

formed a judicious plan for attacking the English, which was disconcerted ; and eventually for want of stores he was compelled to surrender Pondicherry. This brought his military career in the East to an end, and now mark the reward he reaped from a grateful country.

No one can deny, with all his errors of judgment or temper, that De Lally was a brave and indefatigable General, that he had fearful odds to contend against ; his own troops mutinous—his supplies deficient—his exchequer exhausted, few men would have overcome these almost insurmountable difficulties in a strange country, and at such a distance from home. That there was nothing selfish in his designs is self-evident from the willing manner in which he sacrificed his own private fortune for the furtherance of the interests of the French Company. Yet on his return to France he was made the scape-goat of party feelings. By the feeble measures of a weak and defective government a series of disasters had fallen upon France, when the total loss of the boasted acquisitions in India fanned public discontent into a flame. Fortunately for the ministry, shoals of discontents arrived from India frowning with wrath against

Lally ; fortunately for them also, the public were swayed, as usual, by past appearances, and all the odium attached itself to the devoted person of the ex-Commander-in-chief. Popular indignation was cultivated and it was villainously resolved to raise a screen between the ministry and popular hatred at the sacrifice of poor Lally. Upon his arrival in France he was thrown into the Bastille, from the Bastille, as too honorable, to a filthy dungeon, and afterwards, after an iniquitous farce of a trial, on which nothing was proved except that his conduct did not come up to the very perfection of prudence and wisdom, and that it did display the greatest ardour in the service, the greatest disinterestedness, fidelity, and perseverance, with no common share of military talent and mental resources—he was sentenced to death. He was executed the very day on which the sentence was passed. With a gag stuffed into his mouth, so large as to extend beyond his lips, in a filthy dung cart and amidst the execrations of a vile and thankless people, the brave but unfortunate Lally was dragged to a despicable end : a victim to what has been truly called "*a murder committed with the sword of justice.*"

THE SCOTCH SMOKE ACT.

SCOTLAND obtained a Smoke Act last year, with notice of operation in the present year. The 1st of August was the day named for the purification of the atmosphere. Twelvemonths' notice had been given to the interested parties—the producers of smoke ; and if they had been inclined to prepare for that date, they had abundant opportunities. Years have passed away in the discussion of smoke. Ten years since furnace-improvers proposed schemes for its prevention. They have been adopted in several cases, but few persons are inclined to do this sort of good on the voluntary principle. Even in London, where many small steam-engines work on the land and in the river, and coals are dear as they are distant, an Act of Parliament was required before furnace-owners would save their money. The Temple Gardens were formed long ago on the banks of the Thames, they have been exposed for nearly forty years to the smoke of numerous steamers, and of the engine-furnaces on the south side of the river. Their gardener was skilled in his profession, yet he was unable to produce many

flowers common to the country. The soil was not blameable, for its quality could be easily seen. All the appliances of horticultural skill were tried, and all failed in the production of those results which were the objects of the gardener's ambition. Flowers will not be doomed to grow out of place, although human beings may be forced into existence and through it in clouds of smoke.

The Act of Parliament came to the deliverance of the gardener. The smoke from the steamers was reduced. The air became comparatively clear and pure. The plants that would scarcely bud before, sent out leaves and flowers in their season. The small squares of grass and trees were enlivened by flowers of many shades, and the "Templars" enlivened them farther by throwing open their gardens to the little children of the neighbourhood and their guardians. The children and the flowers thrive together because the proprietors of the steamers on the Thames have been compelled to save their money, and use their smoke.

