

THE VANGUARD.

SEPTEMBER, 1894.

WEALTH OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

A feature of the recent Imperial Budget that roused the bitter opposition of the liquor trade, and over which there was a long and bitter struggle before it was adopted, was the proposition to add sixpence per barrel to the excise duty on beer.

In the course of the discussion some facts were brought out which throw a vivid light upon the drain made upon the general public by the liquor traffic. It was shown that this traffic is building up enormous fortunes at the expense to a great extent, of the poorer classes, who of course are still further impoverished by the operation.

Mr. W. C. Amery wrote a letter to the editor of the Birmingham Daily Post presenting the result of an inquiry he had made into the extent of the estates left by liquor sellers recently deceased. He submitted the following list in which no account is taken of landed property, the figures being merely for personalty, and referring only to persons directly engaged in liquor trading and who each left at death sums larger than Two Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling.

Sir Andrew Barclay Walker.....	£2,876,781
J. W. Wittaker, wine merchant, 1893	872,109
Richard Vaughan, George's Brewery, Bristol, 1893.....	742,800