READ

What His Lordship Bishop Casey Says on the Liquor Question.

DRUNKENNESS

There is still another, which, in various ways, differs from the rest, and which, therefore, at times demands fuller consideration. It is less innate, less inherent to our nature than the rest; it may, nevertheless be a fruitful mother to them all. Right on through history it has demanded the attention of moralists; just now it has all the world concerned, and no place more earnestly than our American continent. In the councils of the state as well as of the church it calls for deliberation as to the means of its suppression. Every one knows it,- for we speak of drunkenness. The states and provinces of the whole continent are grappling with the evil, and with gratifying success; the councils and synods of the universal church are deliberating to devise the most efficacious means of reforming and saving its unfortunate slave. What the Irish bishops, once assembled in synod at Maynooth, said of their children at home may be affirmed with equal truth, of many other nations, and not least perhaps, of our own country? "To drunkenness we may refer, as to the baneful cause, almost all the crime by which the country is degraded, and nearly all the poverty from which it suffers. Drunkenness has wrecked more homes once happy than ever fell beneath the crowbar in the worst days of conviction; it has filled more graves and made more widows and orphans than did the famine; it has broken more hearts, blighted more homes and rent asunder family ties more ruthlessly than the enforced exile to which their misery has condemned emigrants."

Too often, it may be, we are so familiar with the scenes and effects of this vice that we do not reflect on their terrible reality. It is worth while to pause a little now, to bring the gravity of the matter home to us. The subject is not pleasant, but it demands consideration.

Man was created after the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity had taken counsel together; "A little less than the angels," God created him. Look at the man passing through the grades of drunken revelry. With the first drink his thirst is slaked, nature is satisfied; with the second comes a jovality which for him is at least questionable; with passion; while with the fourth and the following drinks come drunkenness, madness and insanity During the early stages the Christian is fast vanishing; vulgarity becomes wit, and obscenity, humor; drunken stupor soon overwhelms him; the man is gone, a worse than the brute lies in his place. What a spectacle to his fellowmen! What to the angels a little less than whom he was 'created! To the saints, the just made perfect in the land of the living! To Him who died to raise fallen humanity! The Son of God assumed human nature to redeem it, to raise it to the Divine; this man has degraded it below the nature of beasts. He has no intelligence left, his freedom of will is gone; there is no evidence has a soul: it is dead-more, buried in his miserable flesh. It was a pagan who wrote: "Drunkenness knocks down the man, and nails him to the sensual intermixtures of his body." And too often he has a wife a family. What misery is theirs! Hunger, rags, cold-we stop. "Adam where art thou," demanded the Lord God of the first guilty man after his fall. God knew where Adam was. It was the divine image effaced by sin, the life of grace destroyed that He sought, "What would He say to the drunkard, as pictured lying before us? "Ren-++++++++++++++++++

der an account of thy talents; thy intelligence, thy will, thy baptism! They are destroyed." A FEARFUL SIN

No other sin makes a man so helpless before Heaven. However abandoned by grace, however sunk in crime or any other nature, a sinner has intelligence left by which he can turn to God in prayer, a will by which to repent of his folly. . The drunkard has neither intelligence nor will left, by which to pray or repent. Is the picture, exaggerated? No. there can be no exaggeration of such degradation. He is more obnoxious than the madman, more contemptible than the demoniac. These are objects of pity, for they are afflicted through perhaps no fault of their own; the drunkard deserves but scorn, for he has debased his very manhood. He has brought the curse of God upon his home, he has closed the gates of Heaven against himself. Are we too severe? Listen to St. Paul. Make no mistake, says the inspired apostle: "Neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor thieves, nor drunkards, shall possess the Kingdom of Heaven."-1 Cor. VI. 8, 10. Here we have the drunkard classed with the worst of criminalsidolators, adulterers, thieves-and the gates of Heav-

Let us see furhter what the Bible says about the drunkard, for the inspired Word can make no mistake. The wise man tells us that the woes of Heaven, that is, the curse of God, fall thick and fast upon him: "Who hath woe? Whose father hath Who hath contentions? Who falls into pits? Who hath wounds, without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? Surely they that pass their time in wine, and study to drink up their cups."-Prov. XXIII., 29, 30. And Isaias speaks to the same purpose: "Woe to you that rise up early in the morning to follow drunkenness, and to drink till the evening to be inflamed with, wine. Woe to you that are mighty to drink wine, and are stout men at drunkenness. Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim. The crown of pride of the drunkards of Ephraim shall be trodden under foot."-Isaias V., 11, 22; XXVIII., 1, 3.

