

The Press and General Review

Does the Country Gain by the Manufacture and Importation of Intoxicating Drinks.

The mere money value of intoxicating drinks consumed in Canada, (we stated this very lately, but it should be repeated and repeated, until ears, unwilling, at length hear it and believe) amounts to the enormous self-imposed tax of more than \$3,000,000 annually, equal to the whole quantity of produce shipped from Montreal in any past year. Now, it is sometimes said that although this amount is consumed or used, yet it is no loss to the country, because although a part of it is imported, yet a large portion of it is raised and manufactured in the country, and the farmer receives the money for it. But if any one on hearing this mode of inventing political economy, will try it by the laws of domestic economy, he will find how very far wide of the truth is the averment that the use of intoxicating drinks is no loss to a nation. It is altogether loss, even without taking into account the evils produced in the shape of pauperism and crime, requiring asylums, poor houses, police, judges, jails, &c. Every farmer understands well enough, that the more he can curtail his household expenses consistently with a proper regard to real wants, the more he has to bring to market. Suppose four brothers have a farm of 500 acres, which they cultivate together for their families—While they, of course, give mutual assistance to each other, yet there is a kind division of labor amongst them, one attending to the dairy produce, a second to the clothing of the family from the wool, a third has charge of the food, and the fourth takes care of the drinks, the beer and whiskey required in the household.—For this latter purpose, of course, he sees that a proper breadth of land is sown with barley, or whatever may be required for the production of the beverages used. He gives of course, so much of his time and labor for this purpose, and employs in this manufacture a certain amount of the capital which the brothers have in this joint stock concern. The beer, whiskey, cider, &c., are made, and all consumed on the farm. It has been taken out of the soil, and out of the labor and capital of this little community, and what have the returns been?—One of the brothers thinks of this, puts the question, and what are the answers?

Has additional strength of body and mind been gained by these drinks? Certainly not. Has any addition been made to the capital by it? None at all for it has all been consumed.

We have no intention of entering here on the proof of either of these two points, as we feel certain no one will dispute either of them.

If at this time fraternal community agree to cease to use intoxicating drinks, the labor, the ground, the capital employed previously are at once set free for the production of something else; and as it was by no means necessary to find any substitute for the alcoholic drinks previously used, except the crystal stream which flowed through the farm, there would be an addition to the amount carried to market of the various farm products, more, than equal to what had previously been set aside for making beer and whiskey.

If these farmers had not used, nor allowed any employed about the farm to use, the beer and whiskey, but sent it off to market, and brought back money or necessities in exchange, as far as they were concerned, it would have answered the same purpose in enriching them, as the raising of pork, butter, poultry. Only they would have the uncomfortable feeling of producing an article which did mischief to the user, "of putting the bottle to their neighbor, and causing him to drink."

Now, Canada is in the position supposed in this illustration. She sets apart a portion of her people to manufacture beer and whiskey, and being unable to manufacture enough, or of a sufficient good quality, she employs many to raise pork, flour timber, which she exports to various places in order to bring returns in the shape of brandy wine, rum, &c. To show this amount we copy from the *Canada Temperance Advocate* of August 1846.

Quantities of Distilled Spirits and Wines imported into the Province of Canada, upon which Duties have been collected at the several Inland and Sea Ports, for the year ending January, 1846:—

Rum, other Spirits, and Cordials,	369,568 gallons.
Wines,	224,562 "
Total,	594,130 "

Account of Spirits and Wines Imported and taken out of the Warehouse for Home Consumption in the year ending January, 1846:—

	Gallons.	Sterling Value.
Brandy, Cordials, Geneva	255,161	£41,330 19 5
Rum and Whisky,	225,382	26,187 18 1
Wines,	480,546	£67,518 17 6
Add importing charge, say 50 per cent,		33,759 8 9
		£101,278 6 3

Statement of Spirits manufactured in the United Province of Canada, estimated for the year 1845, as stated in Parliament by the Hon. Inspector General of Accounts derived from Excise Returns from all the Districts but two, 4,500,000 galls.

