

position which is manifested to the law, the idea has been yielded to, that we should return to the old license system of legislation. This has been the favourite idea of the liquor dealers and their abettors, all along. They profess to want a *stringent* license law. We do not care, they say, how strict you make it, but we want a *license law*. Now there is no such thing as satisfying these gentlemen. When we had a license law, they said it was unconstitutional—that the Legislature had no right to prevent the sale of an article imported into the country, and upon which the duties had been paid to the government; that the right to import carried with it of necessity the right to sell, &c. &c.; and upon these, and similar ideas, one of the Essex County liquor dealers carried his case from the judgment of our Supreme Court to the Supreme Court at Washington, some years ago, and he had his labor for his pains. Undoubtedly in the present state of things, these gentlemen would be very glad to compound for a *stringent license law*: but for our friends, Sir, for the friends of sincere and hopeful temperance legislation to fall into such a compromise, would be folly, madness, suicide! In the first place, who would execute such a law? Nobody; and the consequences would necessarily be universal license and tolerance. Take, for instance, my own city, with its twenty thousand inhabitants, and more; suppose under your *stringent law*, there should be ten licensed persons for that city, (under the law, thirty years ago, there were some eighty such licenses in Salem,) then we should have ten places where intoxicating drinks could be purchased, and all the rest of our traders and other people would be absolutely prohibited from dealing in the article. What temperance man would lift his finger to give those ten favoured persons a monopoly of the business? Why should he expose himself to all the odium attaching to a prosecutor, for the purpose of driving the business and custom of the city into those few favoured an exclusive channels? He should not, and he would not; for it would make but little difference, in his view of the public interest, whether those liquors are sold as a drink by licensed or unlicensed persons? The effects, in either case, would be the same. Would the monopolist undertake to enforce the law against unlicensed persons? That would be rather an ungracious sort of proceeding, and would not work very well practically, and, if it did, would do little or no good. And who out of the two or three hundred competitors are to have these licenses? This whole license system, besides being vicious and wrong in principle, is environed with difficulties which render it an utter impracticability and nullity; and the idea of returning to it, and getting into the meshes again, would be just about as absurd and irrational as to return to any of the exploded follies and wickedness of the dark ages. We might just as well go back to the wickedness of hanging witches, (and we have infinitely stronger cases in the developments of modern spiritualism than they had in 1692) as to return to the barbarities and cruelties of establishing again by law the traffic in intoxicating liquors as a drink, and entailing again upon the people of the Commonwealth the atrocities of such a traffic. We have had enough of it; and in all our past history, and in the history of this traffic the world over, it has been marked in blood, and its footsteps have taken hold of

death and hell; and that is the deliberate opinion and conviction of the people of this Commonwealth to-day, and has been at least for eighteen years last past—*Hon. A. S. Huntington's Speech*.

A BUNDLE OF INSTANCES AND HINTS.

(From English Papers).

NOT TOO YOUNG.—A little boy in Leicester was induced to sign the Band of Hope pledge. His father was a "Collector," and one day a certain publican called upon him for the purpose of paying his rates. In the course of conversation it came out that the little boy was a teetotaler. "What!" said the publican, with a sneer, "a mere boy like that a teetotaler?" "Yes," said the boy, quite boldly, "I am." "And you mean to say you have signed the pledge?" "Yes, I have, and mean to keep it." "Nonsense," said the publican; "the idea! Why, you are too young to sign the pledge." The little fellow came up to him, took hold of him quietly by the arm, and repeated his words: "Here, here, you say I am too young to be a teetotaler?" "Yes, I do." "Well, now, listen," said he; "I will just ask you a question: You are a publican, are you not, and sell beer?" "Yes, I do." Well, then, suppose I came to your house after a pint of beer, would you send me about my business because I am so young?" "Oh, no," said Boniface, "that is quite a different thing." "Very well, then," said the noble little fellow, with triumph on his face, "if I am not too young to fetch the beer, I am not too young to give up the beer." The confusion of the publican at the termination of the little boy's "logic" can be better imagined than described. Hurrah for the little Temperance reformers; they will steer a-head of some of the "old stagers" yet!—*Weekly Record*.

