

tive a manner. Then let every temperance advocate who is so placed that his, or her, influence can be brought to bear do their utmost to advance the interests of the cause in these counties where the Act is not yet adopted. We can do little towards hastening the advancement of the movement, in the Upper Provinces, beyond prayer and encouragement, but we have yet several counties in our own province which have not pronounced on the question. Measures should be taken to submit it in these at the earliest possible moment that we may soon be able to lend the moral weight to the advancement of the cause, of being a province known as totally in favor of prohibition. But as prohibition is not our end, but only a means to an end, it will not do for temperance men in the counties, where the Act is in force, to rest content with securing. Much has been, and is being done, in all parts of christendom to encourage temperance workers, but immense antagonistic interests still exist. We are confronted by vast monied power, long existing habits, and the greed of unscrupulous men. It is therefore no easy task that remains. Men must be earnest in their efforts to convert the disciples of rum, and secure the uncontaminated, so that principles may triumph over passion. Even with prohibition the work is but begun; but with so efficient a tool, and the government impressed into the service, the task of suppressing the curse would be comparatively easy. Let no exertion then be spared that will speed the attainment of the most effective measure to be used in the conflict.—*Watchman.*

HOW DRUNKENNESS IS PROMOTED IN INDIA.

Some time ago we received from Mr. F. T. Atkins, 142 Buckingham Palace Road, a letter, for which we were at the time unable to afford space, but as the subject appears to demand the attention of temperance men, we now quote the following:—

“Last December I was granted an opportunity of explaining to several representatives of the various temperance organizations in England the evils of the ‘out still’ system in India. On that occasion I pointed out that the policy pursued by Government in relation to the liquor traffic in India was very different to that of the barbarians who, centuries ago, from time to time invaded India, and ruled its people with despotic power. Whatever race the conquerors belonged to, they all discouraged the manufacture of intoxicating beverages. The East India Company repeatedly urged upon its officers in India that they should do all in their power to check the vice of drunkenness among the native population, though their action might result in a loss of revenue. These are views not entertained by those who control the affairs of our Indian Empire nowadays.

“The Government seem entirely regardless of the degradation into which the native population are falling, so long as the revenues of the State are increased. Twenty years ago it was a rare sight to see a drunken native, but now it is common to see natives of both sexes intoxicated.

“Ten years ago the rules relating to the manufacture of spirits were very strict: a limit was fixed by the Government as to the quantity that was to be made. The distilleries were periodically inspected by the magistrate, and a police force was maintained at the distillery to see that more than the proper quantity was not manufactured. All this has been changed. Restrictions have been abolished. The right to manufacture liquor is disposed of by public auction, and open violation of the Excise regulations are permitted to pass unnoticed.

“Numerous petitions have been sent in from all classes of society, Europeans as well as natives. Mill owners, representing capital to the extent of £3,300,000, have appealed in vain for reform. Tea planters, who have to pay their employees in sickness or health, complain most bitterly that since the multiplication of distilleries and the manufacture of liquor without restrictions, it is no unusual thing for them to have large numbers of their hands sick, or rather stupefied, through drinking the fearful *poison* the ‘stills’ are allowed to manufacture. I use the word *poison* advisedly, for the beverage sold from the ‘stills’ contain more fusel oil than alcohol.

“The appeals made in India to the Government have been ignored, but I trust this statement of the facts will induce those Englishmen in this country who have no desire to see the natives of India civilized off the face of the earth through drunkenness, to take this matter up and afford practical sympathy.

“The Good Templars belonging to the Middlesex District Lodge have memorialized the Secretary of State for India on the subject, and in so doing have set an example I hope every other temperance and total abstinence organization in the United Kingdom will follow. *Coffee Public House News.*

PROHIBITION AND LIQUOR CONSUMPTION.

William Hoyle, Esq., at a conference held in London on the 2nd ult., under the auspices of the British Temperance League, read a very instructive paper, in which, referring to the effect of prohibitory legislation upon liquor consumption, he cited American experience as follows:

“I will very briefly glance at the facts developed in America.

“Probably the facts relating to America may be regarded as those which most fully illustrate the influence and legislation upon the consumption of intoxicating liquors by the population of a country, inasmuch as several of the American States have carried on the principles of prohibition to its fullest extent, while other States have sought to secure sobriety by a rigid system of licensing. Let us compare four of these states viz. Maine and Vermont, which are prohibitionists, with Connecticut and Rhode Island, which have stringent license laws.

“From the annual report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the United States I find that the total receipts from internal taxes in 1883 in Maine and Vermont are as follows:

	POP.	\$
Maine.....	648,936	72,803
Vermont.....	332,286	46,062
	981,222	118,865

“Taking the two States having a stringent license law, I find that the internal taxes they pay to the United States Government are as follows:

	POP.	\$
Connecticut.....	622,700	506,991
Rhode Island.....	276,531	395,319
	899,231	902,310

“From the figures just given it will be seen that whilst the two prohibitory States of Maine and Vermont, with a population of over 981,000, paid only \$118,865 in internal taxes to the Federal Government, the two license States of Connecticut and Rhode Island, with a population of only 899,231, paid internal taxes to the amount of \$902,310, or about eight times as much. And when we remember that eleven-twelfths of the internal tax paid to the Federal Government of America is raised from intoxicating liquors and tobacco, it will illustrate the enormous influence of prohibitory legislation in promoting the sobriety of the people.

“There is another reflection suggested by a consideration of the figures just given. It is this: opponents of the temperance movement often assert that there is in mankind a natural craving for stimulants, and if they have not facilities for getting intoxicating liquors they will use more of tobacco. When I was lately travelling in the United States I remarked to General Dow that I had seen less smoking in Maine than in any State in which I had travelled. The figures of the inland revenue of the States confirm this opinion, and prove that the quantity of tobacco used must be less in Maine than in other States.”—*Ohio Good Templar.*

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC AND HUMAN LIFE.

The advocates of the use of liquor and of the licensing system of our country resent the statements made by temperance people that alcohol is the cause of tens of thousands of deaths every year. Those in favor of the liquor crime in our country say it is criminal exaggeration to say so, and they make strenuous efforts to blind the eyes of the people to the real facts of the case. The world is only beginning to get its eyes open to the fact that the use of liquor as a beverage and the liquor traffic which encourages this use is a gigantic murder agency, which destroys human life by wholesale. Those who die through the excessive use of liquor form but a small contingent of the great numbers who shorten their lives by the moderate and daily use of alcoholic beverages.