

THE TEETOTALLER,

AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.—Rom. c. 14, v. 21.

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NOTICE.

With this number we close our labours, at least for the present. Like its predecessor and harbinger—the *Temperance Advocate*—the *Teetotaler* has been, in a pecuniary point of view, a losing concern, and that from the beginning. Half a year ago, it would have stopped, had it not been for the generous and praiseworthy exertions of Dr. Whittell, and the gratuitous services as Editor of the Rev. Gentleman, who, during that time, has conducted it. Many very gratifying, and highly complimentary testimonies of its usefulness have been received from gentlemen filling important situations in different parts of the colony; but notwithstanding this, it has occasioned, owing to the pecuniary depression of the times, so serious a loss, that it is considered most expedient it should, at least for the present, stop. If it has had enemies who have impeded its progress and exerted themselves to injure it, we envy them not their feelings. And, as a feeling of benevolence alone prompted us to take up the editorial pen at first, so we drop it in the exercise of the same feeling; and shall ever be ready to take it up again when duty calls or opportunity offers.

We beg to remind all parties, who are indebted to the proprietor for the paper, that it is necessary for them to settle their accounts without any further delay. Payments to be made either to Dr. Whittell, or to Mr. William Goodall, the Collector, or to Mr. James Reading, Printer, at the *Teetotaler* Office, King-street.

CONSEQUENCES OF LOWERING THE DUTIES ON INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Owing to the vast importance of this subject, as connected with the universal, as well as the individual well-being of the community, we beg to call the particular attention of the Members of the Legislative Council, and all who feel concerned for the true happiness and prosperity of this country, to the following portion of the evidence that was given by Mr. Mark Moore before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Drunkenness. It is probably not saying too much, when we state, that there is no individual in any part of the world better qualified for investigating and illustrating the bearings of this question on national well-being, than Mr. Moore is: his testimony, therefore, is justly deserving of the greatest attention, and as it is founded on Parliamentary returns, it may be considered such as cannot be set aside. One thing in connection with it, which we seriously regret, is, that we could not conveniently print all the Tables to which reference is made in the evidence; the one, however, which will be found below, contains the result of the whole, and will, with the evidence, we trust, be found sufficient to enable the reader to understand this deeply important part of the subject. If any member of our Legislature—after making himself acquainted with these facts—can exert himself to obtain a lowering of the Duties on Intoxicating Liquors, we hesitate not to say concerning him, that either his judgment must be incapable of appreciating the value of testimony, or his conscience must be of such a peculiar character that he can easily set it aside to suit his own purposes.

CONCLUDING PART OF THE EVIDENCE OF MARK MOORE, ESQ.

"In your former examination, you stated the extent to which the habit of intoxication prevailed; have you anything to offer as to your opinion of the causes which have led to this state of things, and which produce and encourage habits of intemperance, and the evils which have resulted from the same?—I consider there are two principal causes which have induced intemperance; and the evils are many. The one is, the consumption of distilled spirits, and the easy terms upon which they may be obtained; and the other is, the public being allowed to drink beer on the premises at beer-shops. This subject has deeply interested me, and has received my most anxious consideration. I have long been of opinion, that if the subject was thoroughly investigated, that this position might be established, that there is a most intimate connexion as to cause and effect, between the consumption of distilled spirits and the amount of pauperism and the extent of crime; and if this position could be sustained by Parliamentary documents, it would go far in suggesting the most proper remedies for the removal of the evils complained of.

In my humble opinion, I have succeeded in establishing this important fact; and in order to effect this object, I have made out 14 Tabular Statements, which I now hand in, and by which it is manifest, that the increase and

variations of pauperism and crime, and its expenses, exhibit the same ratio as those of the consumption of distilled spirits; and hence I infer, that there is an established connexion between them, most detrimental to the morals and well-being of the State.