en, closed against him; and that by the Apostle of the

No words of ours can add anything to such fearful denunciation of inspired penmen. Compared with other sins, it ranks with the worst; we may say that its enormity is increased by the fact that it may become the mother of any or all of them. Indeed, we can scarcely consider drunkenness alone, for it is always followed by an unholy brood of crimes. In itself, it is but the starting point on the way to perdition. In its wake, follow idleness, carelessness, evil company, profanity, debauchery, gambling, destruction of property, ruin of family, disease, death in bandonment and impenitence. These are a few of the many vices, that follow in the drunkard's We are convinced of this truth, appalled at its narration. We wonder not that the Apostle of the Gentiles saw, in the light of inspiration, the

gates of Heaven closed against him. WARNING

I have not gone that far," we are prepared to hear addressed to us on all sides. We answer: You have not come to such excesses, Heaven forbid it! You have not vet run the full course of the drunkard; but you have made a beginning; the habit of drink is growing; your haste to excuse it shows how cesses are yawning before you. No drunkard ever makes and keeps a promise. "I will go so far but no further," unless accident or death come to make his downward progress impossible.

That this pestilential vice is widespread around us we have but to open our eyes and look. Nearly any day on the streets, the eye and the ear may be sadly regaled by the sight and profanity of "one more unfortunate." The prison statistics and the penitentiary records throughout the Dominion

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are afflicting testimonials to the ravages on the moral and social order of the commonwealth. The wellbeing of the individual, of the faimly, of the public, is at stake. It is everyone's duty to be inferested. The evil, though still vigorous and bent on its destructive course, may yet be conquered, if we can secure the good will and hearty co-operation of the great multitude not yet reduced to miserable slavery. A CALL TO ARMS

It is for this reason that we make the call to arms, as we would if some destructive epidemic were breaking out over the country. Such a passing visitation would not destroy as many as we know to be falling under the scourge of intemperance. We find an eminent statesman declaring, that this is an evil more to be feared than the three historic foes of humanity-war, famine and pestilence.

Nor are all those of the household of the faith, by any means, free from the meshes of this scourge, to the scandal of those around us, and to the affliction of their Mother, the Church. There are some who call themselves Catholic-and are such only in name-who drag that hallowed name into the mire of iniquity, swelling the prison rolls by their drunk-en excesses. Their families suffer, their friends weep, the Church blushes; the malediction of Heaven

This is no time to tone down truth until it becomes falsehood. Let us look the evil in the face. What is it that fills many homes with misery and wretchedness, that leaves the children hungry and ragged, that makes the streets resound with profanity and worse, that makes the prejudiced fling prison statistics at us, that makes the scornful point at us, and, awful to think, destroys immortal souls for which the Saviour died, sending them before their Judge with the brand of hell upon their brow,-what is it? It is the mad passion for the intoxicating cup.

Now, what are we to do? How lift the cloud that sadly envelopes so many souls for whom the Precious Blood was freely shed? There are many thank God, who are free from the vice we deplore; but we are not therefore, without care for our less fortunate brothers. We must not say to God, as did wicked Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Let us rather admit with St. Paul: "Yourselves have learned of God to love one another."-I. Thess. IV. 9. Again, therefore, we ask, what are we to do?

SHUN IT AS A PESTILENCE

Among the very first principles of religion we remember that we were strongly impressed with the necessity of avoiding the occasion of sin; and this principle is founded on the Word of God: "He hat loveth danger shall perish in it."-Eccles. III. 27. This principle can be applied to no one with more truth and justice than to the man or woman who is conscious of weakness in regard to drink. For such a one, certain palces, persons or actions, that are perfectly harmless to others, are deadly sin. For a man with the drink craving there is absolutely no remedy, unless he shun as a pestilence the presence both of liquors and drinkers. World-wide experience illustrates the truth of what the Holy Ghost said about loving the danger; and such a man can no more enter a bar-room with safety, than he can place his neck on the rails before the onrushing train. He can no more take a drink with a friend without fear of drunkenness, than he can swallow a deadly poison without danger of death. The drink that may b without sin in another, is a real crime in him. As he hopes for salvation, he can only attain it by shunning as he would a rattlesnake, the places and the persons that are to him the occasions of temptation. We may declare with assurance that, no matter how safe one may consider himself, everyone is obliged to strict temperance even in the lawful use of stimulants, to avoid visiting bar-rooms without necessity, to shun the companionship of drinkers. In these is (Continued on Page Three)

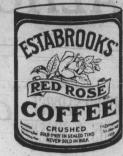
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