The two districts not returned, will produce about 70,000, but say, 50,000 "

Total, 4,550,000 "

Which, at an average of say 2s. 6d. per gall., is, £568,750 0 0

As Malt Liquors are not excisable articles, there are no official data for the quantity produced and consumed annually in the Province; but, on the supposition that the quantity is as great as that of domestic spirits, to be within limits, we will say, one-half that quantity, viz., 2,275,000 gallons which, at 10d. per gallon, will amount to £21,791 13s. 4d.

RECAPITULATION.		
Cost of 480,546 gallons imported Spirits and Wines,	£101,278 6 3	
" 4,550,000 " Domestic Spirits,	668,750 0 0	
" 2,275,000 " Malt Liquors,	91,791 13 4	
Total, 7,305,546 "	or	£764,819 19 7
		\$3,059 28 1

Being the enormous aggregate quantity of seven millions, three hundred and five thousand five hundred and forty six gallons, annual consumption, for a population of about one million of souls, at a prime cost of three millions, fifty-nine thousand two hundred and eighty dollars on about 74 gallons of intoxicating drinks at about 15s. 3d. for every man, woman, and child, in the United Province.

We make no large words of wonder at these figures, but leave them to press on the mind with their own terrible weight.

But it may be said by some farmers—"We sell our barley to the distiller and get money in return; he is our best customer." Well if you do not use any of his manufacture, you are likely to seem to do well. You will thrive on part of the profits which the distiller makes out of his customers. If, however, you vend your way to the whiskey shop, and there imbibe in the shape of liquor your own good grain sadly transmuted, and perhaps carry home for family comfort a keg of the same, you will find it the dearest exchange you ever made. You have sold good grain at no good price, and you have received in return for it a most pernicious and unnecessary liquid at a very high price. This is exactly what Canada is now doing. She has imported and manufactured to the extent above mentioned, and has drunk every drop of it, for we find in 1847 the export of spirits was only £762 5s.

Again farmers who think the distiller their best customer may remember that he has taken out of their hands the supply of the beef market. It seems most natural that the raising of this article of continual demand should be in the hands of the farmer. After selling, however, the costly spirits to him there is a large quantity of refuse in the hands of the distiller. To make a profitable use of this he buys the young cattle of the farmer, which he fattens up in his stalls. He employs him also to bring him a large quantity of his hay and straw for feeding these cattle; and no small amount of the manure thus obtained, and which have been formed on the farm and thrown out in the fields, is floated away down the St. Lawrence, as the simplest way of cleaning the distillery cow-houses, the farmer deeming himself too poor to convey to his grounds what is so absolutely necessary to the preservation of the principle of fructification.

The gain which a company makes by the manufacture of ardent spirits is similar to the gain made, if, with a view to give employment to starving operatives, a City Council or Corporation should engage them to dig holes in some useless piece of ground and fill them up again. Or perhaps it is coming nearer the truth to suppose them digging holes in a thoroughfare and leaving them open for the unwary passer by to fall in, for this is exactly what the trafficker in intoxicating drinks does.

The gain to the community in this trade may also be likened to that which is made when property insured within said community is destroyed by fire. The individual whose property is burnt receives his money, and if fully insured the result is no great damage to him, while sundry artificer's rejoice in obtaining work in refitting the shattered premises. If he is insured in a foreign office, then of course there is loss neither in the community in which the fire takes place, it falls on that which has insured. This is parallel to the exportations of spirits, that which receives being the loser.

Notwithstanding all that was said of the destruction of property at the great fires in Quebec, it is probable that there was more gained to the community by it than by all the distilleries in the Province. The Government and individuals have assisted the sufferers largely, and there was no gain in that. But foreign sympathy was excited, and contributions were received to no small amount, which was equivalent to insurance without any premium having been paid.

We have the authority of a late president of the Board of Trade of this City, for saying that the distillers are anxious to transfer their capital into other channels. The sooner the better for the country. The sooner the better for themselves. It would not greatly surprise us, were they to discover some day, very soon, that from the general adoption, of the principle of total abstinence their market here was gone and that in each of the large manufactories, there was a stock of 200 or \$300,000 worth of whiskey, &c., for which the owners had to try to find an outlet in England, or somewhere else. It would be clear gain to our community at once of double the amount, whatever it might be to that which received it, and doubtless, the repentant and yet enterprising capitalists would immediately seek and find here other channels

in which they would have a handsome return, while they would benefit the community and make some recompense for incalculable evil already done.—*Montreal Witness.*

THE FLYING POST-OFFICE.

