

made up next week). Prices for both wheat and oats promise to harden.

In consequence of the large number of liberated convicts who have been arriving in New South Wales lately from New Caledonia, Premier Stuart has addressed a remonstrance to the Imperial Government on the subject.

The meeting between the Czar and the Emperor of Austria will take place at the Kremlin, Moscow, on the 21st inst.

The German Press, referring to the reported action of Germany in annexing Caroline Island, repudiates as entirely obsolete the Spanish claims to a Protectorate over that territory.

It is currently reported that Khalifa Abdoolah, who assumed succession to the Mahdi, has been killed in a riot amongst the Arabs at Khartoum.

WEDNESDAY.

Dr. Chilton has been dismissed by the Government from the position of resident surgeon of the Wellington Hospital. He was offered the alternative of resigning, but refused. In connection with his dismissal all the nurses in the hospital, with the exception of three, have had their services dispensed with. In the absence of the Colonial Secretary, however, the Premier had issued instructions that the nurses were to be received back into the hospital last-night.

The steamers *Massilia* and *Lusitania*, which have been doing duty for some time as armed cruisers, left Sydney on Tuesday for England in accordance with Admiral Tryon's instructions to report themselves to the Admiralty.

THURSDAY.

The first section of the Wellington-Manawatu railway from Wellington to Faramatta will be opened for traffic on the 24th September.

Earl Carnarvon, Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, accompanied by the Countess, is making a tour of the west of Ireland. The Vice-regal party has met so far with a hearty reception.

The commercial depression which has prevailed for some time past in the United States shows signs of diminution, and trade generally is improving.

Cholera continues to spread in the South of France, and several cases have appeared at Toulon.

A man assuming the garb of a priest, and giving the name of Father Kanavacks, has been arrested in India as a Russian spy. He is thought to be identical with the ex-Communist, Oliver Pain, who, it is believed, recently kept the Mahdi informed of the movements and strength of the British troops in Egypt. The *Standard*, however, states that Russia has made modified proposals to the English Government with regard to the occupancy of the Zulfikar Pass, and that a peaceful settlement of the frontier difficulty is expected to ensue.

FIGURES OF HELL.

(From the *Catholic World*.)

LONGMAN said—and that famous publisher ought to have known—that "it was the title that sold a book." I was reminded of this saying when I chanced to glance at a book, with the unwinning and uncanny title of 'Figures of Hell,' that somehow had strayed into my library—often seen there, but never opened once because of its title. For the first time I recognized in the name of the author one of the most celebrated women of this country, and, wondering what she had to say about intemperance, I read a few pages and then—I read the book to the end.

Since Helper's 'Impending Crisis' no unprofessional writer has shown a greater power of massing facts and hurling them with Grant-like force on the enemy, than Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson. They first repel, then attract, then astound the reader; for, the first repugnance to statistics overcome, the story they tell amazes by its revelations and arouses the moral sense to aggressiveness by its lessons.

Without quoting more than one figure in a hundred, and arranging them in a new order for a swift review—referring to the book itself for the amplest statistical proofs—let me present some of the startling facts that this writer has marshalled in war-like, stern array.

The year selected ended June 30, 1881—the last year of authenticated Federal returns available at the time the book was written. The totals would be at least ten per cent. higher for the year that ends in June, 1885.

In 1881 these facts were undisputable:

We imported of different liquors	...	...	Gallons.
We manufactured of distilled spirits	...	...	7,556,603
We manufactured of fermented liquors	...	...	69,127,206
	...	...	443,641,868

Making in all ... 520,325,677 gallons of intoxicating liquors that were imported, manufactured, and sold in the United States in a single year! In round numbers—as we were then fifty millions—we consumed ten gallons and two-fifths of a gallon for every man, woman, and child; or, reckoning families as groups of five, one gallon each and every week for each and every family, making three drinks a day for each and every member. This estimate leaves out of account all secretly-made or "moonlight" whiskeys, and others. Every day we drink 1,425,560 gallons—28,511,000 glasses; or every second we drink 330 glasses, never stopping a single second, night nor day, from the New Year's birth to the Old Year's death. So much for quantity; now for cash cost of it.

Our imported liquors retailed for	...	...	Dollars.
Our home-made spirits retailed for	...	...	67,274,032
Our home-made fermented liquors retailed for	...	...	207,381,618
	...	...	443,641,868

Showing that we paid in one year for intoxicating liquors the vast sum of ... 718,297,518

Striking off, to make round numbers, the eighteen old millions, and estimating population at fifty millions, these figures show that we spend for drink no less than 14dols. for each and every person in the United States, 70dols. for each and every family, 1,967,933dols. daily, and every second—"every time the clock ticks," as Mrs. Thompson puts it—2276dols.!

These figures, striking as they are, do not tell the whole story; they show the money-cost only of the liquor-traffic to the people. There are other and almost as serious consequential damages to be estimated in considering the gross expenses of the drinking habit.