Table I. shows the consumption of British Spirits* in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and its variations from 1796 to 1831 inclusive; and to facilitate comparison, it is divided into periods of six years each; Table II. gives, upon the same plan, the amount of duty paid upon such consumption; Table III. gives the annual consumption of British spirits in England and Wales only, because the returns of poor-rates, crime, &c., for Scotland and Ireland, are not published, and therefore no comparison upon these subjects, in reference to those parts of the United Kingdom, can be instituted. I wish to remark here, it is most distressing to observe from this table the appalling increase in the consumption which took place upon lowering the duty upon spirits in 1825,† the consumption the next year being more than double in England, as it increased from 4,132,263 to 8,888,644 gallons. The increase was also nearly as great for Scotland and Ireland. With this vast consumption followed a fearful amount of pau-

perism, crime, and national debasement for several years; and under the evil effects of which we are now labouring. This leaves an alarming amount of responsibility somewhere, and is worthy the most grave consideration of Government.

Table IV. contains the return of the poor-rates in England and Wales for the same periods, and in the same order as the previous table; and as that table is intended to form the data of comparison with pauperism, crime, &c., the annual average of wheat is likewise given in this table, as that important article of food is supposed, on some occasions, to influence the amount of poor-rates.

Tables V. to XII. show the extent, increase, and expense of crime in certain departments, during the same periods, as far as Parliamentary Returns assist. Table XIII. gives the increase of spirits and beer licenses, which is very remarkable, on the occasion of the duty being lowered in 1825, and which shows the anxiety of some persons to engage in this trade, alike injurious to soul and body: and Table XIV. contains a general summary of all the other tables, showing the increase of the last year over the first in each table.

TABLE XIV.

A General Summary of the Tabular Statements, shewing the relative Proportions in the Consumption of British Spirits in England and Wales, with the amount of Revenue arising therefrom; the influence this Consumption has upon the Amount of Poor Rates and upon the Extent and Expenses of Crime; also, the great Increase in Amount or Numbers of each respectively, between the extreme Periods or Years, as ascertained in the Thirteen preceding Tabular Statements.

No. of the Tables.	DATES.	Amount or number in the first year, or last year, or period, in each of the XIII. Tables.		Increase of the last year, or period, over the first, in each of the XIII. Tables.
		First.	Last.	
III. Distilled spirits, consumption of; the annual average in gallons	1801 & 1831	3,547,388	8,941,072	5,393,684
II. Revenue from spirits; amount of . . .	1795 & 1831	£788,042	£2,663,940	£1,875,898
IV. Poor Rates; amount of . . .	1785 & 1831	£2,004,239	£6,798,888	£4,794,649
VII. Crime; number of criminals committed, England and Wales	1812-18 1826-32	64,539	128,010	63,471
VIII. Crime; number of criminals committed, London and Middlesex	1812-18 1826-32	14,598	24,564	9966
IX. Convicts; the number of, England and Wales	1812-18 1826-32	13,803	31,432	17,629
X. Convicts; number of, London and Middlesex	1812-18 1826-32	4,199	7,820	3621
XI. Convicts; expense of, at home and abroad . . .	1804-10 1825-31	£528,716	£1,390,701	£861,985
XII. Police Offices, expenses of . . .	1804-10 1825-31	£163,839	£478,365	£314,526
XIII. Licenses for Beer and Spirits, number and increase . . .	1818-33	86,459	139,007	52,548
Amount of Duty and Increase . . .	1818-33	-	£429,023	-

These tables are the result of your own careful investigation of Parliamentary documents?—Entirely so.

Have you examined the Parliamentary proceedings when the tax on spirits was lowered, and do you remember whether at the time this great increase of consumption took place in consequence of the reduction of the tax on ardent spirits, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer did not congratulate the House of Commons and the country, on this proof of the great increase of the prosperity of the country?—I recollect perfectly well that circumstance, and I always felt grieved and ashamed of my country when I saw such sentiments put forth. The first duty, I conceive, next to the preservation of life and property, of all Governments, is to guard and improve the public morals, for this only will secure the real prosperity of the go-

* This Table is confined to British spirits (gin and whiskey,) 1st, because the Returns for colonial and foreign spirits are not complete for the same periods; and 2nd, because British spirits are the common beverage of the poor and middling classes, and concerning whom this inquiry is principally intended to refer.

