

"4. Extinction of all moral and religious principle, disregard of truth, indifference to education, violation of chastity, insensibility to shame, and indescribable degradation; as proved by Clergymen, Magistrates, Overseers, Teachers, and others examined by your Committee on all these points."

CONSEQUENCES TO NATIONAL WELFARE.

"Among others, the following evil consequences may be distinctly traced:—

"1. The destruction of an immense amount of wholesome and nutritious grain given by a bountiful Providence for the food of man, which is now by distillation converted into a *poison*; the highest medical authorities examined, in great numbers before your Committee, being uniform in their testimony that ardent spirits are absolutely poisonous to the human constitution; that in no case whatever are they necessary or even useful to persons in health; that they are always, in every case, and to the smallest extent deleterious, pernicious or destructive, according to the proportions in which they may be taken into the system, so that not only is an immense amount of human food destroyed, whilst thousands are inadequately fed; but this food is destroyed in such a manner as to injure greatly the agricultural producers themselves; for whose grain, but for this perverted and mistaken use of it, there would be twice the present demand for the use of the now scantily fed people, who would then have healthy appetites to consume, and improved means to purchase nutriment for themselves and children, in grain, as well as all the other varied productions of the earth.