IMPROVEMENTS IN BARNSELY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.—A correspondent writes:—"An inn, claiming alliance to first-class, known as the Crown Inn, and Commercial Hotel, has lately been fitted up for, and is now occupied as a tuner and brazier and ironmonger's shop. This house is in the heart of the town, at the foot of the Market Place, and has been known near an hundred years over a great part of England as the Waggon and Horses.—In the little village of Billingley, about five miles from Barnsley, near the high-road to Doncaster a public house has stood for half-a-century; within the last few months the tenant of this house has left the village. The property is on the estate of Earl Fitzwilliam, and his steward, Mr Wm. Newman, has resolved that it be no more let for the same purpose.—A little further on the same road stands the village of Mern. The little spot, too, had had its public-house for a length of time, often to the sorrow of the inhabitants. This property belongs to a lady, who has kindly added ten acres of land to the landlord's original take, without an increase of rent, as a consideration for his loss in given up his license to sell intoxicating drinks." Occurrences like these are very gratifying. Our correspondent adds:—"There is one more of these houses on the same road; let that be converted to more useful purpose, and then we shall have the Maine-law from Darfield Bridge to Doncaster, a distance of eleven miles."—*Alliance Weekly News*.

CORONERS' INQUEST.—The impartiality of

an English jury is a characteristic of which we may be justly proud. Yet nothing is more notorious than that upon the subject of the drinking usages our juries almost invariably evade the truth, and flinch from a full and impartial verdict. Let a death occur by fire, murder, or accident, and an English jury will exert themselves to their uttermost to arrive at a true finding, regardless of either the feelings or the interests involved in the inquiry. But suppose the death to have been caused by the use of intoxicating drinks, and this same jury will be content to see the inquiry smothered, and to find a verdict, which, if it does not actually belie the facts, so hides them beneath elastic phrases and vague generalities as to be worse than worthless.

A serious instance of this kind has occurred quite recently. An elderly woman, the wife of a respectable tradesman, and the mother of a large family, fell down stairs, and died the following day from the injuries she received. At the inquest it was proved that at the time she was in a state of intoxication, and that this was a common thing with her. For a long time she had been debarred entry into the shop, that she might not indulge her propensity at the expense of the till or the articles in stock. To keep her quiet, and to reconcile her to the exclusion, her husband had kept her supplied to any amount her passion craved for up to the day of the accident, when, under the influence of the drink so supplied, she made the stumble which ended in her death. The finding of the jury was "*Accidental death*." Not one syllable about the drunkenness which led to it, and not one word of condemnation of the atrocious conduct of the husband, who had so manifestly helped on the fatal catastrophe.

Another case of death through drunkenness occurred in the same neighbourhood about a fortnight before this, in which the finding of the jury was, "Died of starvation through intemperance." The medical evidence being, that, though there was plenty of food in the house at the time, such was the condition of the stomach produced by intoxicating drink, that the taking of natural nourishment was impossible. Even in this case, however, the duty of the jury was but half-done, for it was proved that for some days she had been in such a state of helpless inebriety as to be unable to procure it for herself, but had nevertheless been kept fully supplied by other persons living in the same house. We do not know what power the law has in such cases, but we maintain that morally the juries were bound, not only to record the cause of death, but to utter an indignant protest against the conduct of the persons who, by supplying the means, had so materially assisted in producing it. Substitute for the poison alcohol the poison arsenic or strychnine, and no language would be strong enough to express the disgust which an English jury would feel at the conduct of the companions of the suicide, who had daily and hourly provided her with doses of the poison. Yet such is the delusion which prevails upon the subject of intoxicating drinks, that not one man out of the twenty-four had the courage and honesty to utter a single word of warning or rebuke against the aiders and abettors of voluntary murder!—This is a matter to which teetotalers should pay particular attention. In every neighborhood where a death is supposed to arise from drunkenness a teetotaler ought to be on the jury; and let that teetotaler do his duty fully and fearlessly, and this moral turpitude must