† I am aware that in thus lowering the duty a check was given to illicit distillation, and a large portion of the real consumption came under the regulation of the Excise, but at the time, as considerable increase of the poor-rates and of crime followed, and also an increase of licenses; I am satisfied there was a large increase in the entire consumption. I am confirmed also in this view of the subject by the fact, that in some of the other periods, when the duty actually increased, the consumption was also augmented.

verned. To read therefore such sentiments as uttered in Parliament, and by one of the first officers of the Government, to me, was a source of great regret; and the obvious conclusion upon the face of such legislation was, that money, and not the morals of the people, was the object of such a tax. There is I am satisfied, a great misapprehension upon this subject; I mean as to the proper source of revenue. I think our practical political economists have shown by their measures that they have taken a very superficial view of this question.

I consider intelligence and morality in a nation as the true source of industry, frugality, and a desire to accumulate wealth; and if these sources of the power of production and capacity of consumption be polluted, injured, or destroyed by taxation, to that extent the national wealth suffers. I can consider this impost in no other light than as legalizing crime, by directly and most efficiently promoting it, and yet on the other hand, we have the strange anomaly of making laws, the most severe and appalling, to punish vices committed or promoted by a previous sanction. I will explain and illustrate what I mean by referring to the army and navy. Parliament and the Government make laws and regulations for each of these services, and they ordain daily rations of spirits. This injurious practice, both morally and physically, creates in the men a vicious appetite; and in thousands of instances, in 99 cases out of a hundred I believe, punishments, in each service, are trace-

able to the result of this degrading and fatal custom—intemperance. This subject, I doubt not, has taken such hold on the public mind, that it will be impossible for the Government to avoid giving it their most mature consideration. The disgusting affair, a few days ago, which took place at the Charing-cross barracks, has again excited the public indignation concerning these anomalies and their brutalizing practices; and I apprehend an enlightened and independent House of Commons must soon perceive, by the present intelligence and temper of the nations, that it will not be satisfied till the law and the practice in this matter are amended.

In the army of the United States of America, the spirit rations, without compensation, have been abandoned, and with the best possible effect. In the merchant service, more than 700 ships go to sea without spirits, except as medicine, and some of them whalers of three years voyages; and an experiment is also being tried in their navy upon this subject, in the confident expectation of its most entire success, as some thousands of the men in that service have given up the use of spirits of their own accord.

The great delusion, to which I have already referred, under which all our Chancellors of the Exchequer have laboured, has arisen, I imagine from the enormous revenue derived from the tax upon spirits, which is more than £8,000,000 annually. But there are two sides to this account; and I am satisfied, from the partial investigation I have been able to make, if the necessary Parliamentary Returns were made out it would be found, that the frightful expenses to which the nation is put on account of crime originating in intemperance in connexion with the licensing system, would very far exceed and outbalance the Chancellor's large receipts.

Have you any additional observations to offer upon the fourteen Tabular Statements you have given in?—I have; and with a view to assist and condense the labours of the Committee, in reference to the utility and easy comprehension of these Tables, I have drawn up a general digest of the whole, pointing out the leading features of each period, their relative bearings, and their direct results.

1st Period, 1791-95. This being the first Parliamentary Return I have met with of the consumption of distilled spirits (Tables I. & III.) I cannot institute any comparison with former years; but the duty being so low as 6d., 7d., 8d., and 9d. per gallon, the consumption was very large, and I have no doubt was a principal cause of the rapid increase of intemperance, and of the poor-rate in the following years, the price of wheat at that time being only 46s. 6½d. the Winchester bushel. In 1785 the poor-rates in England and Wales, amounted only to £2,004,239, and during the next 15 years they more than doubled, being in 1800 no less than £4,077,891, (Table IV.) There was another cause also, which I am in justice bound to mention, in operation at that time, and which had, I apprehend, a tendency, to increase pauperism, I mean the great number of Inclosure Bills which passed from 1783-93. During those 10 years not less than 343 Inclosure Bills were passed, being 34 annually. These inclosures must have greatly added to the necessities of the agricultural labourers, and they being thus deprived of the means of keeping a cow, pigs, and poultry, must have increased the poor-rates.

