

its evasion?—and then let them mark the consequences. The illicit trade “debauches the minds of those engaged in it,” and murder and robbery would be certain to attend on smuggling in the Canadian Dominion, as they have done elsewhere. In the story which follows, we find the following description of Andrew Wilson the smuggler, who was hanged: “He was “possessed of great personal strength, “courage and cunning, was perfectly acquainted with the coast, and capable of “conducting the most desperate enterprises. On several occasions he succeeded in baffling the pursuit and rescues of the king’s officers; but he “became so much the object of their suspicious and watchful attention, that at length he was totally ruined by repeated “seizures. The man became desperate, “he considered himself as robbed and “plundered, and took into his head that “he had a right to make reprisals as he “could find opportunity. Where the “heart is prepared for evil, opportunity is “seldom long wanting.” It is noteworthy that Wilson’s chief accomplice was a young Englishman, son of a benefited clergyman and heir to a baronetcy, which illustrates the temptation held out to the young of a life of adventure. We shall make one more reference to Sir Walter Scott. In the novel of Redgauntlet we have a description of a smuggling depot kept by an old hypocrite, Tom Trumbull by name. Alan Fairford has been sent to the smuggler to obtain a passage to England in his craft and was concealed in his “premises: “He had long known that the “excise laws had occasioned an active “contraband trade betwixt Scotland and “England, which then as now existed, “and will continue to exist until the utter “abolition of the wretched system which “establishes an inequality of duties betwixt the different parts of the same “kingdom; a system, be it said in passing, mightily resembling the conduct of “a pugilist who should tie up one arm “that he might fight the better with the “other. But Fairford was unprepared “for the expensive and regular establishments by which the illicit traffic was carried on, and could not have conceived “that the capital employed in it should “have been adequate to the erection “of these extensive buildings with all “their contrivances for secrecy of communication.” The foregoing is the description of the depot at Annan on the Solway. The description of the voyage of the smuggling vessel and of the landing on the Cumberland coast follows: “In half an hour the loading of the brig “was in a great measure disposed in the

“boats; in a quarter of an hour more it “was landed on the beach, and another “interval of about the same duration was “sufficient to distribute it on the various “strings of pack horses which waited for “that purpose, and which instantly dispersed each on its own proper adventure.” The loaded horses then sprang “forward at a hard trot, following each “other in a line, and every second horse “being mounted by a stout fellow in a “smock frock which served to conceal the “arms with which most of these desperate “men were provided.”

The illustrations that we have given of the illicit traffic carried on in the last century describe the smuggling into Scotland by a Dutch company carried on in a foreign vessel commanded by a foreigner, Dirk Hatteraick; smuggling carried on by Scotchmen of desperate characters, such as Wilson in the Heart of Mid-Lothian; and smuggling carried on from Scotland into England, as in Redgauntlet. It is not unworthy of remark that during the period of political excitement in England and Scotland, those in rebellion against the Crown invariably formed alliances with the smugglers, who were likewise in hostility to the government. Lord Macaulay refers in his account of Sir John Fenwick’s treason to the smugglers’ haunt on the South coast of England, which had been visited by many of the rebels and among others by the Duke of Berwick. The excise laws were found as great a temptation to illicit traffic as the customs duties. Miss Edgeworth, who has delineated Irish life and manners with great success, has described in the “Absentee” the illicit distillation of what used to be known as “potheen,” and the manner in which the people were leagued as one man to protect the violators of the law. In Scotland the illicit distillation of whiskey was almost, if not quite, as general as in Ireland. Our prohibitionists are fond of quoting the success of the Maine law, but we must remind them that State laws are of little, if any, more efficacy than our Dunkin acts. The question of prohibition has never been entertained in the Congress of the United States, which alone could restrain the importation of spirits. The Maine law was utterly powerless to prevent the importation at its principal port of the very liquor the manufacture of which it prohibited. It is in the Parliament of the Dominion that our prohibitory law will have to be discussed, and we can hardly imagine that any one would be so illogical as to vote to prevent the manufacture of an article, the importation of which from the other side of the boundary line was to be permitted. The

prohibition, to be effective, must be against the importation, manufacture, and sale of the articles the consumption of which is to be suppressed. Now such a law would be essentially different from any that has yet been enacted in any other country, and if it were possible that it could be sanctioned by our Parliament, would inevitably lead to the deplorable results which followed the imposition of excessive customs and excise duties in all parts of the United Kingdom. There is yet another important consideration. The cost of the Coast-guard service in Great Britain is enormous, but, great as it is, it would be a mere *bagatelle* to what would be required to maintain such a force along our extended frontier, including the banks of the St. Lawrence and the coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The very idea of preventing illicit traffic in Canada, is absurd, and yet the obstacles which we have glanced at seem never to enter into the calculations of our enthusiastic prohibitionists, or, if they do, most assuredly they never condescend to explain how they are to be surmounted. We should be glad indeed to believe that the introduction of the Gothenburg system would be a satisfactory solution of the question at issue between the prohibitionists and their opponents. The essential principle of that system is this: No individual, “either as proprietor or manager of a “public house or shop, can derive any “private gain from the sale of spirits, or “have any interest in extending their “consumption.” The mode in which the principle has been worked out is by a limited company, the members of which bind themselves “to derive no profit “from the trade in drink, which the are “instituted to carry on, but to hand over “the net proceeds of any to the town treasury.” Their managers are paid “partly by salary and partly by a share of the profits on the sale of beer, coffee, tea, tobacco and food.” It is said that by the operations of the Bolag, the ordinary level of drunkenness was reduced 40 per cent. from 1864 to 1875. Nevertheless the profits to the town from the sale of drink, were £10,604 in 1874, and had increased to £30,973 in 1875, so that, by this arrangement “the drinkers of Gothenburg provide for many of the expenses of the community.” The advocates of the Gothenburg system maintain that there is “absolutely only one way by which drunkenness can be put down, and that is by “the entire prohibition of the use of intoxicating drinks. But such a measure is “utterly impracticable, and you have there “fore to consider how the evils attendant