

*Sinful Expenditure of Money resulting from it.*

Mr. Simmons, a Government Commissioner, declares in his published Report, "It is my firm belief, that penury, dirt, misery, drunkenness, disease, and crime, culminate in Glasgow to a pitch unparalleled in Great Britain." Alas! he is fully borne out by facts; for while the population is far from being doubled during the last fifteen years, crime has increased 1200 per cent.; fever has increased 1600 per cent.; and death has increased 300 per cent. Formerly, one person in every 44 died every year in Glasgow; but now, one in every 21 dies every year: thus making its mortality greater than any other city in Europe. Nor is Edinburgh behind her western rival in her expenditure for intoxicating liquors; while the parish of Stevenson, in Ayrshire, with a population of 3,681, spends the enormous sum of £4,425 every year, being within a trifle of the whole rental of the parish! Ireland, too, cries out lustily under her public burdens; she tries to excite our pity by pointing to her Protestant Establishment, which costs her £807,000 a year; but she is as silent as the grave about the heaviest of all her curses, the enormous consumption of ardent spirits, which till very lately cost her nearly £8,000,000 sterling every year. Nor is England very far behind our Irish brethren, or ourselves, in the career of folly and of crime; though Scotland—educated, moral, and religious Scotland—far outsteps them both. Our Southern brethren re-echo our own complaints about taxes and public burdens, and yet they can very quietly and contentedly lose £200,000,000 sterling every year, through the use and abuse of intoxicating liquors!

County and town prisons, hulks, transports, courts of justice, criminal prosecutions, houses of correction, magistrates, police establishments, sessions, litigations, and actions connected with drinking, fees to lawyers and barristers, constables, &c., together with the prices paid, and time lost in prisons, and houses of correction, cause an expenditure and waste to the amount of six or seven millions. The justice department of Government costs upwards of a million annually, and the preventive service half a million more; and yet these sums are not a quarter of what is paid for trials, police fines, &c., by the country. Now from all parts of the United Kingdom, from all judges, magistrates, jailors, police reports, and chaplains to prisons, we have but one testimony, which is, that drinking is the cause of nine-tenths of the crime, quarrels, misdemeanours, and actions that occur.

Our hospitals, lunatic asylums, infirmaries, and various other dispensaries for the sick, cost us upwards of two millions a year: and these are chiefly used and occupied by those whom moderate or excessive drinking have doomed to accidents, diseases or insanity.

How much money is expended on intoxicating drinks in the city of Edinburgh during one year? How much think you? Why, you say, about £1000. You are far short of the mark. There is expended on intoxicating drinks in that city annually, the enormous sum of £400,000 sterling.

In Greenock, not less than £38,000, is expended every year on the direct purchase of intoxicating liquors.

In the town of Kingston (Canada) and neighbourhood, the annual item, of £26,800 has been expended in these houses of public resort during the last year, chiefly by the labouring classes, for an article not only useless, but highly injurious. What benefit would not result to our community if this enormous outlay was spent in works of public usefulness—in the endowment of schools—the support of hospitals—the establishment of libraries, and these institutions adapted to the instruction and improvement of society, but above all in the extension of the Gospel of salvation.

*Sinful expenditure of Grain and Land resulting from it.*

It is a fact, that till very lately, about forty millions of bushels of valuable grain were annually destroyed in this traffic.

No less than one million acres of land are employed in growing grain for making intoxicating drink! How many acres are required for the growth of the hop plant? About 48,000. How much money does government draw in the way of revenue for strong drink? £16,000,000 annual y. How many breweries and distillers are there in Britain? About 50,000. How many millions of gallons of liquors are manufactured every year? 500 millions of gallons. How many vendors of strong drink are there in Britain? There are at least 200,000. These are all of the most striking statements, and the one that follows is no less so, namely, That there are no fewer than 600,000 drunkards in the nation. What an appalling fact is this! Tell it not in Gath, and publish it not in the streets of Askelon, that in the land of Britain—

lised and Christianized Britain—there are 600,000 drunkards, our fellow-countrymen, our fellow-immortals, who are leading a drunkard's degraded and wretched life, and posting onwards to a drunkard's fearful and undone eternity.