2nd Period, 1796-1801. During this time the duty upon distilled spirits was again raised from 9d. to 10d. and 11d. per gallon; and the effect produced by this advance, although small in amount, was a decrease in the consumption of nearly 7,000,000 of gallons in England and Wales, or 1,128,670 gallons per annum; but at the same time there was an increase in the revenue, and this increase, be it observed, came out of the pockets of the consumers of gin and whiskey; and consequently, as I have already stated, the poor-rates during this period kept advancing at a rapid pace, and more than doubled their amount. (Tables I., II., III. and IV.)

I make two remarks here, which I believe subsequent events will justify; that at that time (30 years ago) the habit of drinking ardent spirits was neither so extensive nor confirmed as at present, and that as the moral sense of

that class of our population, who have since very generally become gin-drinkers, was more acute than at present, they were not so ready to sacrifice their pecuniary interests at the shrine of sensual gratification.

3rd Period, 1802-7. I find that notwithstanding for the last four years of this period the duty upon spirits was as high as 1s. 4½d. per gallon, there was an increase in the consumption of no less than 5,160,315 gallons, or 860,052 gallons annually in England and Wales. (Table I.) This lamentable fact is easy of solution upon the principle which universal experience has established, that whenever a false appetite has been acquired by the use of distilled spirits, it becomes insatiable; and that so long as the means are possessed, an increased quantity is required to keep up the usual stimulus. The previous remarks, in regard to the augmentation of the poor-rates, will also apply to this period; and this is quite natural, as during this time there was not only a great increase in the consumption of spirits, but the duty being higher, the increased revenue from this disreputable source amounted to the enormous sum of £6,860,361, out of which £2,162,872, was paid by England alone (Table II.), and I am sorry to add, the increase for Ireland was nearly as great.

I have not been more astonished than grieved at the delusion under which some political economists, and especially some writers in our popular journals, labour in reference to this subject. With them it is matter of gratulation when the increase of the quarter's revenue is announced as rising from this impost; and it is constantly brought forward by them as a proof of the prosperity of the nation, and the increased comfort of the people; I am satisfied this conclusion is erroneous, and that it will be found, by a sedate examination of the Parliamentary documents, in reference to the bearings of this question, that there is a very close connexion between the increase of intemperance, pauperism, and crime.

4th Period, 1808-13. That although, in the two last years of this period, the duty upon spirits was again raised from 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 9d. I find the consumption still increased in England, and nearly to the same amount as the large increase in the former six years, and of course was in addition to that increase. The amount of revenue, by way of increase in this period, was still greater than in the former. This, I submit, fully confirms the reasons I assigned in the preceding period for the increased consumption by a spirit drinking population; and the effects are again illustrated by the alarming fact, that the poor-rates had advanced in 1813, to £6,656,106, whereas in 1802 they only amounted to £4,077,891. But it is also proper to state here, that wheat had of late years much advanced in price, being, in 1813, 12s. 7d. the quarter; and the number of Inclosure Bills had likewise much increased. (Table IV., page 44.)

5th Period, 1814-19. This period includes a most important era in the history of the results of intemperance; not from the peculiar circumstances of this time, but because from this date I shall be able to produce Parliamentary documents to prove and establish the momentous fact, noticed in the heading of the Tabular Statements, that crime and pauperism have increased in the same proportion to the increased consumption of distilled spirits, and in a much larger ratio than the population of the United Kingdom. The duty upon spirits for this period remained the same, 1s. 9d.; and the consumption also remained nearly stationary, there being in England only an increase of 178,526 gallons; in Ireland, the increase was somewhat more than 1,600,000 gallons; and in Scotland, there was a decrease of about the same amount. (Tables I. and II.)

Upon the whole, as the duty was 1s. 9d. upon the entire period, so the revenue for the United Kingdom was benefited beyond any former period, their being an increase of nearly £5,000,000 sterling, or £832,295 annually; and this upon the increase of the last period, of £2,311,915; and of the former period, of £6,860,361. (Table II.)

