

matter into right or wrong. Is the Traffic virtuous, does it promote virtue? Then in the name of virtue continue it. But reverse the question—is the Traffic destructive to virtue, is it ruinous to health and happiness, is it demoralizing in all its phases, wherever it exists is purity destroyed, is innocence corrupted, is virtue ruined, are families desolated, is it productive of pauperism and crime, is there multiplied disease and premature death, are there idiocy and insanity, in fine, is the Traffic a Public Immorality, then in the name of humanity, in the name of Morality, prohibit the traffic forever.

### I.—THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.—ITS EVILS.

There are several reasons which would amply justify any Legislature in prohibiting the traffic in ardent spirits or in prohibiting the distillation of grains used for food by man. Such prohibition has lately been enforced by the Emperor of France, as a preventive measure against general want or famine which might ensue from a scarcity brought on in a large degree by the vast destruction of grain by distillation. When it is considered that upwards of 45,000,000 bushels of grain are annually used for the purposes of brewing and distillation in Great Britain, there can be no question that the prevention of scarcity, would justify the immediate prohibition of the manufacture of all kinds of intoxicating drinks. The amount of grains thus destroyed in Great Britain by its 43,000 Brewers and 500 Distilleries has been ascertained for ten consecutive years to have been sufficient to feed 5,500,000 human beings annually; while the poor and pauper populations, the classes that suffer indistinguishably in years of scarcity in England, do not exceed half that number.

If the traffic should be found injurious to the revenue of the state as it is destructive to the property of individuals; if instead of adding to the Government funds it should subtract from them, that also would be considered a perfect justification of its prohibition. If in Great Britain the public revenue should lose £15,000,000 sterling annually, instead of deriving that vast sum from the traffic—if in Canada from Distillers and shops for the sale of liquors, and also for the duties and per centum upon liquors imported, a revenue of almost £100,000 were not realized, political expediency would instantly demand the prohibition of the Traffic in spirits of all kinds. If then, Prohibition could justly be demanded for such reasons, as a preventive against scarcity, as a protection for the Revenue of a country, reasons that are undoubtedly sound and sufficient, how much more urgently might it be sought, how infinitely more readily should the Prohibition of the Traffic be effected for that far more important reason, on account of its public immorality?

Countless facts, statistics, incidents and testimony of unquestionable veracity, demonstrate the whole business in the manufacture, in the adulteration of liquors, in its sale, in its effects, in all its infinite ramifications as a fearful immorality. The man that looks abroad with impartial eyes cannot fail to see the evil in all directions. There is not a grade, a rank, a phase of society, where he does not see its immorality. Take for instance, out of multitudes of evidences, and illustrations of its immorality, the effects of the traffic in reference to *Pauperism, Crime and Insanity*. If the traffic can even in a small degree be truly proved to be productive of these evils, who can for a moment deny the propriety, the necessity of its immediate Prohibition? If such effects were produced by it in the neighbouring states, it ceases to be marvellous in our eyes that the question of prohibition is canvassed most energetically throughout the length and breadth of that great Federation.

### I.—PAUPERISM.

1. During the agitation of Prohibition in the adjoining States much useful information on Pauperism, Asylums for the young, on Poor Houses and other charitable institutions, was collected and diffused abroad. It became thus ascertained beyond all doubt that the pauperism in that country, and the prodigious expense of all their establishments for the relief or for the instruction of their inmates might be traced directly in whole or in a very great proportion, to Intemperance. The collection and publication of these facts and statistics run back as far as 1830 and cover the whole period from that time to this. It may here be stated that each county in the several States supports its own poor, and builds and keeps its own poor-house. The following tabular statement has been constructed with great care and from returns certified by the keepers of the respective Poor-houses, and may be relied on as correct, as they were published under the authority of the State.

### A TABULAR STATEMENT

Of Pauperism in the several Counties of the State of New York, showing that a very large proportion thereof was the product of Intemperance.

#### PAUPERISM IN NEW YORK.

Poor House for each County.	Year.	Not through Intemperance.	Through Intemperance.	Total.	Expense Yearly.	County Population.	Expense for each pauper in the county.
Allegany . . .	1823	11	5	34	80	4,500	22870
Broome . . .	1828	3	4	19	28	339	17379
Chemung . . .	1828	17	13	30	18	3671	3783
Chenango . . .	1828	30	149	74	1074	1874	10,760
Clinton . . .	1823	37	63	102	187	4,519	19344
Columbia . . .	1824	17	47	126	301	1,900	36997
Delaware . . .	1823	14	23	60	87	3,020	38994
Dutchess . . .	1823	28	60	364	433	11,779	60899
Erie . . .	1823	48	17	170	325	4,737	36719
Franklin . . .	1824	14	16	68	94	2,804	19897
Hamilton . . .	1824	20	30	58	111	1,200	12119
Genesee . . .	1825	18	16	93	134	2,437	19167
Greene . . .	1823	30	13	63	110	3,254	36325
Herkimer . . .	1824	18	19	98	138	2,908	36999
Jefferson . . .	1824	42	18	136	167	2,492	48118
Kings . . .	1824	37	67	261	306	4,719	36719
Lewis . . .	1823	4	8	31	91	1,130	14666
Livingston . . .	1823	4	1	35	50	2,804	77719
Madison . . .	1823	28	19	70	180	4,601	36999
Monroe . . .	1823	146	224	659	1029	4,511	60999
Montgomery . . .	1824	30	34	96	161	2,504	36994
Niagara . . .	1823	22	30	113	164	2,204	14699
Oneida . . .	1823	42	44	180	307	5,616	71399
Onondaga . . .	1823	60	28	178	298	2,950	66774
Oranget . . .	1823	24	15	67	146	2,063	46167
Orange . . .	1823	37	40	181	267	1,151	45999
Oswego . . .	1823	11	36	47	84	2,468	36167
Otsego . . .	1823	99	9	68	114	1,904	37104
Putnam . . .	1823	39	5	199	190	2,190	41373
Queens . . .	1824	3	9	39	31	1,610	36940
Rensselaer . . .	1824	23	31	689	636	8,000	49190
Richmond . . .	1824	6	8	14	26	1,030	7063
Saratoga . . .	1824	7	40	144	189	3,373	36979
Schenectady . . .	1824	3	20	94	117	2,732	41,699
Scholarie . . .	1823	7	9	18	26	1,654	37369
Seneca . . .	1823	18	13	67	97	1,697	31041
Stearns . . .	1824					5,392	36981
St. Lawrence . . .	1824	14	80	90	154	7,708	36984
Sullivan . . .	1824					143	36799
Tioga . . .	1823	5	9	26	37	1,043	12994
Tompkins . . .	1823	23	17	94	136	2,936	37009
Ulster . . .	1823	9	12	222	222	2,222	36999
Warren . . .	1824	26	33	10	77	1,040	11799
Washington . . .	1824	9	16	139	149	9,999	49,999
Wayne . . .	1824	21	19	90	130	2,999	36944
Westchester . . .	1823	28	70	118	206	7,189	36944
Yates . . .	1824	14	3	50	67	1,476	19099
Cordland . . .	1823					1,500	36791
Rockland . . .	1823					499	36999
Catskill . . .	1823					29794	
Total . . .		1170	1200	5400	7000	170,104	3051477
							1,701,000