The Bill against Smoke in Scotland is the

most foolish in its provisions that we have heard for some time. The first clause enacts, that the owners of furnaces on land, or on rivers with not more breadth than a quarter of a mile, shall provide for the consumption of their smoke. According to the first clause therefore, those immense chimney-stacks that cease not during daylight to taint the atmosphere with a continuous stream of black smoke are illegal. The second clause however neutralizes the first in some measure. It puts "as far as practicable" in the way, and thus the consumption of smoke becomes a matter of opinion, and while no independent inspector or official is appointed to decide upon the practicability. Another saving clause occurs which grants an appeal from the judgments of Sheriffs, whenever the expense of the alterations necessary for the observance of the Acts shall exceed 2*l.* by estimate. The estimate may in every case be run over that limit, and the enquiry be carried on before the Lord Ordinary in Edinburgh, at a considerable cost to complainers. The latter class may consist of persons who are aggrieved by the nuisance, or of the Local Authority. The definition of Local Authority in the Act is the Police Committee of Burghs, and the Procurator-Fiscal or Public Prosecutors in Counties. The Police Committee in Burghs consists generally of the men who produce the smoke, and who if they had been inclined to complain of their own conduct, might have reformed it years since. The Public Prosecutor of Counties is generally a most respectable Solicitor with a house altogether out of the way from the nuisance of smoke. The individuals who feel themselves annoyed by the nuisance may complain; but two clauses or conditions are provided for the purpose of keeping them quiet and still. One of these clauses allows them to complain when they please. They may grumble to the contentment of their various hearts but they must breathe other people's coals into their lungs, and swallow them into their stomachs, notwithstanding, for they cannot prosecute without the consent of the Lord Advocate. That gentleman may live in London for six months of the year, seven hundred miles away from his fumigated correspondents. He sees there indeed good examples or he may see them if he will take the trouble of discovering "in the city," where steam is generated. He will not however prosecute walks of discovery on the subject, and not being perhaps a litigious man he will be satisfied to leave smoke alone. He certainly without appeal decides the case before hearing. He stifles complaints with an instant note or reason, if he is inclined to take that course. The Lord Advocate has always been an important personage in Scotland, and this new Act

recognises and respects the honours and the wisdom—the official justice of his position. The Act might have been entitled a Bill to leave the Smoking Stacks of Scotland to the judgment of its Author: or a reference on Scotch air "to myself." The Lord Advocate of 1857 drew the Act, or if he did not draw he endorsed the Bill; and he expects to be the Lord Advocate for 1858, and onwards until he chose to become a Judge. Expectations often futile, and the case of the Lord Advocate is one only of many moral lessons that can be always picked up in the world like diamonds from its dust or pearls out of its sand.

As if, however, the manufacture of smoke had not been sufficiently guarded by this official protection, another clause is added for its security. The consent of the Lord Advocate to a prosecution might have been advisable if the expenses had been defrayed from the public revenue; but one clause, so far as we can comprehend it, makes provision that the complainers shall pay the costs if they fail in the prosecution. The Police Committee or the Public Prosecutor can pay from the common good; but individuals will be obliged to be at the outlay from their own means. The provision would not be objectionable if the complainants were not told that the concurrence of the Lord Advocate must be obtained to their proceeding, but after that had been procured, the public sanction should render the inquiry altogether a public matter.

An act of this nature could not be expected to work actively, and we don't know that any notice of its existence was taken until it came of age, and should have been busy. The authorities of Dumfries then stated their intention of enforcing its provisions. They will we hope find successors in this patriotic resolution, though we have not heard of them, except in one case, and that the most important in Scotland. A meeting of the owners of furnaces in Glasgow and within 35 miles from that city has been called for this day. The object of the meeting is the formation of a Society for the employment of Inspectors over boilers and furnaces. These officials will advise the members of the Association on all affairs of that nature. The best engineering talent may thus be obtained at a limited expence to individuals.

The meeting is devised in the hope of imitating Manchester, where a similar apparatus has existed for some time, with the view of preventing accidents by boilers. The Glasgow gentlemen properly propose to add the consumption of smoke to that object. It is connected with the safety of boilers, since all irregularities in firing must expose these

dangerous necessities of steam-making to unnecessary risk. The smoke of furnaces during the day is evidence of careless and irregular firing. With no more apparatus than has always existed in the working of furnaces, the consumption of coal could be greatly reduced, and therewith the production of smoke. All the schemes that have been devised for the prevention of smoke from furnaces hitherto, proceed upon the principle of supplying the fireman's lack of diligence. The class of men engaged in that work may be sufficiently laborious, and they may have too many duties assigned to them; but any person who has watched his own grate will observe that a fire of coals once in active life can be maintained without raising much smoke. A furnace can also be conducted without destroying the atmosphere, by regular firing. The ebb and flow of fire caused by irregular feeding bursts boilers. That is not the only cause for their explosion, but it is one cause, and much more common than many persons suppose. The projectors of the Glasgow Association are right, therefore, in joining cause and effect in their proposed work, and reducing the latter by uprooting the former.