The demoralizing and pauperising consequences of this period are soon made apparent; for notwithstanding wheat had fallen from 12s. 5d. to an average of 8s. 6d. during this period, the poor-rates went up from £5,418,846 to the frightful sum of £7,870,801 (Table IV.) The effects also of this great and increasing consumption of spirits, were equally manifest by the amount of crime during this period. The Parliamentary Returns upon this subject are very deficient; but I find, that in the seven years, from 1812 to 1818, there were committed for criminal offences in England and Wales, 64,538 persons; and for London and Middlesex alone, 14,598 persons; also, that the number of convicts, sentenced to transpor-

tation for the same period was, for England and Wales, 13,167; and for London and Middlesex, 4,065. (Tables V. VI. VII. and VIII.) There are also two returns, Tables IX and X. showing a small portion of the expense of crime in the support of police officers, and the maintenance only of convicts at home and abroad. In the seven years from 1804 to 1810, the amount of their maintenance was no less than £528,716, or £75,530 annually; and that from 1811 to 1817, the sum was nearly double, it being £985,371, or £140,767 annually. The expense of seven police officers during the same periods was, for 1804 to 1810, £163,839; and annually £23,405. But for the next seven years, from 1811 to 1817, the amount had increased to £186,724, or annually £26,674.

6th Period, 1820-25. It was reserved for this period to apply a powerful test, in order to ascertain whether the habit of spirit-drinking was confirmed or not. Unhappily the practice had been too long cherished to be overcome by such means. In 1820, the late high duties commenced, being 12s. 7d. for England, and 6s. 2d. for Scotland and Ireland, per the Imperial gallon. The Parliamentary returns are made up to this period in the old wine measure; and in order to make the variations of the consumptions easier of comprehension, I have first given the returns of this and the next and last period in the same measure; and then I have given them also in the Imperial measure, with the amount of duty, (Tables I. and II.) The variations in this period are as remarkable in their character as they are conclusive in their results, and are worthy the particular attention of the Committee. Their leading features are not only interesting, but curious; and are calculated, either in their individual or combined capacity, to illustrate, in a striking manner, the position already laid down—that the consumption of spirits influences the amount of poor rates and the extent of crime.

In England, the richest country, there was a decrease in the consumption of rather more than 10 per cent. In Scotland, the consumption was more than doubled; and in Ireland, it had advanced about 20 per cent. I first notice the consumption and revenue upon spirits, which stand thus during this period. The consumption in England, in consideration of the experiment of the high duty, fell, as compared with the previous period, 2,940,187 gallons; but the revenue, for the same reason, increased £2,020,817, or £1,405,287 annually. There was a gradual decrease in the consumption in 1820, from 4,760,887 gallons, with the exception of a small advance in 1822 to 4,132,263 gallons in 1825. (Tables II. III.)

Second. The amount of poor-rates during this period also decreased, from £7,330,254 in 1820, to £5,786,989, in 1825. (Table IV.) It is true, as already observed, there was an increase in the revenue of nearly £3,000,000 in England, and as a large portion of this was paid by the poorer classes, it is natural to suppose that the poor-rates would have increased. But this may be accounted for in two ways, first, that wheat fell in 1823 as low as 43s. the quarter, and during the six years the average fell from 83s. 6d. to 58s. 3d.; second I take it for granted that as less spirits were drunk, there was less intemperance, and consequently the people were more industrious, and therefore better able to bear such an outlay.

Third. Notwithstanding the consumption of spirits during this period had in a moderate degree diminished, yet the constant augmentation in the consumption for the previous 18 years had so debased the lower classes, than there was in these six years, from 1820 to 1825, a most alarming increase of crime.

I find by the Tabular Statements, V. VI. VII. and VIII., that the number of persons committed for criminal offences in England and Wales, in the seven years from 1819 to 1825, had increased from 64,538 in the previous seven years, to 93,718; and for London and Middlesex, from 14,598 during the same period, to 18,569; each being an increase of more than 30 per cent. An equal increase in the number of convicts for transportation took place in this period, and which shows that the atrocity of crime had also increased. (See Tabular Statements, IX. X.) The number of convicts increased in the same periods respectively in England and Wales, from 13,167 to 20,036; and in London and Middlesex, from 4,199 to 5333. This view of the facts also is equally striking, if we look at the expense of crime. By statement XI. and XII. it appears that the expense of maintaining convicts during the same periods for England and Wales, was from £985,371 to £1,319,295, being an increase of £47,703 annually, and which was in addition to the large increase of the previous seven years of £65,236. For London and Middlesex the increase was still more remarkable, being from £186,724 to £292,112.

