

had kept taverns there for a period as far back as their recollection could extend—generally about twenty-five years.

We marked them temperate or intemperate, as the facts would warrant. Here, however, I must make an important explanation. It was extremely rare—not one case, perhaps, in a hundred—that the tavern-keeper was a total abstinence man. Few were so very *inconsistent* as not to use themselves the article they sold to others, and when told to mark *temperate*, it was generally added:—"He drank a great deal: perhaps a quart a day." "His face was very red." "His nose was covered with rum-blossoms." "He was thoroughly pickled." "His eyes were edged with pink; we should call him a drunkard now, but as he attended regularly to business, we called him a temperate man then."

It is indispensable to a right understanding of this matter, that these explanations be borne in mind. Indeed, seven-eighths of those marked *temperate*, might with perfect propriety, have been put down, *soakers, tipplers, or habitual drunkards*. The next step was to ascertain what had been their success in the attainment of their principal object,—the *acquisition of property*. In doing this, I arranged into four classes: 1st, made property; 2d, made a living; 3d, diminished property; 4th, lost all. Judicious friends have found fault with this arrangement, on account of the number of classes I have made. My answer is, that my object was to approach as near as possible to perfect accuracy, and I judged that by any smaller number, I could not so nearly approximate to that point.

Of the first class nothing need be said by way of explanation. The second class were those who, in most cases, kept but a short time, often less than a year. They had more or less property to begin with, and at the close no perceptible change had taken place. They had supported themselves; if they had found the business lucrative, they would not have been likely to abandon it. Those are included in the third class where, at the commencement, there was considerable property, and on closing there was evident embarrassment, a difficulty in paying rent or other debts. In some instances \$5000, and even \$10,000, were lost, and yet there was not a total wreck. Those were put down in the fourth class where the sheriff closed the concern, or the bankrupt law afforded relief.

The number of names obtained, and thus classified, was 716.

Temperate, - - - - - 374
Intemperate, - - - - - 342

Of the intemperate—5 committed suicide;
3 were killed by drunkards;
3 became totally blind;
10 died of delirium tremens;
33 (others) died drunkards;
37 had drunken sons;
19 ran away;
13 had drunken wives.

In regard to the last class, I do not suppose I have been able to ascertain more than a small part of the cases that actually existed. While intemperate men, by mingling with their fellow men in their business transactions, or in scenes of recreation or revelry, expose themselves, and their habits necessarily become known, females often-times, as I am assured by physicians, when they indulge too freely in the use of intoxicating drink, being suddenly seized with a sick turn—a vertigo or fainting fit—take to their bed, and thus escape exposure. What the number of these cases may have been, however, I will not even hazard a conjecture.

Another thing should be taken into account in this connexion, that is, the number of husbands, wives, and children, who may have contracted an appetite for strong drinks, which afterwards may have matured into drunkenness. These, of course, cannot be enumerated; but occasional in-

stances of this kind, which have come to my knowledge, fully justify the belief that they have been very numerous.

The following exhibits the result of my investigation in regard to property:—

Made property, - - - - - 127
Made a living, - - - - - 227
Diminished property, - - - - - 174
Lost all, - - - - - 191

From the above it will be seen, first, that 592 either lost or did not gain; and, secondly, that the number who became entirely bankrupt, was more than one third larger than the number of those who gained any; and let it be especially noted, that among them were 181 who had farms. These may have, on the whole, increased their property; but it may have been from the products of the farm, while the sale of liquor was a losing concern. And such has sometimes been the case, as I have been assured by those who could speak from experience. In one town, however, I found three cases, in which farms had been exchanged for tavern stands, where entire bankruptcy ensued, and the owners became drunkards: one of them deserted his family, and has been a wandering vagabond for some twenty years.

Another important fact brought out by my recent examination is that, as a class, tavern keepers have far less taxable property, and of course pay far less tax than persons of any other occupation. This, taken in connexion with the fact proved by the official certificates of the clerks of supervisors, of the several counties of this State, as exhibited in my Report, that the liquor traffic, in the expenses of pauperism and crime which it occasions, causes more than two-thirds of the county expenses, will lead the tax-payer to hesitate when called upon to sanction by his vote the sale of intoxicating drinks. Yes, it does seem as if, when asked to give to a few individuals this *monopoly*, he will enquire, "*Cui bono?*" and if he cannot find the good, while the evils, moral and pecuniary, lie scattered everywhere over the surface of society, he will not dare to give a legal sanction to this business. If he does, he should never complain of the corruption of public morals, or even scowl at the increase of his taxes. No! when his sons become wreckless spendthrifts, and rebel against parental authority; when his darling daughter, with her little brood of poverty-stricken children, are thrown back upon his hands by the intemperance of the husband and father, let him reflect that when he gave a license vote, he virtually said, "The curse be upon me and my children." "He has sown the wind and reaps the whirlwind."

These facts will enable us to decide who is the real friend to the tavern-keeper—he who would vote him into this business, or who would vote him out of it; he that would encourage him to hazard his property and character by lingering around this maelstrom of moral and pecuniary ruin, or he who would endeavour to prevent his approaching its verge, and, in the last resort, would, even by legal enactments, hedge up his way, and turn his attention to a more honourable and less hazardous occupation.

Hitherto, when the vender has appealed to us for sympathy on account of our interfering with his pecuniary interest, we have answered him by reminding him of the jails, the alms-houses, and graves he has filled, by telling him of the countless and indescribable woes of the drunkard's family, of the desolateness of his fireside, the hunger and rags, the agony of soul and the broken hearts he has caused; but now we can ask him to have compassion on himself, upon his own wife and children, to stop before he plunges himself and them into the abyss of drunkenness, and brings upon them all the woes that cluster around the drunkard's path; to stop before he entails upon them the curse of poverty, ignorance, and degradation, and causes the blush of shame to mantle their cheeks whenever his name shall be mentioned, by being obliged to associate with it the degraded character of the loathsome inebriate.