

AMERICAN NOTES FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION.

SKETCH OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.—I went to see this place on a very fine winter morning; an Italian sky above, and the air so clear and bright on every side, that even my eyes, which are none of the best, could follow the minutest lines and scraps of distinct drapery in the distance.

Like most other public institutions in America, of the same class, it stands a mile or two without town, in a cheerful healthy spot; and is an airy, spacious, handsome edifice. It is built upon a height commanding the harbour. When I paused a moment at the door, and marked how fresh and free the whole scene was—what sparkling bubbles glanced upon the waves, and swelled up every moment to the surface, as though the world below, like that above, were radiant with the bright day, and gushing over in its fulness of light; when I gazed from sail to sail away upon a ship at sea, a tiny speck of shining white, the only cloud upon the still, deep, distant blue—and, turning, saw a blind boy with his sightless face addressed that way, as though he too had some sense within him of the glorious distance, I felt a kind of sorrow that the place should be so very light, and a strange wish, that for his sake it were darker. It was but momentary, of course, and a mere fancy, but I felt it keenly for all that.

The children were at their daily tasks in different rooms, except a few who were already dismissed, and were at play. Good order, cleanliness, and comfort, pervaded every corner of the building. The various classes, who were gathered round their teachers, answered the questions put to them with readiness and intelligence, and in a spirit of cheerful contest for precedence, which pleased me very much.

Those who were at play, were gleesome and noisy as other children. More spiritual and affectionate friendships appeared to exist among them than would be found among other young persons suffering under no deprivation, but this I expected and was prepared to find. It is a part of the great scheme of Heaven's merciful consideration for the afflicted.

In a portion of the building, set apart for the purpose, are workshops for blind persons whose education is finished, and who have acquired a trade, but who cannot pursue it in ordinary manufactories because of their deprivation. Several people were at work here; making brushes, mattresses, and so forth; and the cheerfulness, and industry, and good order discernible in every other part of the building, extended to this department also.

THE BLIND GIRL.—I sat down in another room, before a girl, blind, deaf, and dumb; destitute of smell, and nearly so of taste—a fair young creature with every human faculty and hope, and power of goodness and affection, inclosed within her delicate frame, with but one outward sense—the sense of touch. There she was, before me; built up, as it were, in a marble cell, impervious to any ray of light, or a particle of sound; with her poor white hand peeping through a chink in the wall, beckoning to some good man for help, that an immortal soul might be awakened.

I have extracted a few disjointed fragments of her history, from an account written by that one man who made her what she is. It is a very beautiful and touching narrative; and I wish I could present it entire.

Her name is Laura Bridgman. She was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, on the 21st of December, 1829. She is described as having been a very sprightly and pretty infant, with bright blue eyes. She was subject to severe fits, which seemed to rack her frame almost beyond her power of endurance; and life was held by the feeblest tenure; but when a year and a half old, she seemed to rally, the dangerous symptoms subsided; and at twenty months old, she was perfectly well.

It is very remarkable, that as we dream in words, and carry on imaginary conversations, in which we speak both for ourselves and for the shadows who appear to us in those visions of the night, so she, having no words, uses her finger alphabet in her sleep. And it has been ascertained that when her slumber is broken, and is much disturbed by dreams, she expresses her thoughts in an irregular and confused manner on her fingers; just as we should murmur and mutter them distinctly, in the like circumstances.

I turned over the leaves of her Diary, and found it written in a fair, legible, square hand, and expressed in terms which were quite intelligible, without any explanation. On my saying that I should like to see her write again, the teacher who sat beside her, bade her, in their language, sign her name upon a slip of paper, twice or thrice. In doing so, I observed that she kept her left hand always touching, and following up, her right hand, in which, of course, she held the pen. No line was indicated by any contrivance, but she wrote straight and freely.

