

The effects of the traffic in intoxicating liquors on the national industry, wealth, and prosperity, are most pernicious, in the loss of life, labour, capital, time and skill, which it involves, and in the pauperism, crime, waste and expenditure which it incurs or increases. Long ago one of England's greatest thinkers and most sagacious statesmen declared that "all the crimes on the earth do not destroy so many of the human race, nor alienate so much property, as drunkenness," a statement, the truth of which prolonged experience and wider observation only confirm. Indeed, so strikingly obvious are the blighting effects of drunkenness upon the welfare of a people, that few will be found to question the position that poverty, destitution and distress, in any community, will be found to be in proportion to the facilities furnished for the sale and consumption of intoxicating drinks. Nor are the injurious and ruinous effects of the traffic less marked upon the intelligence and morals of a people. The learned and pious Judge Hale remarked in his day, that *four-fifths* of all the murders, manslaughters, burglaries, robberies, riots, tumults, and other enormities perpetrated by the vicious and punished by the law, were caused by excessive drinking, and were the result of tavern and alchouse meetings. The same thing may be truthfully averred to-day. Competent authorities declare, and common observation confirms the declaration, that a very large proportion of the crime, pauperism, and misery, the ignorance, squalor and wretchedness, the juvenile vagrancy, homelessness, and depravity exhibited in our streets, revealed in our police courts, confined in our jails, recorded in the columns of our daily journals, is the necessary and inevitable result of the liquor traffic, which is supported and perpetuated by the drinking usages of society, and sanctioned by the authority of legal enactment.

The unhappy and unhallowed effects of intemperance upon the Christian Church are seen and felt to be no less manifest and mournful, in hindering her progress, and lessening her influence, by relaxing discipline, and lowering the tone and standard of vital piety. Its direct tendency is to prevent the diffusion of gospel truth, and to diminish its power over the hearts and consciences of men, either by estranging them from the house of God and its ordinances, or by unfitting them for profiting by attendance upon them. It is ever the bane of Sabbath observance, church attendance, Sunday school and Bible class instruction. It retards and counteracts the work of evangelization at home, and it impedes and opposes the work of christian missions abroad, by crippling the resources of the Church, weakening her testimony, squandering her means, demoralizing her agencies, fostering opposition, and strengthening the hands of her foes. Can it be a question, in the present state of society, whether the habitual use of intoxicating drinks, as a beverage, by members of any christian congregation, seriously affects the healthful influence of that congregation, or that it tends to support the drinking usages which lead so many astray, and cause many a brother to stumble and fall? Or can it be denied that such habitual use is likely to lead to the neglect of personal or family duty, to irregular or rare attendance at the place of prayer, to general spiritual declension, and possibly to a shameful fall? [Such, alas! has been the sad