7th Period, 1826-31. It was left to this period to unfold the full extent and demoralization of spirit-drinking. The leading characteristics of this period are similar to the preceding, except that the same principles and the same results are developed upon a much larger scale. I request the attention of the committee to the same mode of illustration as in the former period.

First. The consumption of spirits, and revenue. The alarming increase of intemperance during this period, I am of opinion, is mainly to be attributed to the reduction of the duty, which in 1826 was lowered in England from 12s. 7d. to 7s., and now 7s. 6d.; in Scotland and Ireland, from 6s. 2d. to 2s. 4½d., and now 3s. 4d. per imperial gallon. The consequences of this alteration were, that the consumption in England of British spirits increased in the first year, 1826, more than 100 per cent.; in 1825, being 4,133,263 gallons, duty 10s. 1d., or 12s. 7d. imperial measure; and in 1826, 8,888,644 gallons, duty 5s. 7½d., or 7s. the Imperial measure, and the consumption went up to 9,311,624 gallons; the proportionate increase for each country being about the same. The total consumption for the

last six years was only 27,799,367 gallons, whilst for the present period it was 53,646,486 gallons. (Table III.) The decrease of duty not being one-half, and the consumption having nearly doubled, there was an increase in the whole revenue of £4,876,361, and of which England's share was £1,659,589. (Table II.)

Second. The effect of this increased consumption upon the poor-rates.—In 1825, the amount levied was £5,786,989, and in each year they gradually rose, till in 1831 they reached £6,798,888. This increase could not arise from the price of food, as wheat was only 2s. higher than in the previous six years, the average being for this period 60s. 3d. the quarter, and the last 58s. 3d. (Table IV.)

Third. As to crime, the case stands thus.—I find the same lamentable results as to the effects of distilled spirits. By the Tabular statements, V. VI. VII. and VIII. the number of persons committed for criminal offences in England and Wales, increased from 93,432 in the last period, to 128,010 persons in the present six years. For London and Middlesex, the increase was also about 33 per cent., being in the last period 18,509, and in the present 24,564. By the Tables IX. and X., I find the number of convicts had increased at the same ratio, being for the previous six years for England and Wales, 20,615, and the present 31,432; and for London and Middlesex for the last period, 5,333, and for the present, 7,820.

The expenses of crime also increased in this period. For the seven years ending 1824, the amount was £1,319,295; and the seven years terminating 1831, the cost was £1,390,701, leaving an increase only of £71,406, while during the last period the increase was £333,924. This difference, I apprehend, arose from some adventitious circumstances, such as the uncertain amount of bills drawn from New South Wales, being in some years £240,000, in others only £5,000, or the price of provisions which during this period was low; as the number of convicts, as already stated, had greatly increased. The expense of the seven police officers during this period was very greatly augmented, having been in the last period £292,112, and in the present £478,365.

Do you think intemperance, therefore, the principal cause of the great increase of pauperism and crime during the last 30 years?—I do; and I think the tables I have delivered in fully demonstrate this point; but, at the same time, there are other concurrent causes which operate to a certain extent to influence the amount; such as want of education; want of employment, either from badness of trade or an influx of Irish labourers; price of provisions, and especially the unnatural monopoly of the corn-laws in keeping up the price of wheat and some others. I fear also, the Inclosure Bills have had a baneful influence upon the condition of the agricultural population. By the Parliamentary returns, I see the Inclosure Bills, during the last 30 years, have greatly increased. In the six years, from 1792-96, there was 251 Inclosure Bills, or 41 annually; from 1796 to 1801, the number of Inclosure Bills was 463, making an average of 77; the next six years, down to 1807, the number was 501, or 83 annually; the next six years, to 1813, 692, or 115 annually; and the next, from 1814 to 1819, there was 372, making 62 annually.

Have these inclosures occasioned distress among the people who formerly enjoyed the right of common?—I have no doubt of it; because previous to the inclosure, the poor people had an opportunity of keeping a cow, pigs, and poultry.

Has intemperance, among that class of people, been the result of their distress, occasioned by these inclosures?—I cannot say.