She had, until now, been quite unconscious of the presence of visitors; but, having her hand placed in that of the gentleman who accompanied me, she immediately expressed his name upon her teacher's palm. Indeed, her sense of touch is quite so exquisite, that having been acquainted with a person once, she can recognize him or her after almost any interval. This gentleman had been in her company, I believe, but very seldom, and certainly had not seen her for many months. My hand she rejected at once, as she does that of any man who is a stranger to her. But she retained my wife's with evident pleasure, kissed her, and examined her dress with a girl's curiosity and interest.

She was merry and cheerful, and showed much innocent playfulness in her intercourse with her teacher. Her delight on recognizing a favourite playfellow and companion—herself a blind girl—who silently, and with an equal enjoyment of the coming surprise, took a seat beside her, was beautiful to witness. It elicited from her, at first, as other slight circumstances did twice or thrice during my visit, an uncouth noise which was rather painful to hear. But on her teacher touching her lips, she immediately desisted, and embraced her laughingly and affectionately.

I had previously been into another chamber, where a number of blind boys were swinging, and climbing, and engaged in various sports. They all clamored, as we entered, to the assistant-master, who accompanied us, 'Look at me, Mr. Hart! Please, Mr. Hart, look at me!' evincing, I thought, even in this, an anxiety peculiar to their condition, that their little feats of agility should be seen. Among them was a small laughing fellow, who stood aloof, entertaining himself with a gymnastic exercise for bringing the arms and chest into play; which he enjoyed mightily; especially when, in throwing out his right arm, he brought it into contact with another boy. Like Laura Bridgman, this young child was deaf, dumb and blind.

Ye who have eyes and see not, and have ears and hear not; ye who are the hypocrites of sad countenances, and disfigure your faces that you may seem unto men to fast; learn healthy cheerfulness, and mild contentment, from the deaf, and dumb, and blind! Self-elected saints with gloomy brows, this sightless, earless, voiceless child may teach you lessons you will do well to follow. Let that poor hand of her's lie gently on your hearts; for there may be something in its healing touch akin to that of the Great Master whose precepts you misconstrue, whose lessons you pervert, whose charity and sympathy with all the world not one among you in his daily practice knows as much as many of the worst among those fallen sinners, to whom you are liberal in nothing but the preachment of perdition.

As I rose to quit the room, a pretty little child of one of the attendants came running in to greet its father. For the moment, a child with eyes, among the sightless crowd, impressed me almost as painfully as the blind boy in the porch had done, two hours ago. Ah! how much brighter and more deeply blue—glowing and rich, though it had been before—was the scene without, contrasting with the darkness of so many youthful lives within!

A QUEER MAD WOMAN.—Leaning her head against the chimney, with a great assumption of dignity and refinement of manner, sat an elderly female, in as many scraps of finery as Madge Wildfire herself. Her head, in particular, was so strewn with scraps of gauze and cotton, and bits of paper, and had so many queer odds and ends stuck all about it, that it looked like a bird's nest.

She was radiant with imaginary jewels; wore a rich pair of undoubted gold spectacles, and gracefully dropped upon her lap as we approached, a very old greasy newspaper, in

which I dare say she had been reading an account of her own presentation at some Foreign Court.

I have been thus particular in describing her because she will serve to exemplify the physician's manner of acquiring and retaining the confidence of his patients.

'This,' he said aloud, taking me by the hand and advancing to the fantastic figure with great politeness—not raising her suspicion by the slightest look or whisper, or any kind of aside, to me; 'this lady is the hostess of this mansion, sir. It belongs to her. Nobody else has anything to do with it. It is a large establishment, as you see, and requires a great number of attendants. She lives, you observe, in the very first style. She is kind enough to receive my visits, and to permit my wife and family to reside here; for which it is hardly necessary to say we are much indebted to her. She is exceedingly courteous, you perceive—on this hint, she bowed condescendingly—and will permit me to have the pleasure of introducing you; a gentleman from England, ma'am: newly arrived from England, after a very tempestuous passage: Mr. Dickeus—the lady of the house.'

