

her own room and board. Multitudes are under the iron heels of avaricious corporations. It nettles and incenses such persons when they learn that through the labor of employés and speculative ventures twenty-four thousand and six hundred persons own thirty-two thousand millions of money and property in a country having seventy millions of people. This proprietorship equals half of the money and real estate of the nation. It vexes and ruffles the toiling masses when they call to mind the fact that most of these colossal private fortunes were won by wrecking the small investments of the humble, and grinding down employés to starvation wages. Labor and capital ought to be firm friends. The Christian pastor should see to it that the wage-earners hereafter find in the Church, instituted by the Carpenter of Nazareth, a truer friend than the district master or the walking delegate.

But the overshadowing peril to our national prosperity is :

VI. *The enormous influence and diabolical work of the American liquor traffic.*

No existing curse compares with this in its awful results. Oliver Cromwell fitly said of it : " This national curse is a thing with which God will yet reckon." It is an unmitigated evil, blasting homes and breaking hearts all over our territory. The saloons of the country placed side by side would stretch a thousand miles. The brewers and distillers have a thousand millions of dollars invested in their business of ruining for both worlds, fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons. The various leagues of liquor manufacturers and vendors expend annually vast sums at our State capitals in the dictation and control of legislation. They direct the primaries in legislative and municipal elections. Their representatives are in all city councils and public offices. Their traffic is responsible for three fourths of all crime and taxation, for a vast amount of public immorality, and for nearly all of our pauperism. The drink bill of the nation exceeds its bread

bill, and is five times as large as the boot and shoe bill. It costs our citizens seventy times as much to sustain the saloons as to sustain the churches. The country spends ten times as much for malt and distilled drinks as it expends on its public schools. The combined national, State, and local taxes are but eighty per cent of our annual expenditures for intoxicants. The trial of high license for the regulation of the traffic has been a comparative failure. The small saloon has been closed, but the gilded bar, equally as dangerous, has expanded its sales. The revenues of towns and cities have been enlarged, while crime has been unchecked and the public conscience drugged. The one hundred and seventy thousand saloons continue to destroy hecatombs of our young men. They constitute the chief hindrance to the signal success of our churches, and the churches ought to lead the van of the army on whose banners are inscribed, " The saloon must go." No man can be a true Christian and fail to be a foe of the drink curse. The liquor traffic works and votes for its own interests, regardless of the party affinities of its constituency. Some day the churches and temperance organizations will display equal wisdom. The words of Jesus are still applicable to His friends : " The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

Retribution for the gross violation of the Divine laws comes to nations as well as to individuals. All along the departed centuries the trumpet of admonition has been sounding, " With what measure ye mete it shall be measured unto you again." History has echoed the words of David : " His enemies shall lick the dust." Nemesis has for thousands of years been one of His active messengers to men and nations. Anne of Austria appropriately said to Richelieu : " My Lord Cardinal, God is a sure paymaster. He may not pay at the end of every week or month, but He always pays in the end." The permanent prosperity and perpetuity of any