

“ For my first industrial mistakes I do not at all hold Andrews and ‘Modern Times’ responsible. But it was not long before this new apostle and leader quenched even my veneration, which, I am sure, you will be very ready to believe was quite sufficient to satisfy all reasonable demands, by his blended dogmatism and incapacity. For his theoretical errors and moral failings he must be responsible, and ‘Modern Times’ and ‘equitable commerce’ must certainly be added to the long list of Mr. Andrew’s *total failures*. I must tell you more about this ‘Modern Times’ hereafter, if necessary. For the present probably what my friend John Metcalfe, the first settler here, has said in the enclosed note may suffice with the above for your friend’s information.

“ Even in our small population of less than a hundred, the hostile element, new and old, consisting of settlers altogether external to the corresponding social movement, was such that at a recent local election the ‘Modern Times’ part was decidedly out-voted. It expects some new recruits in the coming spring, but its very principle of ‘individualism’ necessarily paralyses it, so that it takes but the smallest external resistance to utterly rout it.

“ The absence of all organization, the fact that each ‘individual’ has had to come to ‘Modern Times’ on his own responsibility, and settle himself here as he best could, prevents any open dislocation of the *movement*, such as it is. There is nothing to be ‘*broken up*,’ come what may. There could in any case be only a more or less gradual change in the character of the population. During the first few years the population was constantly shifting. The greater proportion, ten to one, of all the persons ever drawn towards ‘Modern Times’ have, sooner or later, given up their attempt in despair, discouraged and driven back by the disheartening material difficulties connected in part with the peculiar locality, but principally with the chimerical character of their ideas.”

#### IV.—*On the necessity for prompt measures for the suppression of Intemperance and Drunkenness.*—By James Haughton, Esq.

[A Paper read before the Statistical section of the British Association in Dublin, on the 31st August, 1857.]

GENTLEMEN,

As this Association has been founded to discover and make available for human happiness, those scientific or natural laws, which are the basis of all order and improvement, and upon the due observance of which any great advance in civilization depends, I venture to bring under your notice a question of as deep importance to man’s present and future condition and prospects, as any other which could engage your attention. Indeed, I believe there is no other question in science or morals which so forcibly calls on thoughtful men to labour earnestly for its wise and speedy settlement in such a way as to leave the path of future philanthropic and laborious workmen for man’s improvement free from the impediments cast in the way of their predecessors for many generations past. I refer to the drinking usages of society.

It would be highly improper for me to occupy your time at any great length with an expression of my opinions as to the evils arising from these usages, and the intemperance and drunkenness which result from them. My purpose is to bring, as strongly as I can within the limited period of time your rules allow of, such a view of these evils as may awaken our members to the necessity for

the adoption of more decided measures for their speedy extinction than have yet been taken by local bodies or by the state.

I do not profess to bring much that is new under your notice; the most I hope to accomplish is the gathering together, within a few pages, such evidence as must satisfy all thinking men that no further time should be lost in putting an end to this main cause of nearly all the crime and misery which afflict our people. It will not, surely, be contended by any, that these acknowledged evils are to be perpetual; that no remedy can be devised for them, even by the wise and enlightened among men. I entertain no such unphilosophical and undervaluing idea of man's power. We can and we will grapple with and overcome this great enemy—our appetite for alcoholic poisons.

Thoughtful men, in all periods of our history, dwelt on this appetite as the great impediment to human improvement.

Mr. G. K. Porter brought this great question under the notice of the Association at its meeting in Edinburgh in the year 1850. I am not going to repeat his facts and figures—although it might be well to do so, for frequent repetition is necessary to arouse men to a just sense of their responsibilities and duties; but I would respectfully ask, what has the Association done in the interim to relieve these nations from the burden and the sin of intemperance? Have we any mightier evil to contend against? I know of none to compare with it in magnitude. It blasts our people, not at the rate of tens or of hundreds, but of thousands and hundreds of thousands year by year, and is continually at work, sapping the foundations of our prosperity and our greatness.

