

(a) A Committee of this Parliament of 1875 reported that the commitments to the common gaols of Ontario and Quebec in the year 1870, 1871 and 1872 were 28,289, of which 21,236 were for drunkenness and kindred crimes—80 per cent. of the total. In nine years, from 1875 to 1883, inclusive, the total number of commitments to the gaols of Ontario were 98,069, of which 33,444 were for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, or 34 per cent. of the whole. In 1881, the nine cities of Ontario had a total number of arrests for all crimes of 13,196, of which 6,926 were for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, being 45 per cent. of the total arrests in those nine cities.

(b) The investigations of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics show, that during the twenty years, from 1860 to 1879, the total number of sentences pronounced in the Commonwealth was 578,458, of which 340,814, or 60 per cent., were for what the Bureau denominates distinctly rum crimes, that is, crimes which came directly from violations of the license laws, and cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and from excessive indulgence in spirits.

Subsequent investigation showed that very many of the remaining 40 per cent. of crimes were indirectly attributable to strong drink, swelling the 60 to 72 per cent. as the correct proportion of crimes originating in intemperance.

(c) Mr. Frederick Hill, late inspector of Prisons in England, and a high authority on penal science, writes :—

“I am within the truth when I state, as the result of extensive and minute inquiry, that of four cases out of five, when an offence has been committed, intoxicating drink has been one of the causes.”

(d) Dr. Elisha Harris, of New York, after a thorough inspection of prisons, says :—

“After two years of careful inquiry into the history and condition of the criminal population of the State, I find that the conclusion is inevitable that, taken in all its relations, alcoholic drinks may be justly charged with far more than half the crimes that are brought to conviction in the State of New York, and that fully 85 per cent. of all convicts give evidence of having, in some larger degree, been prepared or enticed to the criminal acts, because, of the physical and distracting effects produced upon the human organism by alcoholic drinks.”

(e). Governor Dix, of New York, said :—

“Intemperance is the undoubted cause of four-fifths of all the crime, pauperism, and domestic misery of the State of New York.”