We exchanged the most dignified salutations with profound gravity and respect, and so went on. The rest of the madwomen seemed to understand the joke perfectly (not only in this case, but in all others, except their own), and to be highly amused by it. The nature of their several kinds of insanity was made known to me in the same way, and we left each other in high good humour. Not only is a thorough confidence established, by these means, between physician and patient, in respect of the nature and extent of their hallucinations, but it is easy to understand that opportunities are afforded for seizing any moment of reason to startle them by placing their own delusion before them in its most incongruous and ridiculous light.

DANCING AMONG THE LUNATICS.—Once a week they have a ball, in which the Doctor and his family, with all the nurses and attendants, take an active part. Dances and marches are performed alternately, to the enlivening strains of a piano; and now or then some gentleman or lady (whose proficiency has been previously ascertained) obliges the company with a song; nor does it ever degenerate, at a tender crisis, into a screech or howl; wherein, I must confess I should have thought the danger lay. At an early hour they all meet together for these festive purposes; at eight o'clock refreshments are served; and at nine they separate.

Immense politeness and good breeding are observed throughout. They all take their tone from the Doctor; and he moves a very Chesterfield among the company. Like other assemblies, these entertainments afford a fruitful topic of conversation among the ladies for some days; and the gentlemen are so anxious to shine on these occasions, that they have been sometimes found practising their steps in private, to cut a more distinguished figure in the dance.

MADNESS AT TABLE AND AT WORK.—Every patient in this asylum sits down to dinner every day with a knife and fork, and in the midst of them sits the gentleman whose manner of dealing with his charges I have just described. At every meal, moral influence alone restrains the more violent among them from cutting the throats of the rest; but the effect of that influence is reduced to an absolute certainty, and is found, even as a means of restraint, to say nothing of it as a means of cure, a hundred times more efficacious than all the strait-waistcoats, and fetters, and handcuffs, that ignorance, prejudice and cruelty have manufactured since the creation of the world. In the labour department, every patient is as freely trusted with the tools of his trade as if he were a sane man. In the garden, and on the farm, they work with spades, rakes, and hoes. For amusement, they walk, run, fish, paint, read, and ride out to take the air in carriages provided for the purpose. They have among themselves a sewing society, to make clothes for the poor, which holds meetings, passes resolutions, never comes to fusty cuffs or bowie-knives, as sane assemblies have been known to do elsewhere; and conducts all its proceedings with the greatest decorum. The irritability which would otherwise be expended on their own flesh, clothes, and furniture, is dissipated in these pursuits. They are cheerful, tranquil and healthy.

IRISHMEN IN AMERICA.—They are brothers, those men. One crossed the sea alone, and working very hard for one half year, and living harder, saved funds enough to bring the other out. That done, they worked together, side by side, contentedly sharing hard labor and hard living for another term, and then their sisters came, and then another brother, and lastly, their old mother. And what now? Why, the poor old crone is restless in a strange land, and yearns to lay her bones, she says, among her people in the old grave-yard at home; so she says, go to pay her passage back; and God help her and them, and every simple heart, and all who turn to the Jerusalem of their younger days, and have an altar-fire upon the cold hearth of their fathers.

NIGHT IN NEW YORK.—But how quiet the streets are! Are there no itinerant bands; no wind or stringed instruments? No, not one. By day, are there no Punches, Fantoccinis, Dancing-dogs, Jugglers, Conjurers, Orchestrans, or even Barrel-organs? No, not one. Yet, I remember one. One barrel-organ and a dancing-monkey—sportive by nature, but fast fading into a dull, lumpy monkey, of the Utilitarian school. Beyond that, nothing lively, no, not so much as a white mouse in a twirling cage.

