

**TEMPERANCE READING.**

**AN ECONOMIC VIEW.**

An Annual Destruction in Alcoholic Drinks in the United States Equal to the Yearly Earnings of Over 3,000,000 of People.

The economic aspects of the drink traffic afford more subjects of wonder than any other branch of political economy whatever. While it may not be possible to state with any certainty the actual sum annually expended by the people of the United States for drink, we at least know the number of gallons of pure spirits which are consumed, and are thus able to form an approximate idea of what it costs the consumer. According to the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for 1884, the number of gallons of distilled spirits withdrawn for consumption in that fiscal year was 78,342,474 for which the consumer can hardly have paid less than \$10 a gallon, or \$783,424,740. The beer consumed in 17,573,722 barrels, costing the consumer at least \$18 a barrel, or \$315,211,088. Whatever discount from this estimate we might be called upon to make by reason of a part of the whisky being sold for less than \$10 a gallon, will be more than compensated for by the addition of water and adulterated liquors, as well as native and imported wines, all of which are ignored in the reckoning.

The wastefulness of this enormous expenditure will appear more plainly if we compare it with another important loss, that of property by fire, which in 1884 reached \$109,890,163. In order to come still nearer to an understanding of the evil significance of these vast totals, let us measure them in units of a man's work for a year. Taking all manufacturing establishments of the country through, according to the census of 1880, and dividing the total sum paid for wages by the average number of hands employed, we get \$345 as the average earnings of an operative by a year's work. Taking this unit at \$350 for the sake of round figures, we find that the chief wastes of this country present the aspect shown in the following table:

NATURE OF WASTE.	Amount.	Percentage of National Product.
Fire losses last year according to Insurance Companies.	\$109,890,163.	31.37
Whisky consumed in 1884.	\$783,424,740.	236.39
Beer consumed in 1884.	\$315,211,088.	95.77
Total.	\$1,408,526,051.	432.53

Thus we discover that in drink alone there is an absolute destruction equal to the entire earnings of over three millions of people every year. The destruction is complete. The three millions and at least as many more dependent upon them for a few years' work, are reduced to beggary while they pour their entire earnings into the bottomless pit of drink. The gravity of the destruction is in no way diminished by dividing it among a greater number. If six millions spend half their earnings for drink there is the same loss of property but more people share it, perhaps.

The first few sentences, when being confronted by statistics like the above that there must be a fallacy concealed in them. The evidence of our senses assures us that wealth is steadily increasing and the standard of comfortable and rational living steadily, though perhaps slowly, advancing. It is impossible, is the involuntary conclusion. It is not impossible, we answer. On the contrary there is every reason to suppose it to be real. "But how can the Nation stand it?" asks the incredulous economist. This point also is worth looking into. The secret of the continual growth of wealth in spite of this tremendous waste is found in the use of machinery. A machine is an apparatus for enabling man to perform his work by the aid of the energy of nature. The farmer borrows from nature's store in the use of the soil and the sunlight, and the power of his animals. The manufacturer complements his machinery to the waterfall or the power lying idle in the coal. Taking a horse-power as being equal to the work of three men, a purely arbitrary, but very low estimate, machinery adds to the wealth-producing power of this country a force equal to the work of more than 200 millions of men. This is exclusive of the enormous advantage which all share in the much greater expenditure of material and merchandise upon the railroads.

Without this beneficent addition of machinery to our resources the drink machinery would reduce this free land to abject poverty within less than a single decade. This any one can see who will observe that the total number engaged in gainful occupations in 1880 was only about eighteen millions. The annual waste, therefore, is more than one-sixth the human resources of the country. The bearing of this fact upon hard times is too large a subject for present undertaking.—Union Signal.

**A HEREDITARY CURSE.**

The Awful Responsibility of Parents Admitted to Temperance.