Are there any remedies you can suggest to the committee of a nature such as the Legislature could enact or provide, to prevent the further spread of this evil?—I think there are; and I consider this subject not less important than the previous question; and as in that case, I went at once to the principal causes of intemperance, the very large consumption of spirits and drinking beer on the premises; I would also now follow the same plan, and go at once to the root of the evil.

What is the first remedy you would suggest?—In my opinion there is only one remedy that will meet the case; all others will be mere palliatives, and end in delusion; I mean an entire prohibition of distilling and selling of spirits as a beverage or diet. I am aware that alcohol is used as a medicine, and in some manufactures; to this there could be no objection, if substitutes could not be found. I hold it as an axiom, that as soon as an individual, or a body of individuals, become acquainted with the cause, extent, and aggravated character of evils, arising out of any system of their own establishing, and such individuals possess the remedy necessary to improve that system, or uproot it altogether, and thus entirely remove the evil, from that moment such persons become responsible for all the subsequent evils arising from their non-interference. It is with this principle before me that I look as to any remedies in this case; and should I say, that as soon as the report of this committee has been printed, and presented to each Member of Parliament, and to the Government, whether read by them or not, from that moment both the Government and Parliament become responsible for all the evils arising from intemperance, because I hold that they have the remedy in their own hands.

What is your opinion as to the practice and practical effect of having, after a certain time, an entire prohibition of the distillation of ardent spirit from grain, as converting a great source of nourishment into poison? I am of opinion that the practice of so destroying wholesome food is a direct sin against the providence of God; and as to the practical effect, I think it would be productive of the greatest possible advantage, both to the grower and the consumer, by causing a much larger demand for barley in other forms, as malt and as Scotch barley, for making barley cakes, puddings, broth, and other domestic purposes. If I look at it as a remedy, I am bound to say, with my views, I think it would not be efficient, if spirits were allowed to be distilled from any other substance. If spirits are to be got, the people will have them; but as a matter of principle, I think the Parliament "is very guilty in this matter." If this prohibition took place, I think it would check the consumption of spirits to a considerable extent, and produce the good I have already mentioned. But if spirits were prohibited altogether, I believe the advantages to agriculture would far exceed any calculation; as it is well known that gin and whiskey drinkers are in general poor, squalid, emaciated creatures, and eat very little, but if this horrible practice was done away, they would become consumers of wholesome food to a very large extent.

I have two reasons, which I will just mention, why

I think no other remedy will answer the purpose. The first is in the nature of the case itself. It is well known, by all those who have experience upon the subject, that wherever the habit of drinking spirits has been acquired, where it is allowed at all, it is insatiable, and it goes on increasing, till at last both body and soul become the victims; and therefore nothing but total prohibition will ever render the community safe from intemperance.

Another reason I recommend this course is from the experience we have gained in reference to the slave trade. In that important affair the legislation began at the wrong end. If 30 years ago they had at once passed the Act of 1833, slavery in the West Indies would have been annihilated at one stroke and millions of lives and property would have been saved. So it is with this degrading traffic; thousands of lives and millions of property are annually sacrificed to this body and soul destroying mammon. We may try minor remedies, and there are such, but they will not avail; and nothing will arrest this national distemper but entire prohibition.