A NEW METHOD OF CAULKING VESSELS.—Quite recently, the Lords Commissioners of the British Admiralty submitted an invention to a committee of master shipwrights, at Woolwich, that promises to accomplish all that could be desired in respect to the security of life and cargo from leakage, unless a sudden concussion, by striking on a rock, should actually burst in a plank. A series of experiments were instituted, to prove that no caulking was ever necessary. In stuffing the seams, the ordinary practice, the edges of the planks are glued together by a composition that is insoluble in water, and so prodigiously adhesive, that when once united, the planks will part anywhere sooner than where the two were joined together. Two pieces of African teak, an oily wood, difficult to glue, when stuck together by the new article, applied in a boiling state, could not be separated on the artificial line of union. They were tried with bolts and screws in a testing frame, and the power of an hydraulic engine to the extent of nineteen tons exerted—but they were not sundered.—The chain broke, yet on the closest inspection, no relaxation of the seam could be detected. A large chain, one inch and a half in diameter, was applied, which also broke under a strain of twenty-one tons. In a word, no discovery is yet made of the exact resisting power of this extraordinary kind of water proof glue. Four pieces of hard wood were next joined, which, in the whole, weighed four hundred pounds. This was carried to the top of the dock yard shears, and thrown down, seventy-six feet, on a hard granite wharf; without at all altering the condition of the seams. Very many other experiments, on a large scale, were effectually made, which completely satisfied the committee of the exceeding value of the discovery. This caulking material is made of India Rubber and shell-lac, dissolved in naphtha. It is neither an expensive article, nor difficult to prepare. When small vessels are planked on the stocks, the joints being well fitted, the edges are plentifully coated with the hot glue, and then pinned to the ribs in the usual manner. Small boats may be made as tight as though they were excavated from a single log. Large vessels, when building, should have the planks glued as much as possible. Afterward, when caulked in the common way, the boiling glue is put on plentifully, and thus binds it in forever, besides holding the wood, where the edges touch, so snugly, that they will resist the strongest hydrostatic pressure to which they are ever exposed.

SPIRITUAL PEERS.—The new sect of Christians, the Plymouth Brethren, have now two Peers of the realm among their teachers—Lords Congleton and Teynham.

THE EXTRAORDINARY ELOPEMENT.—Mr. Benjamin Hall, the poor fellow who was lately induced to marry the young lady Miss Brooke, at Mirfield, under such extraordinary circumstances, was, two weeks ago, wandering about the Isle of Man in search of her, in a most destitute condition. The circumstances of this strange wedding, and the means adopted to carry off Hall's wife by force, will be still fresh in the memory of our readers. It is supposed that she has been carried off to America.—Leeds Times.

UNITED STATES.

THE MARY ROGERS' MYSTERY EXPLAINED.—The terrible mystery which for more than a year has hung over the fate of Mary Rogers, whose body was found, as our readers will well remember, in the North River, under circumstances such as convinced every one that she was the victim of hellish lust and then of murder, is at last explained, to the satisfaction, we doubt not, of all. It may be recollected that, associated with the tale of her disappearance, was the name of Mrs. Loss, the woman who kept the refreshment house nearest the scene of her death. About a fortnight since, as we have already stated, this woman was accidentally wounded by the premature discharge of a gun in the hands of her son: the wound proved fatal; but, before she died, she sent for Justice Merritt, of New Jersey, and told him the following facts:—On the Sunday of Miss Rogers's disappearance, she came to her house from the city, in company with a young physician, who undertook to procure for her a premature delivery. While in the hands of the physician she died, and a consultation was then held as to the disposal of her body. It was finally taken in the night, by the son of Mrs. Loss, and sunk in the river, where it was found. Her clothes were first tied up in a bundle, and sunk in a pond on the land of Mr. J. G. King, in that neighbourhood; but it was afterwards thought they were not safe there, and they were accordingly taken and scattered through the woods as they were found. The name of the physician is unknown to us, nor do we know whether it was divulged or not. The Mayor has been made acquainted with these facts by Mr. Merritt, and we doubt not an immediate inquiry after the guilty wretch will be made. The son of Mrs. Loss, as an accessory after the fact, we suppose, will be—if he has not already been—arrested. No doubt, we apprehend, can be entertained of the truth of this confession. It explains many things connected with the affair which before were wrapped in mystery—especially the apathy of the mother of Miss Rogers upon the discovery of her body. It will be remembered that she did not even go to identify it, and made no inquiries concerning the affair.—New York Tribune.