Dr. Howe in a report on Idiocy made to the Legislature of Massachusetts, states that: "The habits of the parents of three hundred of the idiots were learned; and one hundred and forty-five, or nearly one-half, are reported as 'known to be habitual drunkards.' Such parents, it is affirmed, give a weak and lax constitution to their children, who are, consequently, deficient in bodily and vital energy, and predisposed by their very organization to have cravings for alcoholic stimulants; many of these children are feeble, and live irregularly. Having a lower vitality, they feel the want of more stimulation. If they pursue the course of their fathers, which they have more temptation to follow, and less power to avoid, then the children of the temperate, they add to their hereditary weakness, and increase the tendency to idleness in their constitution—and thus they leave to their children after them. The parents of case No. 62 were drunkards, and had seven idiotic children.

Dr. Howe concludes that three-fourths of all idiots are born of intemperate parents. The following, among other cases mentioned in his report, presents a painful illustration of these facts: "No. 58. H. C. E., aged thirty-three. His mother was extremely intemperate for several years before his birth, and died of delirium tremens. Muscular vigor is impaired by a singular affection of his nervous system, which gives him the air, gait and appearance of a drunken man. He seems to have inherited from his mother a strong resemblance to her acquired habit of body. He trifles with liquor, and his muscles are suddenly checked, his

law is arrested in the act of chewing, his lips in the act of speaking, or, if walking, and the stoppage is considerable, he stumbles, and perhaps falls down. Sometimes he remains insensible for a minute or two, and is afterwards utterly unconscious of what occurred. More often the command of one muscle, or of one side, is lost for an instant, and he is obliged to hitch and wriggle along with the others. Thus the poor creature drags himself about, a living monument of his mother's sin.

Dr. Caldwell says: "By habits of intemperance parents not only degrade and ruin themselves, but transmit the elements of degradation and ruin to their posterity. In hundreds and thousands of instances, parents having had children born to them while their habits were temperate, have become afterwards intemperate, and had other children subsequently born. In such cases, it is a matter of notoriety, but the younger children have become addicted to the practice of intemperance much more frequently than the elder, in the proportion of five to one."

Dr. R. G. Dods says: "The child of drunken parents inherits a predisposition to the use of spirituous liquors. . . . Parents suffering under disease of the liver, or any other organ, from the excessive use of spirits give rise to children whose constitutions possess strong tendencies to similar morbid actions; and these morbid actions not only lead to habits of intemperance, but the vain hope of relief from uneasy sensations, but are greatly increased by such practices.

Dr. John Reed says: "If the infant of an intemperate mother so far escapes as to be a normal alive into the world, little physical vigor or intellectual health can be expected from a human being whose constitution has been made to know the influence of alcohol before it was exposed to that of air."

**WHAT ONLY WOMEN CAN DO.**

Miss Cleveland's Appeal to Young Girls in 1882.

The National Temperance Society and Publication House has a copy of the *Young Girl's Temperance Banner* for February 11, 1882, in which is the following article for young girls, by Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of President Cleveland.

J. G. Holland wrote in Mrs. Hayes' album these words: "Women only can make wine-drinking fashionable and heal the Nation of this curse."

What did Dr. Holland mean by "women only"? Is it true that only women can make wine-drinking fashionable and heal the Nation of this curse? You and I need to know this first; because if only we women can do this thing, why is it an awful responsibility upon us, each one of us. And if somebody else can do it, we, like all the others, would like to give that somebody else the job. Five years ago, at Washington, Mrs. Hayes became mistress of the White House, and it was for her, and no one else, to say what the social atmosphere should be which surrounded her guests, and how they should be entertained at her house. Well, she did an unheard-of thing. She banished wine from her entertainments, with just one exception. Secretary Evarts made a fuss. He was mortified. He could not endure to have Lord and Lady English, Count and Countess French, Baron and Baroness German come to the White House dinners and have nothing fit for them to drink—not a drop of wine. It was too utterly, except! Mrs. Hayes made one exception in favor of those great foreign highnesses and allowed wine upon her table in their presence. But only for once. Her conscience—high-souled woman that she is—smote her that one little cowardly compromise with wrong, and she could not endure to have Secretary Evarts and the Smiths ashamed of her that to be ashamed of herself. So she quietly and forever prohibited wine from her table and cheerfully endured the lifted eyebrows and shrugged shoulders of the diplomaties—British, French, Russ and all, and the little, short-lived, "fashionable" society, until that his turned to a cheer, and fashionable society turned round, like the spaniel it is, and trotted on behind its mistress. It became unfashionable to serve wine and to offer wine in fashionable society while Mrs. Hayes was in the White House.