There are several minor things as to remedies; one is in reference to licenses; the present system of licensing I think is bad. In the first place, the inhabitants themselves ought to have some control over the grant of licenses; I mean that no license should be granted by the authorities but by the recommendation of a certain number of respectable inhabitants of the parish; and I think with respect to spirit licenses there ought not to be less than 10 respectable inhabitant householders, and perhaps those who have the elective franchise. Another thing with respect to licenses in which the present system is bad; the profit of the public-houses now goes into the pocket of the landlord, brewer or distiller; whereas if it is intended to have a revenue from spirits, it ought to go to the Government. It is a common practice in some parts, if a person has but a small income, but still a respectable man, if he can get into favour with the magistrates and he has a small house of his own, the magistrates will grant him a license. Perhaps it lets for £10 or £12 a year, but the moment the license is given, the landlord gets £100 a year for it, and a large sum is expended by way of outlay, and the in-coming tenant pays it. I would therefore suggest, that the license ought to be at least £50, or in proportion to the rent, so as to let the profit come directly to the revenue, and I think that would be the means of checking the evil. Another improvement on the present system I think would be having inspectors to the public-houses, and those inspectors to be appointed also by the parishes, whose business should be to superintend and be allowed to enter those houses at all hours, when they were open; and with respect to the hours, I think no house for the sale either of beer or of spirits ought to be allowed to be open after 10 o'clock at night, as whatever business is done after that hour cannot be for the good of the public. Another improvement I think might be made with respect to the time of granting licenses; I think if licenses were granted from seven o'clock on Monday morning till ten o'clock on Saturday night, so that they should have no license at all for selling spirits on the Sunday, that would tend also very much to check the evil. It appears to me that the design of public-houses has been completely perverted, and requires legislative intervention; they were originally intended simply as inns of accommodation for travellers and persons necessarily from home, and not to be used, as now, principally for the purpose of mere sensual gratification, for idleness, and spending the hard earnings of the poor in consumption of noxious articles, destroying thousands annually, and bringing their families to wretchedness, destitution, and the poor-rates, and as a rendezvous for the worst of characters, who meet for the worst of purposes. If no persons, but as already stated, were allowed to drink beer or spirits on the premises, it would go far in restoring these houses to their proper object and to respectability.

You are acquainted with the discipline and condition of infant schools, in many parts of London?—I have some knowledge of them.

Among the children who frequent those schools, are there occasionally the children of parents of intemperate habits?—A great many of them.

Do you observe in those children any indication of the taste or disposition of their parents for spirits?—I visited two very respectable ladies some time ago, who with others had established a short time before, in the parish of Lambeth, an infant school; those ladies told me, that it was a common practice among the little children who can scarcely speak, if they began to cry in the school, to call out for gin; they wanted gin.

It was to be inferred, that those children had been in the habit of receiving gin from their parents on various occasions?—Yes; and I understand it is a fact, that children accustomed to the breast of a mother who is a gin-drinker, will not take the breast of a woman who does not take gin.

So that the taint of the vice passes hereditarily from the parent to the offspring through the milk, the nourishment nature has provided?—Yes.

You have recommended that parishioners should unite in the recommendation of an individual for a license; the committee have it in evidence, that the recommendations by inhabitants are very easily obtained—are you aware of that?—I think that may be the case in some instances; but I think the persons entitled to such recommendations should be persons in very respectable circumstances of life in the parish, who should pay a rental of £30, £40, or £50 a-year in town parishes, in country parishes at a lower rate, in order to secure the respectability of the recommendation; and also that that should be united with the clergyman, the churchwardens, and others.

Suppose it were a condition that all such recommendations should bear among other signatures, those of the clergyman of the parish, of a dissenting minister, where there was one, and a practising surgeon and the overseers, would not that greatly increase the chances of the respectability of the individual applying?—No doubt of it.

Have you any other statement to make?—On my previous examination, I was asked whether I had any knowledge as to noxious ingredients being put into ardent spirits; I have since met with a very remarkable case; it was an action brought by a person against a publican to recover damages; the nature of the publican's defence was, that the article sold was not what it professed to be. Some time in the month of January or February, 1834, an action *Wrathall v. Brewer*, was tried in the Palace Court: the plaintiff was a retired distiller; the defendant landlord of the Hand and Marygold public-house, situated at Star Corner, Bermondsey. The plaintiff sought to recover the sum of

10 1s by the defence was given manufacture. "Be half of plum, ounce of water, gel call medicinal morion e or else bought The Ac which concern ally of idrat and re In r spirits place i -states supplied summed each. by the bore a in opera ica; spirits increas Presto been s sand n nothing the con sumpt have b firm ed and w it has Union a state for La Presto before where ultima increas Do ducts i in fact increas disture article increas the q lated £25.0 of labe not b This amou ploye upon the 2 broug cloth be c factu woul and degra In one- the s rities in Cong the C citizz perap Com Sin ceivin consid smuggl ing th of his confa Colon of the had n the p present an am tribut pence to ena impro nothing were trict of Colon tical Spirit time e howe few da Mr. appoi circui Electio but lo The mates of £6 Aids- the G which agains lency Ar. V posed was s Walke jority such they e about