There is an army of no less than 909,980 persons—adult males for the greater part—employed in the manufacture and sale of liquors in the United States. This is one to every sixty of the entire population—one adult person to every group of twelve families. These men (and necessarily they are mostly able-bodied men) are taken from productive—that is to say, wealth-producing—employments; they are a tax on the workers, adding no one element of prosperity to the common wealth of the nation. At the low wages which all of them could earn they would receive every year of 300 days (thus allowing a large percentage for holidays and sick-days) the great sum of 272,994,000 dols. Who can estimate the annual loss of permanent wealth that this aggregate of wages implies and suggests?

Supposing that every man employed in making and distributing intoxicating liquors should remain a good citizen, as many of them are apart from their traffic, yet we cannot regard their withdrawal from the normal and wealth-producing industries as the most serious consequential damage done to the nation by the drinking habit. There remain the more direct damages of crime and its cost, which include the grievous burden of the expensive machinery demanded for its repression and punishment.

The Federal statistics show that there are in the United States "600,000 persons daily incapacitated for labor by reason of liquor." This number includes the drunkards, the criminals, the insane, and the paupers who have been dragged down into the ranks of these classes by the direct and recognized influence of using intoxicating drinks.

At one dollar a day, in a year of 300 days, this army of 600,000 persons placed *hors du travail* by the drinking habit, could have earned 180,000,000 dols., which, added to the other totals of money-cost and the loss of services of the army of makers and sellers—estimating these services on the wage-basis only—amount to the stupendous aggregate of 1,171,291,518 dols., per annum!

"This vast sum," writes Mrs. Thompson, "is 23 dols. per capita for every man, woman, and child in the country. It is nearly equal to our entire gold, silver, and paper circulation combined. It would build and equip 30,000 miles of railroad—nearly one-third as many as are now in operation; pay the cost of the public-schools for fifteen years, erect and maintain twelve thousand colleges; send out and support 1,200,000 missionaries; pay the entire national debt in two years; pay the entire debt of the country, national, State, municipal, in less than four years; construct 600 first-class ocean-steamers; erect and maintain 3,750 hospitals, libraries, or homes for the aged; provide one-third of the people in the United States with homesteads of 160 acres each; run the Post-Office Department for 34 years; support the navy for 75 years; pay our foreign consular service for 1,725 years; purchase, at seven dollars a barrel, 167,327,359 barrels of flour, and pay the salary of the President of the United States for 23,425 years!"

More than two-fifths of the arrests in New York city are of persons "intoxicated," or persons "drunk and disorderly." Uniting the figures of these two legally-separated offences—yet coming from the same source—the total number of arrests of liquor criminals was 28,669. (The total number of arrests for all offences was 69,632.) Who pays the expense of supporting two-fifths of the police force thus employed, and for two-fifths of the prison accommodation thus rendered necessary, and for two-fifths of the costly machinery of justice, otherwise unneeded, that the liquor-traffic forces us to maintain? The liquor manufacturers or importers, or wholesale dealers or retailers? No; the labouring classes and the law-abiding directors of industry.

The maudlin or noisy drunkards were not the only persons in New York who were thus lodged in public institutions at the public expense because of the traffic in intoxicating drinks. No less than 120,083 "indigent persons" were forced to ask for lodgings at the station-houses. That is to say, a number, during the year, that represents one-twelfth of the entire population! About 58,000 were men, over 62,000 were women! *Eighty-five per cent. of them admitting that their poverty had come from drink.* Who paid for the lodgings of these victims of drink? You and I, readers, and the rest of the workers of New York. And how much? The cost of keeping up the police is 3,280,053dols. Two fifths of it must be charged directly to the liquor-traffic.

"The cost of the various courts," also writes Mrs. Thompson, "made necessary by reason of the traffic in liquors in New York city alone, reached the sum of two millions of dollars!"

The cost of maintaining the Department of Public Charities and Correction is 1,262,616dols. "Over 90 per cent. of it was made necessary by reason of the traffic in liquors."

Did you ever try to guess how many liquor-stores there are in New York City? If they were built side by side in one street, and on both sides of it, that double-lined, death-dealing street would stretch all the way from Kingsbridge to Battery! There are fewer liquor-shops in the Sixth Avenue than in any other business avenue in New York; and yet in five consecutive blocks, and in the most respectable part of it, you can count twenty-nine different places where intoxicating drinks are publicly sold? There are over 8,000 of them in New York city.

The statistics of character of the keepers of these shops are almost as startling as the other "figures of hell" that we have quoted. No one can get a license to sell liquor unless he can "certify" that he has a "good moral character." If you try to find out what the word "sacred" means as applied to the kings of England from a study of their records, you are apt to believe that it means a person who wears a crown and has broken all the Commandments. A similar