

to us, as with the voice of God, the impotence for good of license, high or low? The liquor traffic, with all its poverty, wretchedness, crime, and general demoralization in the world to-day, has become what it is under license. We point to the 800,000 drunkards of Christendom, and we say, "There's license for you!" We point to the 180,000 that every year die the drunkard's death and go down to the drunkard's eternity, and we say, "There's license for you!" We point to the \$3,000,000,000 yearly wasted on strong drink, and to all the consequent degradation and ruin, and again we say, "There's license for you!"

HOW LICENSE RESTRICTS.

Take England; how does license restrict there? In the September number of THE MONTHLY, in an excellent paper on the subject, Rev. Mr. Ross tells us that the first license law in England was enacted about 1550, and it was only about 1724 that the drinking customs of England began seriously to affect the masses. Over four hundred license acts, we are informed, have been adopted in England with a view of restricting the traffic. What does this mean? Just that the first license act was tried and failed, and so the second, and the third, and the fourth, all the way on to the four hundredth. And still they go on amending the law, and the last is worse than the first, for the evil is acknowledged to be constantly and alarmingly increasing. General Booth tells us of the three millions of paupers, and declares that "strong drink is the tap-root of all." The drink bill of England amounts, every year, to more than \$100 for every family in the land! Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, when presenting to the House of Commons his budget for 1889, said: "The figures show a universal rush to the beer barrel, the spirit bottle, and the wine decanter." This is how license works in England. Scotland last year spent \$81 per family on strong drink, and poor, distracted Ireland \$52 per family.

Let us cross the Atlantic. How does license restrict in the United States? Fifteen gallons *per capita* are consumed, or four times as much *per capita* as in 1840. The *New York Independent* says: "The drink bill of this nation is more than \$2,000,000 a day for every day in the year. The drinking usages of the American people constitute far the most serious evil in the land." In New York, under license, they have 4,000 more places for the