What Mrs. Hayes did in the White House every woman can do in her own home, if she will. If the girls who read these words will each of them, altogether, use their influence on the side of Temperance, they can make Temperance fashionable where they are. Will you do it?

General Grant does a manly thing; refusing to drink wine every where, at all societies. It is out at strong men who can keep his wine-glass upside down—in this case right side up, too!—while all the great people around him are sipping champagne and toasting each other in sparkling drinks. No one can tell how "far this little candle sheds its light." But one man can do it, and that man is a woman who can do it. It is women only, as Dr. Holland said.

I wish some strong, bright angel stood before you, just now, while you read this, to flash before you, as no words of mine can, the power you possess to help or to hinder the cause of Temperance; to make you feel your responsibility, because you are girls, in this matter; to slender at its weight, and to never cease trying to fulfill it! Doubtless you have heard a great deal about the value of your smiles; but do you know the value of your frowns? I wish I could make you feel the value of your frowns and the importance of knowing just what to frown upon. When a man can do by a frown what a woman can do by a frown. When the time comes that the young man who now shares his time in your society and in the saloon, who jokes about Temperance in your presence, and takes a glass, socially, now and then, is made to feel that such a frown is not to be his companion at party, ride or church; that good society can not tolerate these things in its members; in short, that this kind of a man is unfashionable and unpopular, then alcohol will tremble on its throne, and the liquor traffic will hide its cancerous face.

GENERAL CAREY, in a recent speech in Chickering Hall, N. Y., claimed that "the intoxicating beverages of different nations partake of the character of their people. The Americans, who are made up of people from many countries, will take anything and get drunk on anything."

A PLEASANT item to note is the establishment of a Temperance magazine for the blind, printed in raised characters for finger reading. It is formed by a progressive society of the Young Amherst Union at Stoke-Newington, Eng.

**WORSE THAN SLAVERY.**

Young Men From Texas Returned to Vicksburg in an Intemperate and Inebriated Condition.

VICKSBURG, Miss., May 25.—James Farley, an intelligent young Mississippian, twenty-five years of age, who formerly resided at Batesville where he was for a long time Deputy Sheriff, returned a few days ago from Guatemala, where he had been seduced to go by labor agents and seductive advertisements last summer. In an interview last night the young man said: "I left Vicksburg in September last to go to Puerto Barrios, in the Republic of Guatemala to work for Shay, Corrick & Co., on the Puerto-Barrios & Guatemala City Railway. I landed there October 27 in the rainy season and went to work grading the track and laboring up to January 25 when I went with the iron gang and worked there till February. At New Orleans I met a man named Parker who had an office on Front street, near Claiborne.

WHO WAS A LABOR AGENT FOR SHAY, CORRICK & CO. In company with 160 others, I signed a contract to work at \$2 per day. We were to pay no transportation out of our first pay and were to pay \$2.50 per week toward our arrival at the work. We sailed on the steamer Elia Knight. When we landed, we were put ashore in the night, while it was raining, and had no camp or place to go into. In the rain, the next day, we put up some poles or forks and covered them with menial leaves, and these constituted our shelter. It continued to rain for about two months. It would rain for an hour and then the sun would come out hot on us. We were not allowed to stop for rain, but without a ticket upon our arrival at \$2.50 per week toward our arrival at the work. We sailed on the steamer Elia Knight. When we landed, we were put ashore in the night, while it was raining, and had no camp or place to go into. 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