

it may be—and it generally is so—that years of intemperance are before him, until more and more under the dominion of the insatiable passion, the fatal hour comes in which is realized the gains of his life.

Surely one would think that the unhappy consequences which, it is generally admitted, flow from indulgence in the use of intoxicating drinks, productive of such ever increasing misery, and leading to the absolute destruction of thousands of human beings, would have led earnest statesmen and others high in authority, to consider the effect which inebriety has on national prosperity, and the deadening influence which it ever exercises on the morals of a nation. Why is it, that stringent legislative measures are passed against other crimes, that adequate punishment and reward is meted out with a view to their correction and removal, and yet, not only has no sufficiently well-regulated system of discipline been established to meet the circumstances of the drunkard, but it may with truth be said, that but little discouragement has been given to him, either by society at large or by government. So deep-seated is this social evil, so extensive its hold on the masses, that we know not with what to compare it, unless we liken it to a vast and wide-spread marsh, from whose bosom rises a noxious exhalation which, entering into the houses of the rich, vitiates their tastes, and blights their fairest hopes; the statesman succumbs to its baneful influence, the professional man and the merchant stagger under its prostrating influence; the mechanic and labourer are brought by it to poverty, and their families to the work-house; the public gaols are filled with criminals—the lunatic asylums supplied largely with inmates, and Idiocy is begotten by it. Everywhere the results of the vice are apparent; and truly, so long as men of education and refinement continue to stand aloof and refrain from taking the necessary measures to purify the moral atmosphere (in the midst of which they live) of the grossness which contaminates it, so long must general society suffer, and the weaker amongst them fall. While many are ready to admit that drunkenness is the fruitful source of much of the misery that prevails, but few are conscious of the extent to which it ministers to human misery; they fail to see, in the criminal standing on the gallows, or shut up in the forger's cell, or the felon's dock, the victim of intemperance; still less do parents recognise the connexion which certainly exists, between drunkenness and various forms of mental obliquity and moral infirmity, as developed in the children of the intemperate. Are they aware, that in the indulgence of a habit which brings to themselves a series of incalculable woes, that they are almost as certainly bringing down on their children a similar heritage? do they know that the child of sottish, drunken parents is born to a life of special temptation, and that the hapless offspring but too frequently ends its existence as the parent before it did? It may be, that fully recognising the fact, some at least will be induced to pause in their career, and for the sake of their children, place themselves in a position, where by wholesome restraint, and by moral discipline, they may learn to avoid the temptation, and to cure a habit, which is to them, and to their young ones, a source of such mischief.

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#### PROOF THAT INTEMPERANCE AFFECTS THE CHILDREN OF THOSE GUILTY OF IT, AND BRINGS FATAL DISEASE ON THEMSELVES.

In a report furnished to the National Medical Association, Washington, U. S., Dr. S. M. Bemis, of Kentucky, made a report, of which the following is an extract:—"Physiologists have examined the physical condition of the progenitors of idiots, and sought for some satisfactory causes of the very vice or defect in the organization which causes idiocy. Several striking truths seem to be the result of these enquiries. One of the most striking is, that eight-tenths of the idiots are born of wretched stock; of families which seem to have degenerated to the lowest degree of bodily and mental condition,