This office, which every evening flies away from London to Glasgow, and wherein Government clerks are busily employed in receiving, delivering and sorting letters all the way, is a narrow carpeted room, twenty one feet in length and about 7 in breadth, lighted by four large reflecting lamps, inserted in the roof, and by another in a corner for the guard. Along about two-thirds of the length of this chamber here is affixed to the side-wall a narrow table or counter, covered with green cloth, beneath which various letter bags are stored away, and above which the space up to the roof is divided into six shelves, 14 feet in length, each containing 35 pigeon holes of about the size of the little compartments in a dovecot. At this table, and immediately fronting these pigeon holes, there were standing, as we flew along, three post-office clerks, intently occupied in snatching up from the green cloth counter, and in dexterously inserting into the various pigeon holes, a mass of letters which lay before them, and which, when exhausted, were instantly replaced from bags which the senior clerk cut open, and which the guard who had presented them then shook out for assortment. On the right of the chief clerk, the remaining one-third of the carriage was filled nearly to the roof with letter bags of all sorts and sizes, and which an able bodied post-office guard, dressed in his shirt sleeves and laced waistcoat, was hauling out and adjusting according to their respective brass labels. At this laborous occupation the clerks continue standing for about four hours and a half; that is to say, the first set sort letters from London to Tamworth, the second from Tamworth to Preston, the third from Preston to Carlisle, and the fourth, letters from Carlisle to Glasgow. The clerks employed in this duty do not permanently reside at any of the above stations, but are usually removed from one to the other every three months. As we sat reclining and ruminating in the corner, the scene was as interesting as it was extraordinary. In consequence of the rapid rate at which we were travelling, the bags which were hanging from the thirty brass pegs on the sides of the office had a trepidulous motion, which, at every jerk of the train was changed for a moment or two into a slight rolling or pendulous movement, like towels, &c., hanging in a cabin at sea. While the guard's face, besides glistening with perspiration, was—from the labor of stooping and hauling at large letter bags as red as his scarlet coat which were hanging before the wall on a little peg, until at last his cheeks appeared as if they were shining at the lamp immediately above them—the three clerks were actively moving their right hand in all directions, working vertically, with the same dexterity which which compositors in a printing office horizontally restore their types to the various small compartments to which each letter belongs.— Sometimes a clerk was seen to throw into various pigeon holes a batch of mourning letters, all directed in the same hand-writing, and evidently announcing some death; then one or two registered letters wrapped in green covers. For some time another clerk was solely employed in stuffing into bags newspapers for various destinations. Occasionally the guard leaving his bags, was seen to poke his burly head out of a large window behind him into pitch darkness, enlivened by the occasional passage of bright sparks from the funnel-pipe of the engines, to ascertain by the flashing of the lamps as he passed them the precise moment of the train clearing certain stations, in order that he might record it in his "time bill." Then again, a strong smell of burning sealing wax announced that he was sealing up and stamping with the post office seal, bags, three or four of which he then firmly strapped together for delivery. All of a sudden, the flying chamber received a hard sharp blow, which resounded exactly as if a cannon shot had struck it. This noise, however, merely announced that a station-post we were at that moment passing, but which was already far behind us, had just been safely delivered of four leather letter-bags, which on putting our head out of the window, we saw quietly lying in the far end of a large strong iron-bound sort of landing net or cradle, which the guard a few minutes before had, by a simple movement, lowered on purpose to receive them. But not only had we received four bags, but at the same moment, and apparently by the same blow, we had as we flew by dropped at the same station three bags, which a post-office authority had been waiting there to receive.— The blow that the pending bag of letters moving at the rate of say 40 miles an hour, receives in being suddenly snatched away, must be rather greater than that which the flying one receives on being suddenly at that rate dropped on the road. Both operations, however, are effected by a projecting apparatus from the flying post office coming suddenly in contact with that obtruding from the post.—*Quarterly Review.*

A GONE CASE.—A young man having withdrawn himself from the Sons of Temperance, being asked his reason for so doing, replied.—that his constitution did not agree with theirs—of him we have no hope.