The Colonial Herald.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1842.

Although it is now nearly a fortnight since the arrival at Halifax of the first December Mail—and although our Harbour still continues partially open—we are again compelled to go to press without a particle of foreign news from any quarter—the couriers having hitherto been unable to cross the Strait, owing to the quantity of loose ice or lolly floating in the Gulf, and extending to a considerable distance from the shores of this Island.

Last Tuesday's Gazette contains a Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, convening the Legislature of this Island for the dispatch of business on Tuesday the 24th January next.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council has been pleased to order that a public Thanksgiving be offered up to Almighty God, to-morrow (Sunday), in all Churches and Chapels in this Island, "for the late abundant Harvest in the Parent Kingdom, and for the gifts of His Providence in this Colony."

It is with sincere pleasure we announce that there are in the Common Jail of this town, at the present moment, only five prisoners confined on criminal charges, and not one for debt. We are also informed, on credible authority, that in neither of the other two prisons of this Island is there confined one single individual whatever. This speaks highly for the orderly deportment of the inhabitants, and we sincerely hope that such a state of things may long continue. Speaking of prisons, it occurs to us that it now appears to be high time the somewhat disreputable practice of imprisoning for debt were altogether done away with. Public opinion has, of late years, become decidedly opposed to it, and, for our part, we see no reason why the people of this Island should be longer deprived of the immunities arising from a well-digested Bankrupt Law. Several of the neighbouring Colonies of British North America have, we believe, for many years past, enjoyed the benefits derivable from such a measure; and an Act conferring upon New Brunswick the like privilege received the Royal Assent a few months since. By the passing of such an Act here, we conceive that trade would receive an increased impetus, as the merchant who is now terrified, and cramped in his exertions at the idea of unsuccessful in his speculations—of being torn from his domestic hearth and plunged into the dark and dreary recesses of a prison, would then launch out freely and boldly, certain that, if his proceedings be upright, he has naught to fear. And why should it be otherwise? The man who gives all he possesses in the world—what can he give more? It were needless for us to remark, that a check could be imposed, in order to the prevention of fraud or embezzlement, in cases of insolvency; but we shall not now enter more at large into the subject, contenting ourselves with having thrown out the hint, in the hope that it may meet with that consideration, on the part of our Representatives, which we conceive a matter of this highly practical nature deserves at their hands.

The low, scurrilous and contemptibly personal blackguardism put forth in yesterday's ISLANDER, is totally beneath our notice. It carries on the face of it its own condemnation.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS.—We can confidently recommend our friends, and the public in general, to call and inspect the really curious and extraordinary specimens of the Photographic art which Messrs. Hodgkinson & Butters have now ready for exhibition. We have seen several portraits which these gentlemen have taken since their arrival, and hesitate not to pronounce them to be the most accurate likenesses ever executed in this town. By some recent improvements in the art, Messrs. Hodgkinson and Butters are enabled to "give the life-like expression of the eye, and the most delicate shades of the countenance and dress, with a perfection hitherto unattained."