Facts and figures, however true and unquestionable, are valueless, unless we use them. I do not imagine that it is the purpose of this Association to meet, and talk, and separate, and then to leave results to chance; doing nothing further for their accomplishment. Such is not my opinion of our purposes. To many matters of science, and to other questions of a recondite nature, great attention is paid by our members; these roads lead to fame, and, I will not hesitate freely to acknowledge, to much practical good also; but the road I ask you to travel is not yet attractive; it presents few charms of popularity or profit, it is mostly frequented by vulgar labourers, who are preparing it for the carriages of the indolent to roll smoothly over by-and-bye. In a word, the labour of temperance reformers is yet unpopular and unfashionable. The *Times*, and its confreres, call us enthusiasts, some of them say we are mischief-makers, but the feeling will soon be otherwise; the time is coming when we shall be looked on as true reformers. I want that a learned and intelligent body, such as I now have the pleasure to address, should cast itself heartily into the consideration of this great subject, and determine to be ruled and guided, as they are in other matters, by the light and knowledge they acquire. They would soon find that while the use of alcoholic poisons leads to evils innumerable, it has not one countervailing good to make amends for all the mischief it does to mankind. This discovery once made, our course and our duty would be plain. We must banish the evil thing. As Lord Chesterfield said, more than a century ago, in the reign of George II.,

when addressing the House of Lords on this subject, "Luxury, my lords, is to be *checked*, but vice *prohibited*, let the consequences of the law be what they may."

Education, and not legal prohibition, is said by many to be the radical cure for this evil; both instrumentalities are needed. That education alone will not suffice is proved by the following facts. Dr. Lees, in a late prize essay on the "Legislative Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic,"—a work well deserving the serious attention of thoughtful men,—gives the following statistics in proof of the inefficacy of education and religious institutions *alone* to cope with the evils resulting from our drinking usages. He takes the actual condition of twenty-four English counties, as regards the facilities for education and religious instruction; their extent of crime, and the number of licensed public houses; having regard to the population in each; all taken from official returns, and on an average of years. The result of this enquiry is as follows:—

The twelve counties in which the proportionate number of public houses to the population is the greatest, are *Beds, Berks, Bucks, Cambridge, Essex, Hants, Herts, Hunts, Kent, Middlesex, Oxford, and Surrey*. In these, although the means of education and religion are decidedly above the average, (if we assume the average of all England to be 100,) the *proportion of crime* amounts to 119, *i.e.* 19 per cent. ABOVE *all England*, which is accounted for by the correlative fact that the *proportion of public houses* amounts to 147, or 47 per cent. ABOVE *all England*. While in the twelve counties in which the proportion of the public houses is the smallest, *viz.:* *Cornwall, Cumberland, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Lincoln, Northumberland, Salop, Sussex, Westmoreland, Rutland, and York*, although the means both of education and religion are comparatively defective, the *proportion of crime* only amounts to 78, or 22 per cent. BELOW *all England*, which is equally well accounted for by the corresponding fact that the *proportion of public houses* it only 58, or 42 per cent. BELOW *all England*.

This statement tells the simple and melancholy truth, that it is in vain we strive, by educational and religious efforts alone, to root out intemperance and crime. Legislative action is needed in this case, as in many others, to aid moral suasion for the attainment of the good end in view.

The hereditary tendency which transmits from generation to generation a growing appetite for alcoholic stimulants is a question which should seriously engage the attention of scientific men. The opinion that the appetite becomes hereditary has long been held by eminent medical men; and the following figures, taken from Morewood's history of inebriating liquors in Ireland, go far to sustain this opinion. The extract is headed "Distillation of spirits in Ireland."

1723	...	...	133,733	gallons.
1730	...	...	134,748	"
1740	...	...	239,811	"
1750	...	...	598,546	"
1760	...	...	225,217	"

1770	...	...	801,174	gallons.
1780	...	...	1,229,416	"
1790	...	...	2,926,795	"
1800	...	...	3,621,498	"
1810	...	...	6,412,625	"
1820	...	...	4,636,192	"
1830	...	...	9,208,538	"
1837	...	...	11,809,603	"

From this table it will be seen that while the population increased four-fold, the appetite for whiskey increased ninety-fold.

This view of the case receives further confirmation from the pen of Dr. Samuel Madden,—a very eminent man in his day, and one of the founders of the Royal Dublin Society, which is perhaps the oldest, as it certainly is one of the most useful associations for promotion of agricultural and scientific knowledge in the United Kingdom,—he recommends to the gentry of Ireland the following mode for arresting this growing vice.—(It is given in his "Reflections and Resolutions proper for the Gentlemen of Ireland, &c.," 1738.)

