

brethren and against Christ; and while persevered in, vitiates the evidence, and works a forfeiture of the privileges of Christian communion. If the practice of the church has been to any extent favorable to the admission or continuance of such persons in her communion, it only proves that the church, in these cases, has overlooked or neglected to enforce the true principles of her standard. It cannot be fairly drawn into argument, to prove that the principle applied is *not there*; or if true, that it is not to be applied in this as in other cases of visible offence against Christ and his church.

We conclude, therefore, that it is *not adopting any new term of communion* to exclude persons from sealing ordinance, on the ground of their retailing intoxicating drinks as a beverage. On the contrary, it is only falling back upon the Bible and the constitution of the church, which require *visible Christianity* in a credible form, of those who would partake of these ordinances; and refuse the privilege to those who by overt acts of offence fail to present such evidence.

With this exposition of their views, the committee recommend that the question submitted in the overture be answered in the *negative*.

DAVID ELLIOTT, }
ROBERT DUNLOP, } Committee.

This report was "*adopted by the Synod, and recommended to be read in all the congregations within its bounds.*"

[But we cannot see why the question should be restricted to retailers, as if they were worse than distillers or wholesale dealers.—Ed.]

Vice and Crime in England.

Lord Ashley has lately made an astounding exposé in the British Parliament of the low state of morals and the amazing amount of ignorance, vice, and crime in the British nation. In his speech he stated that the number of commitments of all ages, in 1841, was 27,580, and that the sum expended on the suppression of crime was £604,965, that the criminal tables and criminal statements furnished evidence that the evil was deep-rooted and increasing, and that if something were not done, twenty years would not elapse before there would be a general convulsion and displacement of the system of society. Said he, something must be done to rouse the people of this country from the fancied security in which they repose. Among the earliest efforts should be one to enquire into the state and condition of the nation with reference to drunkenness. It was true that the habit was somewhat abated, but it was probable if that abatement had not moral principle for its foundation, the prevalence of the vice might revive; indeed, in the districts on which commissioners had reported, an increase was apparent. He (Lord Ashley) would quote from the report of the committee, which was moved for by Mr. Buckingham, in 1835. Many witnesses were examined, some of them gentlemen who had devoted the greater part of their lives to the study of the subject. It was estimated before the committee that the sum annually expended by the working classes on ardent spirits was twenty-five millions; and one witness stated, "that he had no doubt that it was to a much greater extent." He (Lord Ashley) had written to the chaplain of a county jail, to ask "How much of the crime which brought prisoners to the jail he could trace to habits of intoxication?"—In reply, he wrote—

"In order to arrive at a just conclusion, I devoted several nights to a careful examination of the entries in my journals for a series of years; and although I had been impressed previously with a very strong conviction, derived from my own personal experience in attendance on the sick poor, that the practice of drinking was the great moral pestilence of the kingdom, I was certainly not prepared for the frightful extent to which I find it chargeable with the

production of crime. I am within the word in saying that three-fourths of the crime committed is the result of intemperance."

In corroboration of that testimony, Mr. Smith, the governor of the prison at Edinburgh, wrote—

"Having been for a number of years a missionary among the poor in Edinburgh, and having for two years had charge of the house of refuge for the destitute, I have had, perhaps, the best opportunities of observing how far drunkenness produced ignorance, destitution, and crime; and the result of my experience is a firm conviction that, but for the effects of intemperance, directly and indirectly, instead of having 500 prisoners in this prison at this time, there would not have been fifty."

He (Lord Ashley) said there was another very important consideration to which his attention had been for some years directed, and his experience of which had been confirmed by medical men—he alluded to the effects of intoxication on the moral and intellectual state of the people; and it was well worth inquiring to what extent intellect had been destroyed by, and madness ascribable to, that vice. This was more than a curious fact, because, although there were hundreds and thousands whose derangement of mind was such as to make confinement necessary, yet how many more must there not be whose intellects were impaired to an extent which fell short of that state which rendered restraint indispensable. Dr. Corcellis, of the Wakefield Asylum, states—"I am led to believe that intemperance is the existing cause of insanity in about one-third of the cases of this institution." He adds that—"In Glasgow 26 per cent.; in Aberdeen 18 per cent." Doctor Brown, of the Crichton Asylum, states—"The application for the introduction of individuals who have lost their reason from excessive drinking, continue to be very numerous." At Northampton, the superintendent says, amongst the causes of insanity intemperance predominates. At Montrose, Dr. Poole says, twenty-four per cent. of insane cases arise from intemperance. Dr. Pitchard, who was well known not only in the medical, but the literary world, wrote to him (Lord Ashley)—"The medical writers of all countries reckon intemperance among the most influential exciting causes of insanity. Esquirol, who has been most celebrated on the Continent for his researches into the statistics of madness, and who is well known to have extended his inquiries into all countries, was of opinion that this cause gives rise to one-half of the cases of insanity that occur in Great Britain."—*Jour. Am. Temp. Union.*

Porter and Beer Drugged with Cocculus Indicus, &c.

At a meeting of the Medico-Botanical Society, held in London on the 27th of April last, Earl Stanhope in the chair; Dr. Cooke drew attention to the subject of *Cocculus Indicus*. This article, which is scarcely ever used in medicine, and of no importance in the arts, is extensively imported for the purpose of adulterating beer. To such an extent is this the case, that writers on brewing openly acknowledge the fact, and give regular formulæ for its employment. One author states, that it is impossible to brew a strong-bodied porter from malt and hops alone; and almost all concur in deliberately recommending it, on the ground that it *increases the apparent strength of the beer, and improves its intoxicating properties!* About 1818, numerous prosecutions were instituted by the Excise against parties for selling or employing this substance. In many instances convictions were obtained, the persons pleading guilty, with the view of escaping any investigation into the more serious charge of selling or using *nux vomica* for the same purpose. There can be no doubt that the latter is still employed to a certain extent; but it is beyond dispute that the *Cocculus* is used to an extent totally unsuspected by the public or the Government. Unfortunately no separate account of the quantity on which duty is paid is kept