

interesting group of forty or fifty children, formed to exist forever in happiness or misery, growing up amidst abounding wickedness, many of them with none to care for their souls; and where is the individual sufficiently interested in their immortal welfare, to assemble and instruct them a few hours on Sabbath, though a house and suitable books are ready provided, and though the children around them, in other quarters of the Parish, enjoy, every Sabbath, such instruction: Intemperance, and swearing, and Sabbath breaking, they have always before them; but who is found to teach them the fear of God, the only effectual preservative against these vices? These facts speak volumes upon the influence of the present system on religion and morals. This is certainly a state of things which calls loudly for a change. Indeed, while it is continued, it is almost useless to make any attempt to advance religion or morality in this quarter of the Parish. It is said by an inspired writer, that one sinner destroys much good, but truly, so many persons thus publicly, and by profession, contaminating the community, would destroy more good than we could all produce. And why are they tolerated? Why are shop-keepers who daily and unblushingly, violate the law respecting retail licences, not treated as the law directs? Why is there not notice taken of those who openly convert their shops into drinking rooms and haunts of dissipation, when the law so expressly provides that no spirits are to be drunk in them? Are these shops, thus kept, an accommodation to travellers? Are they an accommodation to the sober part of the inhabitants? Are they of any other use but as a lounging place for the idle and dissipated? Are they not a degree worse than even the taverns, for two reasons—in the first place, because they afford a larger quantity of liquor for a smaller price, and are, therefore, a temptation to those who haunt them, to drink more; and in the next place, because when night arrives, they who have spent the day in them, and drunk away their money and their senses, are turned out, destitute, upon the streets, without a shelter from the weather, and perhaps without ability or means to procure one. Why, in the next place, is there half the number of tavern licences granted? Some will perhaps reply, that numbers are able to support themselves in this way, who would otherwise be on the Parish. Better, and cheaper far, would it be for the Parish to support every Retailer in it, than to permit the third part of the houses now selling spirits, to continue to do so.

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