

trade has now come to be regarded by the civilised world in the same odious light as piracy and murder. The man who engages in it is stamped with everlasting infamy. And the reason is, that, like the distiller, he now sins amid that fullness of light which an age of philanthropy has poured around him.

7. By prosecuting this business in a day of light and reform, you peculiarly offend God, and jeopardise your immortal interests.

In "times of ignorance," God, in a sense, "winked at" error. But let the error be persisted in under a full blaze of light, and it must be the occasion of a dread retribution from his throne.

But possibly you urge in self-justification, *Others will manufacture spirit if I do not.* But remember the guilt of one is no excuse for another. "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." If others pursue a business at the sacrifice of character and of heaven, it becomes you to avoid their crime, that you may escape their doom.

It is not certain, however, that others will prosecute the destructive business, if you abandon it. Men of forethought will not now embark their silver and gold on a pestilential stream, soon to be dried up under that blaze of light and heat which a merciful God has enkindled. They will not deem it either wise or safe to kindle unholy and deadly fires where the pure river of the water of life is so soon to overflow.

Let the thousands now concerned in distilling at once put out their fires, and the act would cause one general burst of joy through the nation; and any effort to rekindle them would excite an equally general burst of indignation and abhorrence. None but a monster of depravity would ever make the attempt.

But again, perhaps you say, *No one is obliged to use the spirit that is made.* But remember that you make it only to be used. You make it with the desire, with the hope, with the expectation that it will be used. You know it has been used by thousands—by millions—and has strewn the land with desolation, and peopled hell with its victims: and you cannot but acknowledge that you would at once cease to make the liquor, did you not hope it would continue to be used! Indeed, you must see that, just in proportion to your success will be the amount of mischief done to your fellow-men.

It seems hardly needful to say that the foregoing considerations are all strictly applicable to the retailer of ardent spirits. He takes the poison from the distiller, and insidiously deals it out to his fellow-men. It is truly stirring to one's indignation to notice his variety of artifice for rendering it enticing. His occupation is one which the civil authorities have, in some places, with a noble consistency, ceased to tolerate; and one which must soon be put down by the loud voice of public sentiment.

Indeed, the retailer, the distiller, and the tippler, must be looked upon as forming a TRIPLE LEAGUE, dangerous alike to private and social happiness, and to the very liberties of the nation. And an awakened people cannot rest till the deadly compact is sundered. Why not, then, anticipate a little the verdict and the vengeance of a rising tone of public sentiment, and at once proclaim the *unholy alliance* dissolved?

SPIRIT DRINKING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM—From the excise returns, just issued, the following summary of the consumption of spirits, in the three Kingdoms, for the half year ending 5th July, is taken:—England, 4,107,000 gallons; Scotland, 3,239,000; Ireland, 3,091,000 gallons; total 10,437,000, giving an annual consumption to each individual of the population, according to the census of 1841, of, in England, 4 pints; Ireland, 6 pints; Scotland, 20 pints.

COST OF THE DRINKING SYSTEM.

An attempt to estimate the cost of the drinking system to the British population for the year 1847.

LIQUORS CONSUMED—

20,639,365 gal.	corn spirits at 15s,	£15,479,523
3,329,940 "	rum at 14s,	2,330,958
1,537,762 "	brandy at 36s,	2,767,971
28,830 "	Geneva at 30s,	43,245
6,310,536 "	wine at 22s 6d,	7,099,353
613,900,978 "	beer,	} at 1s 6d, 46,447,573
5,400,000 "	cider, &c.	

74,168,623

LABOUR LOST—

3,000,000 paupers, who, if working,	might each earn, per annum, additional to their present earnings, 18l,	54,000,000
12,000,000 of the population who lose on an average two weeks of each year in drinking, and through disease caused by drinking,	461,538 years, at 23l,	10,615,374

64,615,374

RESULTS OF DRINKING—

Cost of pauperism,	..	12,200,000
Estimated cost of crime,	..	4,000,000
Estimated cost of disease,	..	5,000,000
Loss by accidents at sea,	..	2,800,000

Two-thirds attributable to drinking, £24,000,000 16,000,000

154,783,997

To the above must be added—

- Loss of life.
- Loss of health.
- Loss of character.
- Loss of domestic, social, and national happiness.
- Loss by bankruptcy through intemperance.

In the above estimate the liquors are taken at the prices paid for them by the consumers, as nearly as can be ascertained.

The retailer of spirits is in the habit of adding a very large quantity of water after the liquor has come into his possession, by which means the number of gallons sold is much greater than the number on which duty has been paid. An addition has been made to some of the above prices in consideration of this dilution by the seller.

Were it not for the existence of the drinking system, there would be ample employment, at good wages, for our entire pauper population, as well as for those who are presently occupied in the manufacture and distribution of these liquors. This will appear evident from the following considerations: The entire exports of the United Kingdom for the year 1846 amounted to £57,786,876; and it is estimated that a decrease of £10,000,000 in British exports is sufficient to cause a most severe national depression. All therefore that is required at any time to secure the most abundant commercial prosperity, and employment to all, is to increase the demand for our manufactures to the value of ten millions sterling. Let our working population abstain from drink, and an amount of money, far exceeding ten millions, will annually be expended in obtaining the comforts of life by those who are at present comparatively destitute of them. The necessary result of such a state of things must be to give an impetus to every department of our national industry.

The revenue of the United Kingdom for 1848 was £52,092,757. The national debt amounts to £790,348,351. So that the drinking system absorbs as much wealth as would pay the entire taxes of the country, in addition to clearing off the national debt in 8 years. This view of the case is well worthy the attention of financial reformers.