

of taxation upon the State, and to that extent impoverish and hinder honest industry in the acquisition of wealth. If men cannot be made moral and good by legislation, the legislature has at least the power and the right to forbid and punish a traffic which uniformly makes men criminal and vicious. And it is on this ground that the law forbids and punishes with heavy penalties, the sale of intoxicating liquors, as beverages. It is not simply because alcohol is a poison, or that its use, as a beverage, is an immorality, that the traffic in it is forbidden for such purposes, but for the reason that that traffic, resulting in that use, produces a vast amount of crime, poverty, disease, and general demoralization, followed by what would be otherwise unnecessary taxation to support the pauperism thus created, and to protect society from the disastrous consequences of crime thus occasioned.

It is not from the employment of alcoholic liquors in the arts, but from their use as a beverage, that the evils complained of result; and the difference between the existing law and the one asked for by these petitioners, is just the difference between good and evil, unless "the appalling statistics of intemperance," gathered from numberless sources and over the widest fields of observation, are altogether at fault. The law as it now is permits and authorizes the manufacture and sale of these liquors for all useful purposes; the license law asked for would not only do this, but would legalize their sale for a purpose which, by an inevitable and uniform practice, leads to the disastrous consequences which have been enumerated.

That the common and intemperate use of these liquors is the fruitful source of crime and poverty, and consequent unjust taxation upon honest industry, cannot be doubted by any intelligent man who will bestow upon the question an impartial inquiry. We shall cite only a few of the many thousand witnesses that might be called to the stand upon this subject. The following are the declarations of some of the most intelligent and able judges of the English Courts:—

Judge Coleridge:—"There is scarcely a crime comes before me that is not directly or indirectly caused by strong drink."

Judge Gurney:—"Every crime has its origin more or less in drunkenness."

Judge Patterson:—"If it were not for this drinking, you (the jury) and I would have nothing to do."

Judge Alderson:—"Drunkenness is the most fertile source of crime, and if it could be removed the assizes of the country would be rendered mere nullities." ✓

Judge Wightman:—"I find in my calendar, that comes before me, one unfailing source, directly or indirectly, of the most of the crimes that are committed—intemperance."

To this testimony of the English judges might be added that of the judges of every criminal court in America, and that of every prosecuting officer. And no amount of declamation, no amount of ingenious speculation can reverse the judgment of mankind, that intemperance, occasioned by the use of intoxicating liquors, is