

tendency or a disposition to do injury to his fellow man—the law, the guardian of society, of life and property, steps in and imperatively prescribes restraint, but if a person displays the same tendencies in another form, by constantly imbibing a maddening potion, and thus rendering himself a dangerous member of society, the law is a dead letter, and *as yet* shrinks from the responsibility of laying anything like permanent restraint on the habitual drunkard. Even though a whole city should be destroyed by an element of his kindling, he escapes “scot free”; and it is only when human life is attempted, or sacrificed, that the drunkard is opposed in his career by the strong arm of the law. This should not be. For such persons there should be legal provision made. Some mode of restraint; some way, by which an individual who is thus destroying himself, endangering the lives and property of his neighbours, and making miserable the existence of those who may be dependent on, or connected with him, should early be adopted. This end may readily be effected by having a department for such persons, in connexion with Insane Institutions, under the control of the same Commissioners and Medical Officers. Some such innovation, on present usage, would, we hesitate not to say, be based on sound constitutional principles, and if ever carried practically into effect, will be attended with results the most marked and beneficial. The cases adapted for this *coercive* treatment, will readily suggest themselves to thinking and discriminating minds. Suppose for instance, the father of a family be addicted to the vice of drunkenness to an extreme degree—squandering his property, (if he have any) failing to provide for their physical wants, and treating them, as is too often the case, with brutality. Confinement; the withdrawal of his affairs from his own controul, and placing them in the hands of properly constituted authorities, would not only give peace and comfort to his family and friends, but in many instances (if the remedy were not too long delayed,) would be the means of effecting cures, and restoring to society valuable members, that would otherwise be lost to it. If poor, his family would be relieved of a burden, and would enjoy again, long absent peace and happiness, instead of being cursed with the perpetually recurring vision of a drunken husband, father, or brother. Again, how many parents are there, even within our own limited sphere, possessed of competency, or even wealth, who are afflicted with intemperate sons, the bane of their existence. Such an Asylum as that to which we refer, would be the most effectual means of saving them from ultimate ruin—and gladly would parents give of their abundance to have a curative home of this kind ready for the reception of their blind and misguided offspring. The mere knowledge of the fact that legal enactments of this nature existed against habitual drunkenness, would act as a preventive to the vice, and doubtless deter many from running headlong to destruction—the more so from its connexion with an Insane Institution.

The revenue necessary for the support of this department of an Asylum