of a druggist in Norwich, and thus early he exhibited an innate love of mischief, an obduracy of heart, and a disposition to indulge in the most wanton cruelty. He delighted to main young birds within hearing of their mothers, and to scatter broken glass where the school children might cut their feet. As an evidence of his daring and fearless character, he delighted to mount a great water-wheel and astonish people by going under and above the water with it while in motion. After serving his apprenticeship at Norwich where he obtained the reputation of a turbulent unprincipled fellow, he removed to New Haven, and began business as a druggist. Afterwards he engaged in trade with the West Indies, where he fought a duel, but his speculations were bad and he returned to New Haven bankrupt, where he again began business.

In 1775, the news of the battle of Lexington having reached New Haven, Arnold, who was then Captain of a company, assembled his troops on the Green, and harangued them in an exciting manner, calling for volunteers to march with him to Cambridge. About sixty joined him; and when the selectmen refused them arms from the magazine, he resolutely declared he would burst it open. This threat induced compliance, and he and his little band early joined the American army. Soon after his arrival, the subject of invading Ticonderoga and Crown Point was agitated, and Arnold was appointed Colonel. Some difference between him and Colonel Ethan Allen took place as to precedency of command in investigating

those fortresses, but Arnold, with chagrin and much ill-grace, was compelled to yield his claim. He persisted, however, on entering Ticonderoga, when it surrendered, sword in hand, at the side of the commander. He was impetuous and ardent, and in contests on Lake Champlain and other places, there were no bounds to his courage, ever seeking the hottest of the fight, and contending with the ferocity of a tiger.

Subsequent to this we find him heading the expedition through the wilderness of Maine to Quebec,—an enterprise coupled with hardships and sufferings which no one could have contemplated only as an incredible, mad scheme, but Arnold. In 1777, he was superseded in command—an event ill-calculated to produce contentment in such a hot and passionate mind. He soon began to complain of the ingratitude of his country, and his accounts which were laid before Congress, they delayed to examine, and, in a manner reflecting upon his integrity, refused to discharge them. Even after this, in all his subsequent affairs, when appropriations were withheld and his commission rescinded and in consequence of his irascibility and rashness, difficulties occurred between him and superior officers, he seemed driven to desperation, and bitterly sought revenge for what he termed the *ingratitude of his country!* There is no doubt his claims were procrastinated too long, and undue prejudices allowed to be exerted against him, from his impetuosity of character, so he became imbittered in his feelings against every body, and allowed his chafed spirit to seize upon the earliest opportunity to glut itself with revenge.

After the British evacuated Philadelphia, Arnold was given the command of that city, and he married a beautiful and accomplished daughter of Judge Shippen. The Judge was a tory, and his daughter had been on terms of intimacy with the British Officers, and among them Andre. After this period, she continued to cultivate so desirable an acquaintance, and in this way it was that Arnold was introduced to his future victim. While in Philadelphia, Arnold lived in the most extravagant style, and was goaded to desperation by creditors, complaining incessantly because Congress would not grant him such money and reimbursements as he stipulated. It was at this period of his life that he formed the atrocious design of betraying his country. He continued a clandestine correspondence with Andre, who was on board the British fleet with Sir Henry Clinton, under the assumed name of "Gustavus" for nearly eighteen months, before the traitor was completed, and in the mean time solicited and obtained the command of West Point. The details of the detection and execution of Andre, are too familiar now to need recapitulation.

Respecting Arnold, he was at breakfast at his own table, when a letter was handed him from below, announcing the apprehension of Andre, and disclosure of his character as a spy! His self-command at that moment was wonderful, for he knew his own fate was irrevocably sealed. He ordered a horse to be saddled, to his officers important business required his absence, entered Mrs. Arnold's chamber, and informed her his life depended upon being able to reach the enemies lines in safety, and that they must part, perhaps forever! Struck with horror at this intelligence, she swooned away, and in that condition he left her. He mounted his horse, gained the river, and in a few minutes more was on board the British frigate *Vulture*.