MR. GURNEY'S FULLING AND DYEING MILL.—In our last, since visited the Establishment, and witnessed the Fulling and Dyeing processes, which were in effective progress. The Fulling apparatus consists of a cast iron frame, firmly bolted and strapped to the abutment of the building, and is very unlike anything of the kind ever before attempted on this Island. In its holding from 40 to 70 yards of our ordinary home-manufactured cloth. In this cup there are two beetles, put in motion by the press the cloth. In this operation, the cloth is scoured from all impurities, and is also webbed and felted to the desired thickness. We admired the regularity of the revolutions of the cloth in the action of the beetles. We also observed that the necessary furnaces and digesters are erected, and other mechanical arrangements made, to insure an uniform color. While writing of the water has been tried, and found propitious to the fixing of scarlet and other difficult colors. Several pieces of homespun cloth, after they came from the Fulling-mill, have been submitted to competent judges, who have expressed themselves satisfied with their appearance, and compliment Mr. Gurney on the success of his undertaking. The Dressing Machine is nearly completed, and will be ready by the time that a sufficiency of cloth is felted and dyed. For this purpose Mr. Gurney has imported but it is to be hoped, that for the time to come, our Agriculturalists further importation. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, who is always foremost in every matter which may conceivably tend to cultivate the Agricultural interest, has kindly consented to Mr. Gurney. The last process is the Pressing of the Cloth. A zed wrappers, is in readiness to give the Cloth the finish, which, if the weather does not prevent, it is expected will be ready early in next month, at which time we confidently hope to have the satisfaction of seeing a substantial garment turned out of hand, legitimately of Island manufacture. Mr. Lewellin has presented

Mr. Gurney with some clay, obtained in the vicinity of Georgetown, possessing all the properties of Fuller's Earth, which will be tried, when a sufficient quantity can be obtained in the Spring.—Gaz.

On Thursday night last, the house of Hugh Cadmore, situated on the Winsloe Road, was entirely consumed by fire. All his provisions, clothing and furniture, with the exception of a few trifling articles, were also totally consumed. The children were rescued from the flames in a state of nudity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir; It would appear that there has been for many years a strong desire in the neighbourhood of Fleet-Street, London, to get up a Fishing Company. In April, 1830 (I believe then in London), an advertisement appeared in the Public Ledger, stating that two persons were wanted, to take the management of a Ship-building and Fishing Establishment in Prince Edward Island; each person would be required to pay into the hands of the Company Five hundred Pounds. Application to be made to the North American Ship-building and Fishing Company's Office, Shoe-lane, Fleet-Street. I found out the Office by a large brass plate on the door. I saw there, a Mr. Lee, who, after a little conversation, accordingly. Suffice it to say, that I did not find the door sufficiently respectable to induce me to deposit any money in their hands.

By giving this a place in your paper, you will much oblige,

Your obedient servant, ROBERT MEARS, Cardigan River, 7th December, 1842.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir; It will be known to you that the roads in and about Charlottetown are now in a pretty fair state for sleighing, but it will perhaps not be known to your Editorship that a few days since, I was very near being run over by a sleigh and sleigh, the latter duly lined with furs, and every thing of that kind, to make it comfortable. The crew of the sleigh was composed of several merry young gentlemen, and from the appearance of the little thin personage who was driving, one would have thought he was flying along on some "errand of mercy," but I soon had ocular demonstration that such was not the case, for if I had not taken care to get pretty quickly out of the path, I should soon have been "licked—the snow!"

Now, Mr. Editor, I think this is a hardship. Is there any law, statute or custom, by which a poor, old-fashioned, miserable, half starved wretch like myself, should be compelled, whenever he sees a great man's or a small man's sleigh approaching, to run for his life out of the path wherein he is "slowly plodding on his weary way," and plunge, in such a case, up to the neck, into the nearest snowbank? If there is such a law, why, sir, I say, the sooner our legislators see to it, the better; and if there is not, then why should I be placed continually in jeopardy when on my Charlottonian peregrinations? Is it, forsooth, because I cannot afford to keep a sleigh, horse, skins and muffs, like my fortunate fellow citizens? I can also tell you, Mr. Editor, that even Ladies are sometimes compelled to take a dip in the snowbank, as well as myself; and, Sir, I should think that the sooner the necessity for that class of dipping is done away with, it will be all the better for the gallantry of the young Charlottionians.

