

apply themselves vigorously to other branches of business, their consciences unburdened by the thought that they are receiving the wages of unrighteousness. They will share in the benefit of that healthy impetus which trade will receive when the crushing incubus of this traffic is removed. They will be the very individuals who in the end will thank us for placing them in a position where they can honorably wring their daily pittance from the sweat of their brow and not from the tears and blood of others. And as for the worthless amongst them—why, if they will not reform, the sooner we are quit of them the better. But even though this were not to be the case, it would assuredly be preferable to repeat, that noble act of our illustrious fatherland, when twenty millions stg. were laid on the altar of humanity for the liberation of the West India slaves. It would be preferable to grant a retiring pension to the whole regiment of Distillers and Dram Sellers, than that the present system should continue. Rather let them go about like gentlemen with their hands in their own pockets, than that they should plunge them so deeply into the pockets of the public. “But you forget the drink. Pity to have so much of one of God’s good creatures lost. I cannot think of its being poured into the common sewer.” One can hardly listen with gravity and patience to this objection, which is one of the most common. When a puncheon is pierced and the liquid fire is seen flowing out into the mud, these would-be economists lift their hands with pious horror and shout “waste.” But when a LIVING cask is seen rolling in the mud, filled with that same liquid fire, they cry, “drunken beast,” and “pass by on the other side.” Although in the one case, only the *drink* is lost, in the other, the *drinker* and the *drink* together. *Better far, surely for a man to throw Rum into the ditch than that it should throw him.*

But in this matter the money consideration should be kept out of view. As Dr. Guthrie pathetically and beautifully puts it:—

“We wish to keep, and were it possible, to get back something far more precious than money. Give that