

suppressed by law in all civilised states; thus the opening of lotteries is a commercial speculation forbidden by the law in England. If it be asked on what grounds the state is justified in annihilating these branches of industry, it must be answered as before, that society may put down what is dangerous to itself—*salus populi suprema lex*. Any trade, employment, or use of property detrimental to the life, health or order of the people, is by English law a public nuisance, and in suppressing it, the state assumes the right of sacrificing private interests to the public good,—and this not only when the detriment is physical or economical, but also when it is moral. Thus unwholesome grave-yards are shut up, and noisome vitriol works pulled down, for their physical noxiousness; private coining is made illegal for economical reasons; slave trading, lotteries, cockpits, bear-gardens, gambling-houses, brothels, and obscene print-shops, are prohibited on moral grounds. Now the liquor-traffic and particularly the retail branch of it, is a public nuisance in all three respects, both physically, economically, and morally. By its physical consequences it causes death to thousands, reduces thousands more to madness or idiocy, and afflicts myriads with diseases involving the most wretched forms of bodily and mental torture. Considered in its economical results, it impairs the national resources by destroying a large amount of corn, which is annually distilled into spirits; and it indirectly causes three-fourths of the taxation required by pauperism and criminal prosecutions and prison expenses, and further, it diminishes the effective industry of the working classes, thereby lessening the amount of national production. Thirdly, viewed in its moral operation, it is the cause of two-thirds of the crime committed, it lowers the intelligence, and hinders the civilization of the people; and leads the man to ill-treat and starve their families, and sacrifice domestic comfort to riotous debauchery.”—*Edinburgh Review*, July, 1854.

DRINK AND CRIME INSEPARABLE.

At the annual meeting of the U. K. A. in Exeter Hall, the Rev. James Bardsley, of Manchester, spoke to a resolution affirmative of the fact that vice and drunkenness are in direct proportion, to the number of public houses and the facilities for obtaining intoxicating drink. He argued from accurately prepared statistical tables; and adduced different counties as illustrative proofs. Cheshire has to 100,000 people, 216 criminals; to 10,000 persons it has 1,000 children at school; and to 2,000 persons it has 656 adults at church and chapel. Compare this county with Yorkshire, and you will find to 100,000 persons 114 criminals; to 10,000 persons you find 1,050 children at school; and as to attendance at church and chapel the two counties are nearly on a par. But the criminal population is nearly double in Cheshire to what it is in Yorkshire; and mark the reason; in Yorkshire there are to every 100,000 persons 238 drinking shops; whereas in Cheshire, there are to 100,000 persons 456 drinking houses. Here then we have the two counties nearly upon an equality in school and church attendance; but in Cheshire we have 455 drunkeries and 216 criminals; in Yorkshire 238 drunkeries and 114 criminals. From this it is evident, that it is not schools and chapels that lessen the amount of criminality, but the number of public houses. Wherever the grace of God is received in truth, men will oppose

intemperance, and every evil work; but where education and the means of grace abound, the effects of them are uniformly, to a less or greater extent, neutralised by the prevalence of temptation in the shape of public houses. Mr. Bardsley compared several counties with similar results; and no doubt was left in the mind of any one in that vast assembly, that crime rises or falls in proportion to the number of public houses in a town or district. The trade of the publican is unique. Take 50 bakers to supply your population in a trade simply remunerating, and no more. Increase them to 100, they could not live, because the people would eat no more. Take 100 publicans to supply your population at a simply remunerating profit; double them, and you will find the 200 drive a flourishing trade, as well as the 100. Why? Because the trade ministers to a vicious appetite, which increases and strengthens by the means and opportunities of indulgence. The trade, in one word, flourishes most in the districts which it brings nearest to ruin. Mr. Bardsley once thought that the amount of church accommodation and pastoral supervision determined the moral character of a district; but at that time he did not take into consideration the fact, that public houses and beer-shops neutralise their influence.

THE GAMBLERS ALARMED.

