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(Continued from page 161.)

STATISTICAL DATA ON INTEMPERANCE, AND TOTAL ABSTINENCE FROM ALL THAT CAN INTOXICATE.

Respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Officers of the
Army and Navy of Great Britain,

BY A MEDICAL OFFICER.

Crimes &c. arising from it.

Mr. Wakley observes, "I have lately seen so much of the evil effects of gin-drinking, that I am inclined to become a teetotaler. Gin may be thought the best friend I have; it causes me to hold annually one thousand inquests more than I should otherwise hold. But besides these, I have reason to believe that from ten thousand to fifteen thousand persons in this Metropolis die annually from the effects of gin-drinking, upon whom no inquests are held. Since I have been Coroner, I have seen so many murders by poison, by drowning, by hanging, by cutting the throat, in consequence of drinking ardent spirits, that I am astonished the Legislature does not interfere."

The solemn judgment of Lord Chief Justice Hale, has been applicable to every generation since his day.—"The places of judicature which I have long held in this kingdom, have given me an opportunity to observe the original cause of most of the enormities that have been committed for near twenty years, and by a close observation I have found, that if the murders, and manslaughterers, the burglaries, and robberies, and riots, and tumults, the adulteries, fornications, rapes, and other great enormities, that have happened in that time, were divided into five parts, four of them have been the issues and product of excessive drinking, and of tavern and ale-house meetings."

"Mr. Shaw, the Recorder of Dublin, declares that 40 cases out of every 50 that he tries every week, are produced by intemperance. A barrister who conducted 1,700 civil bill cases in a fortnight, maintained that every one of them could be traced to the same cause. The Lord Justice Clerk, in lately closing the assizes in Glasgow, affirmed that 80 cases had come before him, in all of which punishment had been awarded, less or more; but that every one of these cases had originated in drunkenness."

The late Mr. Wontner is known to have said, "that ninety-nine out of every hundred prisoners that came to Newgate, committed their crimes in consequence of intemperance."

"The following words of Dr. Doyle, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare, in a letter to the secretary of the New Ross Temperance Society, deserve particular notice: "Rash swearing, profanation of the Lord's Day, blasphemies without number; the poverty, the nakedness, the destitution, the ruin of families; the roads, the thefts, the robberies; the seduction of innocence, the corruption of virtue; the disobedience of children, the infidelities of servants, the discord, the disunion of those whom God hath united; these and many others which I do not name, are the effects of drinking and drunkenness which I deplore."

Intoxicating liquors, it is calculated, cost the inhabitants of America annually, it appears, more than forty millions of dollars; and the pauperism caused by the improper use of them, costs more than twenty millions, making an annual expense of more than sixty millions of dollars. Out of 1061 cases of criminal prosecutions, in the year 1826, before the Court of Sessions in the City of New York, more than 800 are stated to have been connected with intemperance. And so it is in all our principal Cities. More than three-fourths of the crimes committed in the Country, are probably occasioned by this hateful vice. And if to this we add the loss of time which it occasions, the loss of business, the loss of improvement, the loss of character, and the loss of happiness for time and eternity. The evil swells to an over-

whelming magnitude. The guilt and wretchedness resulting from it surpass all finite conception.

"At the close of the first half century of our national existence, (counting from 1776)" says an American writer, "the appetite for strong drink demanded more than 60,000,000 of gallons of liquid fire; and while it cost the consumers more than 30,000,000 of dollars, it caused more than three-fourths of all the pauperism, crime, and wretchedness of the community. It also greatly increased the number, frequency, and violence of diseases; and according to the testimony of the most intelligent and judicious physicians, occasioned annually the loss of more than 30,000 lives. The loss of property resulting from the consumption of ardent spirits, amounted in 40 years to a greater sum than the value of all the houses and lands in the United States forty years ago; and the use of it (during the same period) caused the destruction, and there is reason to fear, for both worlds, of more than half a million of men."

R. G. White, Esq., stated, that of twenty-two persons whose execution he attended in the capacity of High Sheriff, every one declared "that drunkenness and the breach of the Sabbath had brought them to that end." The Rev. D. Ruel, Chaplain to the new prison, Clarks-well, and who, therefore, had had ample opportunity for judging, declared, that "murder, maiming, and other crimes attended with personal violence, are, for the most part, committed under the excitement of liquor."

As long ago as 1764, the Irish House of Commons asserted, that "many murders, which of late have been committed, are to be attributed to the excessive consumption of spirits."

Losses at Sea resulting from it.

The loss of life and property in this way is incalculable. "The treasures of the deep" accumulate thus, and the vessels lost through drunkenness, amount in value to millions annually; and on that day when "the sea shall give up her dead," what multitudes will point to the drunkard as the one who hurried them out of the world.

"The *St. George* with 551 men on board, was lost through intemperance; so was the *Kent* East Indiaman, with most of her passengers and crew; so was the *Ajax*, with 350 men; and so was the *Rothsay Castle*, with above 100 souls." Several witnesses before the House of Commons referred to the amount of property lost every year at sea, through the baneful influence of intoxicating drinks. We find from Parliamentary documents, that in the short period of six years, "not less than 2,687 ships and vessels were stranded or wrecked; and 218 were lost or missing. Making the total of nearly three thousand vessels which were greatly injured, or entirely destroyed in that short period; in 130 of these ships the whole crew perished, and the number of persons who were drowned amounted to 3417"

"During the late war, almost every accident says an officer, I ever witnessed on board ships was owing to drunkenness. I hold spirituous liquors to be more dangerous than gunpowder." "And well might he say so," says another writer.

A gentleman in an American seaport gives his testimony to this fact in these terms; "I have been a Notary Public, and the only one in this port for fourteen years, and have had to extend protests for many wrecked vessels, and can with truth say, that in more than a moiety (one half) of the cases, the disaster would not have happened if no rum had been on board."

A Memorial of the merchants of Montreal to British Underwriters, ship-owners, and ship-masters, says:—"We believe the common use of intoxicating drinks on ship-board to be a custom fraught with many pernicious consequence.—First, By forming and fostering habits of intemperance among seamen.—Second, By frequently interfering with the proper subordination of the crew and the clearness of judgment and self-command of the officers. And thirdly, By causing frequent shipwrecks, and thereby wasting life and property, and, as a necessary consequence materially increasing the rates of freight and insurance."