*Loss of Health, Disease and Death resulting from it.*

"The effect of drinking spirits is to destroy all desire for food; a man who drinks spirits never eats."—*P. E.*, page 197.

*The Law of Stimulants.*—The law of over stimulation is this,—that the circulation falls off in a greater proportion than it is forced; then comes the collapse or depressed feeling, from the abstraction of alcohol, and then the desire for renewing the dose; but the further law of stimulants is, that the dose must be increased to produce the desired excitement, and thus a fatal habit is established, by which structures essential to life, are disorganised."

Dr. Trotter says, "intoxicating liquors in all their forms, and however disguised, are the most productive cause of disease with which I am acquainted." We have similar testimony from 17 physicians in Manchester, from 70 in Birmingham, from 26 in Brighton, from 50 in Dublin, and from 50 in London. A similar declaration has been made by 556 physicians, in other places throughout the British dominions, many of them have expressed themselves in much stronger language, but none of them in a feebler or in a less emphatic manner.

Dr. Dodd, in his examination before the Committee of the House of Commons, stated, that "writers on medical jurisprudence rank alcohol among narcotico-acrid poison;" and he adds, that "small quantities, if repeated, always prove more or less injurious," and that the morbid appearances seen after death, occasioned by ardent spirits, exactly agree with those which result from poisoning, caused by any other substance ranked in the same class. Sir Astley Cooper has declared, "no person has a greater hostility to dram-drinking than myself, inasmuch that I never suffer any ardent spirits in my house, thinking them evil spirits; and if the poor could witness the white livers, the dropsies, the shattered nervous systems which I have seen as the consequences of drinking, they would be aware that spirits and poisons are synonymous terms."

The celebrated medical writer, Boerhave says, "If drink be required merely for allaying thirst or dryness, and diminishing the acrimony of fluids, then is pure water the best drink for robust man. Plain food, and water for drink, render our bodies the most firm and strong."

Zunmerman declares "that water is the most suitable drink for man, and does not chill the ardour of genius." He says, "that the sole drink of Demosthenes was water."

Anatomy, physiology, and the experience of all ages, and countries, when properly examined, must satisfy every mind well informed in medical science, that the above opinion is altogether erroneous—as to the necessity and benefit of alcoholic drink. Man in ordinary health, like other animals, requires not any such stimulants, and cannot be benefited by a habitual employment of any quantity of them, large or small; nor will their use during his life-time increase the aggregate amount of his labor. In whatever quantity they are employed, they will rather tend to diminish it. When he is in a state of temporary debility from illness, or other causes, a temporary use of them as of other stimulant medicines may be desirable; and as soon as he is raised to his natural standard of health, a continuance of their use can do no good to him, even in the most moderate quantities, while larger quantities (yet such as by many persons are thought moderate) do sooner or later prove injurious to the human constitution, without any exceptions. It is our opinion, that the above statement is substantially correct. Signed by 79 medical men, among whom are Dr. James Blundell, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir James Clark, Bart., Dr. Conquest, Dr. Marshall Hall, Herbert Mayo, Dr. Merriman, Professor Quain, Dr. A. T. Thompson, Benjamin Travers, Dr. Urz, &c. Delevan, &c. &c.

A testimony, similar in sentiment, was signed by nearly 500 medical men of the first respectability, in Edinburgh, Berwick, Aberdeen, Tweed, Bradford, Brighton, Cheltenham, Derby, Dublin, Gloucester, Kilmarnock, Leeds, Leith, Lincoln, Manchester, Nottingham, Worcester, York, &c.

"On the committee handing to this eminent physician the paper which contains the testimony of nearly 500 distinguished medical men, to which we just now alluded, after reading the words, "By the following certificates it will be seen that ardent spirits is ascertained by medical science to be in a strict sense a poison, and that the use of it as an article of diet, especially among the