"We resolve, as masters of families, that, as to drinking, we will contribute as little as possible to the excessive and destructive consumption of foreign wines and brandies." (Morewood's table testifies that home-made spirits were then little used.)

"This would seem a terrible sentence to a country that, of late years, has flowed with wine, as much as the land of Caanan did with milk; but alas! it is just as reasonable in our present circumstances as if a physician should forbid fast living to a patient in a deep decay. And yet, as debauched as we are grown, many men can remember when we were as remarkable for our sobriety as we are now for rioting and drunkenness; when our ancestors, of the best families of the nation, used to have their wines brought in by dozens, and when sack and spirituous liquors were sold at the apothecaries' shops for cordials for the sick. The taverns have indeed long since taken that trade out of their hands, but, in return, they have brought them in ten-fold a greater one for their drugs by increasing the number of patients, and what is worse, of distempers too. And, indeed, if a list were made of all our Irish gentlemen who, in our own memories, have lost their lives, or impaired their constitutions, by too much good nature in complying with the usual excesses, it would, possibly, make us drink a little less, and think a little more." And further—

"I have in another place spoke enough to the rich, and, therefore, I shall now confine myself to those who are poor. It is a melancholy reflection how much these nations, and especially Ireland, it overrun by that hideous vice, drunkenness, though 'tis of so late a date in these parts of the world, that there was no statute to make it in any ways punishable in England, till Queen Elizabeth's time."

Dr. Madden goes on to express his detestation of ale-houses, which then, as now, produced all manner of evil in the community; and he says, "There is, therefore, a necessity that some law be made to force our people to greater sobriety, that they may work to eat, and eat to work, and feed their families."

In a recent Report of a Committee of the Senate, State of New York, I find the following facts relative to pauperism in that state, excluding the city of New York, the tax upon which for pauperism is supposed to be equal to all the counties taken together.

The statistics which I give in gross are given in detail in the document referred to, and they include the condition of fifty-six counties, in which there was a total number of paupers of 7,695; of these it was ascertained that 5,142 were rendered unable to support themselves, by intemperance or the use of intoxicating drinks.

The keeper of Niagara county jail states that, in 1854, from 4th to 21st July, there were committed to his prison from three to six persons daily; that in 1855, for the same period, when the Maine law was in force, there was but one committal.

On the 4th of February, 1857, at the half-yearly meeting of the New York State Medical Society,—sixty-one members' names on the roll-book, but seventy were said to be present,—the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

“Resolved—That in view of the ravages made upon the morals, health, and pursuits of the people of this State, by the use of intoxicating drinks, it is the opinion of this society that the moral, sanitary, and pecuniary condition of the state would be promoted by the passage of a prohibitory liquor law.”

Dr. Staats, in seconding the resolution of thanks to Dr. Miller, now in his 82nd year, for his consistent advocacy of, and fidelity to the principle of temperance, stated that he had been for six years physician to the Albany County penitentiary, during which period about 5000 persons were admitted, only twenty per cent. of whom claimed to be moderate drinkers, and that there was but one teetotaler in the whole.

On this point the Grand Jury of the Onondaga County (N. Y.) Court, at the January Term, testified over their own signatures as follows:—

“The undersigned grand jurors, sworn and empanelled as such at the January Term of the County Court, represent to the honorable Court that on a careful examination of the whole number of complaints preferred before us, viz.: thirty-seven in all, twenty-three of which (embracing several of the most aggravated crimes known to our laws below capital offences,) were *directly* and *plainly* the result of the traffic in spirituous liquors. And of the remaining fourteen cases, one-half of them are indirectly traceable to the same source.

“Also, that we find abundant evidence that the calamitous fire in the First Ward in this city, in the early part of November last, is traceable as resulting from the same source.”

I give these facts to show that drinking alcohol produces the same calamitous results in all lands.

The traffic in this poison produces such misery in our own country as language is quite powerless to describe. Our judges, magistrates, and physicians, give abundant and most painful testimony of their injurious effects on the wealth, the morals, and the health of the community at large. In a late charge to the Grand Juries of Dublin, Judge Crampton dwelt forcibly on these points.