ROMAN CORRESPONDENCE OF THE N. Y. EVANGELIST.

Rome, May 27, 1850.

I gave you some weeks since an account of the efforts of the Canon of Durham, to induce the Pope to call a deliberative Council, which might review the past, and throw open the door for conference with the different Christian churches in reference to a union. I stated also, the agreeable impression which the worthy Canon made upon the Pope, and that the Pope sent him an invitation for another interview.—The proposal for such a Council, as was expected, met with no favor whatever in the court or camp of Rome. There was a good deal of talk upon the subject between the higher clergy and the English here; but not a Romanist would admit for a moment that Rome was in any respect wrong—that review of the past decisions of councils was, in the least degree, necessary, or that the Papal Church could advance a single step toward the recognition of ecclesiastical bodies out of her communion. And why, they said, should the Pope see this gentleman further upon such a futile business? Accordingly the Canon, upon his return from Naples, finds matters changed, and that another interview with the Pope is quite out of the question. He did not ask it; the Pope did him the honor to invite him to a second interview; and now, upon his return to Rome expressly for that object, he is put off! The officials require him to make a new application for permission to see the Pontiff, and to state in writing why he wishes to see him again! Of course, he will not make such an application; he answers, "The Pope did me the honor to request me to call upon him after my visit to Naples, and upon notifying him of my return I have a right to expect either an appointment for an interview, or some word of explanation." The Court of Rome, however, does not give explanations, and the distinguished clergy with whom the worthy Canon has been corresponding, arguing, and dining, upon the great question of the Council, say to him finally, "The Pope cannot see you or any one else, upon such a subject again; the wonder is, that he allowed himself to see you once. You have made stir enough here already, and we think your safest course will be to leave Rome as soon as possible." This is capital. They could not have paid the Canon a higher compliment than thus to interfere between him and the Pope, and do discredit to the Pope's politeness. As the Pope has several times spoken in the highest terms of the venerable Canon, there can be no doubt of the opposition of his Cabinet to his own private wishes in respect to further acquaintance. The Canon leaves to-day, and hopes, if he lives, to address the Pope and the whole Christian world upon the subject of his mission here, through the press. His appeal will hardly fail to excite general interest; as the aim will be to show the true position of Rome in her hostility to the word of God, and her rejection of every proposal that might lead to her reformation.

You had notice by the last steamer of the search made by the police in the house of Signor Ercole, the British Vice-Consul, and in the house of other individuals who have connections with the English here at Rome. It was given out a long while ago that as soon as the political arrests were over, the Government would commence ferreting out the Protestants and their agents. This latter movement has been going on incidentally all the winter, but the descent upon the families in connection with the English Consulate and Chapel, is the strongest demonstration yet of hostility to Protestant influence. The Government expected to find Bibles and Protestant books in these families; and seize books and papers belonging to English subjects, which they will be obliged to give up. Signor Ercole was robbed of only a little pamphlet, a history of Beatrice Cenci, worth twenty cents. The police took this, because it reveals some scandalous things in the history of the Popes. They stole, however, a number of things from the sexton of the British chapel, among others a lamp which had on it the three colors, red, green, and white. The sexton pointed out to them a fourth color, the bronze, but that did not save it. Those three colors are so terrible to the Papacy, that it dares not leave them a lamp, lest it explode and blow up Ron

The violence of the Inquisition was strikingly shown the other day in the case of a Jewish trader, who was called up and examined on a charge of introducing Bibles into the city. It appears that last winter an English gentleman obtained a small grant of Bibles from the B. F. B. Society for the Jews of Rome—twenty Hebrew and forty Italian Diodati—which were put in deposit at Leghorn, to be introduced a few at a time into Rome as the trader found opportunity. Considering the deplorable state of the Jews, one might imagine that Rome would consent to their receiving Bibles with the New Testament bound in. But no, the utmost secrecy and tact of one of these Jews who brought in fifteen copies, was not sufficient to lull suspicion. The books had been in Rome but two days, before the attempt was made to get hold of them in summoning one of the traders. Fortunately, he was not the agent in the matter; the books, moreover, were immediately distributed, and are beyond the grasp of the police. How the police got wind of them is more than the agent can tell.