O. P. Q.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL HERALD.

Sir;—I have to thank you and your Brother Editors for so kindly according me an insertion in your Journals of the extracts on "Temperance Legislation," and now beg leave to hand you a portion of them.

13th Dec., 1842. TOTAL ABSTAINER.

Evidence taken before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into the subject of Drunkenness.—J. S. Buckingham, Esq., M. P. in the Chair.

JOHN POYNTER, Esq., examined. Where do you reside?—My office is at Bridewell Hospital, in the city of London.

In what capacity?—I am clerk of two hospitals, of Bridewell and Bethlehem, and have been so for 30 years. Have you served in any other office?—I have also served in the office of under-sheriff of Middlesex and London, for many years.

In those capacities have you had the opportunity of observing the effect of drinking, and its prevalence?—I have. Let a due deduction be made from the revenue arising from spirits for the costs of our criminal prosecutions, the expenses attending the administration of justice, the expense of the hulks, of the transportation, and of the whole colonial system; let the charges of different goals, houses of correction, and penitentiaries, be defrayed from their erection and annual support, have its proper weight, none can deny that the amount of the spirit tax will be reduced by very large outgoings, in respect of the expense attending the punishment of crime originating in, or aggravated by drunkenness. But even admitting that the highest amount of revenue could be really obtained, the moral evil of sanctioning a practice, by deriving a revenue from it, would remain the same. So long as it can be proved that morals are better than money, and national virtue above a system of finance, so long will the duty of every government to take care that in providing for the temporal advantages of the people they do not hazard the character of public morals, and the transformation of the nation into a nation of slaves. It is in vain that the appointed conservators of the national religion raise their voices against a system so manifestly injurious to the interests of morality, until the Government shall have the fortitude to declare that they will not be indebted to such sources for their supply. If honestly be allowed the best policy in the concerns of nations, as in those of individuals, (and surely England has ever found it so), let the Government only dare to do what would be no enthusiasm or folly in any individual, but only his obvious duty. Let it renounce the apparent advantage from the employment of arduous or dishonest expedients, and trust God for our necessary supply in the most such lawful and honourable means as may leave no contamination on the national character, work no forfeiture of the Divine favour, and secure the protection of the Almighty for ourselves and our children. Whatever this tax may produce in moneys numbers, the sordid addition thus derived to the revenue can never compensate for the evils they produce. The peculiar circumstances of such a tax being sanctioned by the Government, as a part of the financial resources, renders it properly a national stain, and which it is impossible to expect a blessing, if it be true that the necessary connexion subsists between national virtue and national happiness, or between public crime and public misery. In the consideration of the above views, I find from the Votes of the House of Commons, that there were voted in a single year, 83,000, for that year's expenses of convicts at home, and 17,081, for the establishment in New South Wales, and also 100,000, for defraying the amount of bills drawn, or to be drawn, from the country for that one year; 8,000, for prosecutions, relating to the same year; 40,000, law charges for the year; 60,000, towards defraying the expenses of the buildings of the Middlesex Prison, and 26,000, for the maintenance of that establishment for a year.

THE REV. JOHN EDGAR examined.

Where do you reside?—In Belfast. What is your occupation?—Professor of Divinity in the Royal College, Belfast. Your usual residence then is in Ireland?—Yes. Have you attended much to the condition of the people in the land, as affected by the habit of drinking?—In the north, I have. You have stated that Government threw obstacles in the way of reformation; the Committee wish you to describe those obstacles you have mentioned; the revenue on spirit and tobacco, the extended system of licensing, were those the obstacles?—Some of them. We have found one obstacle in endeavouring to promote reformation in the army; an attempt was made in Ireland to establish Temperance Societies in regiments; we conceived that we were not thus in any degree violating the discipline of the army; we thought it was merely necessary that the chaplain