On Sunday, the 6th March, 1854, 48,405 persons, being nearly one-third of the inhabitants, visited the public houses of Edinburgh, they were composed of

22,202 men,  
11,931 women,  
7,663 children.

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41,796 into public houses,  
6,609 „ taverns.

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48,405

About the same period the visits to public houses in Manchester, on a single Sunday, were

120,122 men,  
71,111 women,  
23,585 children.

In reference to these facts the Rev. Canon Stowell said, “ That the dark and damnable traffic turned the day of God almost into a day of Satan, and made it questionable whether, for the mass of the people, it would not be better to have no Sunday at all.”

These appalling statements should rouse us all to action. That such practices are physically as well as morally injurious is proved by the following testimony, which has been signed by hundreds (the number, I believe, amounts to two thousand) of medical men of the United Kingdom, many of them the most eminent in their profession.

“ That total and universal abstinence from alcoholic liquors, and intoxicating beverages of all sorts, would greatly contribute to the health, the prosperity, the morality, and the happiness of the human race.”

It would scarcely be possible to express in stronger or more intelligible language the necessity of entire abstinence, while in ordinary health, from the use of alcoholic liquors, and no candid mind will lightly consider the value of this evidence given in favour of teetotalism.

Any amount of such testimony could be given. I place the following before you as showing that men of the first eminence testify against the common use of alcohol in the clearest language.

Dr. Paris places it amongst those substances which destroy the functions of the nervous system, by means of suffocation from paralysis of the respiratory organs. He classes it with oil of tobacco, and both of these substances he denominates narcotico, acrid poisons. Foderé and Orfila, distinguished French chemists, place alcohol in the same class with nux vomica, woorali, coculus indicus, poisonous mushrooms, and other deleterious substances. In cases of death by lightning, the blood loses its power of coagulation, and remains altogether in a fluid state; this peculiarity is also observed in cases of death from the use of alcohol. Dr. Cheyne describes alcoholic drinks as being most like opium in their nature and operations and most like arsenic in their deleterious effects. Professor Youmans, of America, in an able pamphlet on “ The Scientific Basis of Prohibi-

tion," states that the distinguished physiologists, Todd and Bowman, in their late work, say, "were it not that wine and spirits are rapidly absorbed, the introduction of these into the stomach, *in any quantity*, would be a complete bar to the digestion of food, as the pepsin would be precipitated from solution as quickly as it was formed by the stomach. Dr. Percy, of Edinburgh, shows the injurious effects of alcohol on the brain. Sir Benjamin Brodie describes its maddening effects, and considers gin and brandy much more deleterious than opium.

There is a remarkable case on record in which the destructive effects of alcohol on the human stomach are proved by ocular demonstration in a living subject. I allude to the familiar case of St. Martin, an American, who received a gunshot wound which carried away a portion of his stomach, and from which wound he recovered and is yet alive. The orifice has never entirely closed, so that the operations of digestion can be seen. Dr. Beaumont has studied this case, and published most interesting accounts of it. He always found that alcohol, whether imbibed in small or large quantities by his patient, had an injurious effect.

Christison in his treatise on poisons, classes alcohol among them, and forcibly describes its dreadful effects on the human frame.

The opinions of medical men and other physiologists, in condemnation of the use of alcohol by men in health, could, as I have said, be multiplied to any extent; and when we consider that not a single writer, of any eminence, has yet ventured to write a scientific treatise in its favour, or to show that it can be used with impunity by persons in ordinary health, am I not justified in saying that the reasoning and opinions of teetotallers are impregnable? At all events, they have yet to be successfully assailed and overthrown.

There is a large number of persons in the United Kingdom, with capital employed in the liquor traffic, directly opposed to our views. Their number is given, in Loftus's Inland Revenue Almanack for present year, as follows:—

Malsters, Brewers and Distillers	... ..	51,114
Retailers under various denominations	... ..	146,803
		<hr/>
		197,917
To these may be added as Hop growers and Merchants	... ..	2,083
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Making a grand total of 200,000 capitalists deriving a living from the liquor traffic. These are a powerful body, opposed to all interference with this demoralizing business. We must all feel and acknowledge that there are great difficulties in the way of social improvement in this direction, but none which man, in his onward and upward progress, cannot overcome.