The following narrative—a true one—describes a scene that actually took place not many years since in a country village in the State of Maine.

One evening in the month of December, 1834, a number of townsmen had assembled at the store of Mr Putnam to talk over “matters and things,” smoke, drink, and in short to do anything to “kill time.”

Three hours had thus passed away. They had laughed, and talked, and drank, and chatted, and had a good time generally; so that about the usual hour of shutting up shop, each of the party felt particularly first-rate.

“Come,” said Charles Hatch—one of the company—“let’s all liquor, and then have a game of high-low Jack!”

“So I say,” exclaimed another, “who’s got the cards?”

“Fetch on your keards,” drawled out a third, his eyes half closed, through the effect of the liquor he had drank.

After drinking all around, an old pine table was drawn up before the fire-place where burned brightly a large fire of hemlock logs, which would snap and crackle—throwing large live coals out upon the hearth.

All drew up around the table, seating themselves on whatever came handiest. Four of them had rolled up to the table some kegs, which from their weight were supposed to contain nails.

“Now,” said Hatch, “how shall we play—every one for himself?”

“No, have partners,” growled one man.

“No, hang’d if I’ll play so,” shouted the former; bringing his fist down upon the table, knocking one candle out of the stick, and another upon the floor.

“Come, come,” said Hatch, “no quarrelling, all who say for having partners, stand up.”

Three arose.

“Now all who say each one for himself, stand up.”

The remaining four immediately got up.

“You see, Barclay,” said Hatch, “the majority are against you. Come, will you play?”

“Well, as I don’t want to be on the opposite side, I’ll play,” answered Barclay, somewhat cooled down.

Mr Putnam was not in the store that evening, and the clerk, who was busy behind the counter, had taken very little notice of the proceedings. About half-past ten Mr Putnam thought he would step over to the store, and see that everything was safe. As he went in he walked up to the fire. When within a few steps of where the men were sitting, he started back in horror. Before him sat seven men half crazy with drink and the excitement of playing cards. There they were, within a few feet of the fire just described and four of them seated on kegs of powder.

Barclay—who was a very heavy man—had pressed in the head of the keg on which he sat, busting the top hoop, and pressing the powder out through the chinks. By the continued motion of their feet, the powder had become spread about the floor, and now covered a space of about two feet all around them.

Mr Putnam’s first movement was towards the door, but recovering himself, he walked up towards the fire. Should either of them attempt to rise he thought, and scatter a few grains a little further into the fire-place where lay a large quantity of live coals!

At that moment Hatch looked up, and seeing Mr Putnam with his face deadly pale gazing into the fire, exclaimed, “Putnam, what ails you?” and at the same time made a motion to rise.

“Gentlemen, do not rise,” said Mr Putnam, “four of you sit on kegs of powder—it is scattered all around you—one movement might send you all to eternity. There are two buckets of water behind the bar. But keep your seats for one minute, and you are saved—move, and you are dead men!”

In an instant every man was perfectly sobered—not a limb moved—each seemed paralyzed.

In less time than we have taken to describe this thrilling scene, Mr Putnam had poured the water, and completely saturated the powder on the floor, and extinguished the fire, so that the explosion was impossible. Then, and not till then, was there a word spoken.

Before those seven men left the store, that very night, they pledged themselves never to taste another glass of liquor or play another game of cards!

MRS. STOWE AND THE MAINE LAW.

Some Temperance friends having desired to invite Mrs Stowe to a public meeting, addressed the Earl of Harrington on the subject, and his Lordship corresponded with Mrs Stowe. Her reply is a very interesting document.

Glasgow, Sep. 1st, 1856.

“My Lord,—I read your note and the documents accompanying it with great interest. Our two countries have a mutual concern in each other’s welfare. We are one race, subsisting under two forms of free government, and it would seem that God has entrusted to our keeping the great principles of civil liberty which are yet to be spread over the world. Whatever improvement in the great work of social development obtains in one country becomes immediately the property of the other. England set a glorious example to the world in abolishing slavery. A-