

states, and poison the happiness of families; while it depraves the character, . . . and brings thousands to an early death. It is found to fill our prisons, . . . and,—more than any other cause or complication of causes,—to frustrate the efforts and baffle the hopes of all who have at heart the elevation and welfare of our people. . . . No evil more nearly affects our national life and character; none more injuriously counteracts the spiritual work of the Church; and therefore no question more immediately demands the zeal of our clergy, the attention of our statesmen, the action of our legislature and the thoughtful aid of our philanthropists. Nor can any sacrifice be esteemed too costly, . . . to remedy what may be shown by . . . undeniable evidence to be sapping the foundations of our prosperity, . . . and destroying . . . its moral and religious life. In review of the inquiries of parliament as to the evils caused by this vice, and the conclusive evidence laid before its committees, it is a matter of surprise to us that the legislature has not long since interfered."

We cannot license a traffic of which a committee of the Senate of our Dominion could say: "In short, it is a cancer in the body politic which if not speedily eradicated will mar the bright prospects and blight the patriotic hopes of our noble Dominion." The great McCheyne said: "I never see a sign 'licensed to sell spirits' without thinking it is a license to ruin souls." "Certainly," says Presbyterian Assembly Report, "the Church, God's chosen instrument for regenerating society, can never acquiesce in a legalized wrong. She must protest against this shame of our civilization, even though she speaks to deaf ears. She can afford to brave for centuries, if need be, the fiercest hate of avarice and lust. But never, as God's witness for truth and righteousness, can she lower her standard, tone down her testimony, or make any compromise with a traffic so hurtful to men." Is it not high time to stop licensing a "throne of iniquity," to cease "framing mischief by a law." (Ps. xciv. 20). But "if we cut down the license tree instead of lopping off a branch here and there, we will raise a great amount of opposition; we will stir up the bad passions that are in men!" What