Having thus obtained the number of capitalists directly engaged in the liquor traffic, let me now lay before you the quantity of grain consumed and the amount of money wasted annually in the United Kingdom, in the manufacture and consumption of the poisons they dispense.

In the Report of the London Temperance League for 1854 it is stated that the quantity of grain consumed in Great Britain that year was eight millions of quarters. And in a Parliamentary return, moved for by Mr. Pellatt, it is stated that the consumption of malt from October, 1853, to October, 1854, in the United Kingdom, was 32,396,106 bushels.

The number of dealers in intoxicating drinks, as stated in same return, was 163,985 (being a smaller number, by upwards of 30,000, than that given in Loftus's Almanack for 1856). I have assumed that these parties, on an average, take at least £3 per day each, which sum would hardly suffice to keep their establishments open, allowing a profit of 25 per cent. on their sales. This amounts to the enormous sum of £179,563,575, which, if my supposition be correct,—and I see not how my premises can be overthrown,—shews that there is spent annually in these kingdoms, on intoxicating liquors, an almost fabulous sum of money.

As my calculation is not founded on any certain data, some may say £3 per day is too high a figure. It does not seem to me to be an over-estimate. But, for the purpose of my argument, several millions at either side of the question would make little difference. Whatever may be the actual amount of money thus wasted by our people, it exhibits but a portion of the national loss, for to it must be added a further immense sum to represent various losses caused by intemperance, among which I may mention loss of labour, loss by shipwrecks, loss by railway collisions and mail-coach accidents, cost of punishing criminals, taking care of lunatics, healing wounds and bruises, and curing the sick. These losses have been variously estimated at fifty to a hundred millions a-year. So that it is, in truth, impossible to imagine what we suffer in a pecuniary point of view from those drinking usages, whose sole purpose would seem to be to scatter abroad the seeds of crime and misery, and not bring one solitary good in their train to compensate for all the evils they produce.

If this great consumption of food, destroyed in the production of alcoholic liquors, and the immense sums of money spent in purchasing them, increased the health and strength of the people, or added in any way to their comfort or wealth, it might be a cause of some gratulation, but I have shown that the best authorities, and all our experience, affirm the results to be far otherwise—indeed, directly the reverse of these blessings.

In "The Scottish Temperance Review" for April, 1851, I find the following statements further confirmatory of my views, respecting which the editor remarks, "These tables we received, through the kind offices of a friend, from the government returns, and their accuracy may be depended on. The two statements furnish at a glance a more full and complete exhibition of the drinking habits of our countrymen than has probably ever before been published."

The statements here referred to, comprise a very gratifying account of the increased national consumption of tea, coffee, and cocoa, and of the decreased consumption of intoxicating liquors, per head of the population. To transcribe both would far exceed my limits, so I can give but a condensed account of the latter. For



fifteen years prior to the temperance reformation, that is from 1821 to 1835, the quantity of intoxicating liquors and malt consumed, taking the former in gallons and the latter in bushels, was 44,271,325 in 1821, and 82,798,528 in 1835. In fifteen years after the temperance reformation, say 1850, the quantity consumed was 80,381,018. Taking the population of both periods into account, the actual increase in the former was considerably over 50 per cent., while, in the latter, the decrease was 19 per cent.; exhibiting very improved habits in the people.

The important truth suggested by these figures is, that during the period in which our drinking customs were unchecked, they, by the natural law which transmits the drunken appetite from generation to generation with increasing force, went on rapidly accumulating, while during the period in which efforts were made to check these customs, a drag was placed on our downward career; thus affording strong evidence of the necessity of legal prohibition, and of the value of teetotalism to save our people from rapid deterioration.

Some statistics recording the deterioration of the population of France have been recently given in the *Times*. We have been always led to believe that the French are an abstemious people, but this was an erroneous supposition. They are, perhaps, with the exception of the Swedes, the largest consumers of alcohol in Europe or in the world. Mr. Delavan of America, a man well known and highly esteemed, states that R. H. Hartley, Esq., of New York, compiled with much labour, in 1855, the following statistics of drinking in France. The quantity of strong drink consumed was 1,053,797,854 gallons, being  $42\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per head of the population, equal to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  gallons of ardent spirits for each. The consumption in London being  $3\frac{1}{2}$  gallons, in Prussia,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  gallons, in the United States  $1\frac{5}{8}$  gallons." I could add other testimony in abundance to the fact that drinking prevails to a frightful extent in France, but I will not enlarge on that point. I refer to it as abundant cause for national deterioration, and as strong confirmatory evidence that unchecked drinking customs, by which I mean no strong moral restraints, or decided legal prohibitions, tend inevitably to national decay.

It is stated that distillers and brewers contribute, by the labour which they afford, and by their expenditure in various ways, to the comfortable support of the population among whom they carry on their trades. I believe this to be an entire fallacy. I am satisfied that if statistics of their business, throughout the United Kingdom could be collected, this idea would be found to be a great delusion. I take the following statement from a lecture delivered on this subject, in a town in Scotland, by a gentleman connected with the excise who has good opportunities of arriving at facts, and who is as capable as most men of my acquaintance of drawing correct conclusions from such facts as come before him.

There are (or were at the time) twenty-three distilleries at Camp belltown, which contains a population of about 7,000. It was stated at a dinner given to the Duke of Argyll, that the manufac-

ture of whiskey in that town contributed £300,000 annually to the Revenue, and this was stated to shew the value of distillation to the inhabitants of that town as a source of profit, in the shape of salaries and wages, and other modes of expenditure among the inhabitants.

The fallacy of the reasoning was shewn by the lecturer in the following figures. He assumed that the duty paid was about two-thirds the value of the spirits manufactured, the real wholesale money value of which he calculated to be £450,000. As the duty was not expended in the town, it, of course, added nothing to its prosperity; it was the wages paid which could alone be taken to account as of any benefit to the town. The twenty-three distilleries employed about 230 men, whose wages at an average of 12 shillings per week (which was ascertained to be rather over than under the sum paid) amounts to £7,176 a-year. To this may be added £7,000 a-year, supposed to be paid in salaries to men belonging to the revenue and employed in collecting the duty. This £14,176, together with the expenditure of the families of the twenty-three distillers, was the whole amount of money return given annually to the people of Campbelltown by this trade, and as these all taken together are about £4000 a-year less than is expended by them on whiskey; therefore, instead of the manufacture of this article conducing to the wealth of the town, it is a cause of poverty and an absolute prevention to the realization of capital in this community.

What is true as regards Campbelltown would, no doubt, be found true in regard to the whole kingdom. No profits can accrue from this misapplication of capital. It yields small comparative wages to the people. From whatever point of view we consider them, brewing and distilling must be looked upon as occupations injurious to the community.

Messrs. William Fry and Co. of this city have furnished me with the following statement of money paid by them for raw materials and labour, in the various branches of their trade, during the past year:—

Cabinet Makers' work,	Raw materials	...	40	per cent.
	Wages	...	60	"
			—	
Coach lace manufacture,	Raw materials	...	50	"
	Wages	...	50	"
			—	
Silk fabrics	Raw material	...	80	"
	Wages	...	20	"
			—	
Curled hair	Raw material	...	75	"
	Wages	...	25	"

Converting grain into whiskey and beer leaves no such results as these. I have not been able to ascertain exactly the per centage of wages of labour they contribute, taking the value of the grain they consume, but I believe it will be found not to be over ten or eleven per cent. On the wholesale price of whiskey, I am informed, it does not exceed six-pence in the pound.

Manufacturing is converting things of little value into articles of much value. Distilling and brewing converts articles of great value into things of no value; so that socially, as well as morally they are mischievous occupations.

It may be alleged that this reasoning applies also to food and clothing, and to many other sources of human expenditure the greater portion of which brings no return in the shape of money profits.

This objection is true to some extent, but will not be found to go any length in sustaining the proposition that the manufacture of strong drinks is in any way useful or profitable. We must expend,—or waste, if I may so speak,—a large portion of what we earn. The sustenance of our bodies requires it; such is a necessity of our existence; but the articles which call for this outlay must be of real necessity, and certainly not injurious, physically or morally, to warrant such expenditure, and prove its utility in a social or economic point of view. Food absorbs large portions of our earnings; but food is the necessary and healthful stimulant suited to keep our frames in full vigour, and innocent pleasures are alike beneficial; alcohol, on the contrary, is an irritant, disturbing and deranging healthy action, and it is inimical to true enjoyment; it not only wastes all the money which it costs, but it makes inroads on our strength, and on life itself, by the unnatural exertions it calls for from all parts of the human body to expel, as speedily as possible, so unwelcome a visitant. I therefore assume that no gain of any kind can arise to a community from its manufacture. The grain which is destroyed to produce it and all the time and capital employed, are a pure loss to society.

As the object of the British Association is, doubtless, to make all the knowledge it accumulates instrumental in the promotion of happiness, I feel that I have made out a case which demands the co-operation of all our members for overthrow of the drinking usages of society. It will not do to recommend moderate drinking, for that plan has failed. The craving appetite for alcoholic liquors is an insuperable bar to its success. He must, indeed, be a confident man who fancies he can safely use these insidious poisons which have overcome myriads of his race, who could boast of strength of mind, of firmness of frame, equal or superior to his own. This is an enemy which delights in destroying the mightiest intellects—the finest and noblest specimens of humanity. It is not alone the vulgar and the brutal, it is the learned and the refined, and the good among men and women who fall, and fall so low beneath its influence, that no words can give an idea of their debasement. This is the condition to which all who tamper with the wine cup are liable.

Gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen I should say, am I out of place in an association such as I have the honour to address—surrounded by a body, perhaps as enlightened as could be found in the world—am I, I ask, out of place in entreating you all to cast yourselves energetically into the ranks with those who are labouring to place the happiness of mankind on a surer foundation, by the overthrow of those drinking customs which all acknowledge to be productive of evils incalculable? It is the remedy only which causes any difference

of opinion. In this city alone, I find by the police returns, that, within the last fourteen years, 179,480 persons were taken up in our streets in a state of intoxication. Surely it is time to adopt some means that will be effectual in arresting this tide of misery.

To remedy the evils which I have but faintly delineated, law has at all times put forth its powers. The traffic in intoxicating drinks has always been considered dangerous to the community. It has never been free. But legislation has, hitherto, been ineffectual in these kingdoms, because it did not go to the root of the mischief. It sought to *regulate* an evil of great magnitude. It should have aimed at its *destruction*.

It is now proposed to carry this principle of legislation fully out—as is done in numberless other cases which I need not stop to specify,—and to prohibit all traffic in alcoholic liquors as common beverages. This legislation will be strongly opposed by all who are pecuniarily interested in the maintenance of the traffic. But that it shall long meet with opposition from statesmen, or from those who are interested in the progress of civilization, I can hardly believe,

Some view the attempt as an unwarrantable infringement on liberty; but this is an erroneous apprehension. It is no greater infringement on liberty than all the laws which are for the prohibition of other nuisances; and is this, the monster nuisance of all, to be held sacred?

But let not the advocates of prohibitory legislation be mistaken. We hold that hasty legislation on the subject,—legislation not sustained by public opinion,—would be unwise; so that our object is, by calm and intelligent discussion, to act on the public mind, and then to apply to parliament to give the force of law in this case, as it does in others, for the general weal. It is not merely because the traffic in intoxicating liquors is a moral evil that we seek for legislative aid to suppress it, but because it is a public nuisance; it engenders crime; it increases pauperism; it is a fearful source of lunacy; it adds largely to the taxation of the people who are industrious and economical; it endangers life and property. For these and many other reasons, we consider it as suitable a subject for legislative interference and anathema as any other question which has ever engaged the attention of statesmen or of legislators.

I now leave the matter in your hands, confident that the more your attention is directed to it, the more strongly you will be impressed with a conviction of its vast importance. It underlies all other efforts for man's improvement

Whether the means suggested for the overthrow of this evil,—one of the greatest which afflicts humanity,—be the wisest and the best, time, and the enlightened convictions of the community, will determine.

To me it seems, that none should take a deeper interest in this question than the members of the "British Association for the advancement of Science;" for science teaches that alcohol is poison; and multitudes are using it daily, without any knowledge of its deleterious qualities, or the ultimate evils it is sure to produce.