There are few Scotch towns of which a finer view can be obtained than of Glasgow, from the rising ground on the south. It certainly does not equal the view of Edinburgh from Arthur's Seat, because that is unrivalled probably in the world; but the prospect from the little hills above Langside must be extremely pleasing in a clear morning. The hour, we fear, must be an early one; and we regret to believe that the preceding day must have been a Saturday. In ordinary circumstances the general outline of the city is perceptible with some difficulty. It has been built on the lowest ground of an undulating and broad glen, properly a strath. On the north side, it has climbed, and is still climbing up little steep hills, struggling for air. Further on, the Ochil hills to the north, with the Dumbartonshire and Renfrewshire hills to the west, form the walls of its great prison, which widens in the east into a broad expanse, varied with all the features of lowland scenery except water, for the Clyde is concealed from that point. To the east, however, the enemies are pitched here and there. Even by day gleams of fire are thrown up apparently from the corn. The country seems in a conflagration, not yet spread widely, but breaking out simultaneously at many points. By night, and in a dark night, the fires wear a different appearance, and they stretch away ten or twelve miles to the eastward. Only a little way in advance, almost beneath one's feet, close to the hill, amid, as it seems, blighted foliage of trees, still green, and almost feeding on the leaves, within the cloud, but fringing it not by a silver lining, great flames burn incessantly. A stranger may deem them accidental. They are to be followed by others, if any judgment can be formed from the columns of black smoke that curl up here and there to the east, out of corn-fields,

from meadows, and from clumps of trees, rising, and twining, and twisting with a bend to the west—for the east wind blows with a faint weak breath—until at last they are lost in the general gloom, and are no more black, but grey or cream-coloured, suggestive, however, of anything but cream.

As the city has spread up the hills, in its efforts to reach fresh air, the chimnies have accompanied it. The highest stalk in the world, surrounded by a family of fifty, has been planted to the north-east, right over the old cathedral, and that strange rock which St. Mungo loved well in clearer days, when "he drank of the Molendinar," out of which even he could not drink now, except as a miserable penance, or the means of escaping from his terrestrial cell to some mansion above the smoke. Now, because the city has turned a rapid flight, for a city, to the west, another great stalk is rising, not yet visible from the hill, with a goodly gathering of Anakim in brick around it, away to the west. And as in duty bound, being westward, it is to overtop the eastern giant by many feet.

On this green hill nothing is to be seen for many miles but this dun panoply, unless that on its southern edge piles of houses sometimes emerge, and are speedily caught again; and the larger stalks occasionally are visible, those to the east almost steadily; or sometimes a spire is caught by the eye through a rift in the cloud. The sense of hearing does little more than sight for the spectator. Sometimes the general feeling that there is something to be heard is varied by the sharp clang of—it may be hammers; and then a railway whistle shrieks out most dismally, piercing through everything, and reminding one of—one can scarcely write what—out of compliment to that which we know to be hidden under the cloud.

The spectacle is absolutely painful, because of the knowledge that so much might be seen. That pall hides very splendid specimens of architecture, although their beauty could not form any feature in the scene at this distance, for the smoke is over the homes of hundreds of thousands who scarcely ever can get out of its influences. It is not a small space that is covered over, or engulfed, in this noisome atmosphere, but a range of country like a little county, built closely over; and the great majority of those who dwell in it can't get out.

The multitude of little children whose lungs are formed in that dense atmosphere probably exceed those of Nineveh—little children who, in a moral point of view, know not their right hand from their left. It may be good for them, but it kills flowers, and we have no reason to suppose that it can be useful to human beings. As a general rule, we may assume that the world would have been covered with this kind of atmosphere, if it had been good. Because it is not good, it is made by man; and as usual, when he does mischief, it is done at great expense. Three "fourth parts" of that smoke is evidence of bad habits of business;

it proclaims that coals are wasted. More coal is wasted in its production in any week than all the benevolent people of Scotland give away during a winter. We are not surprised, therefore, that in "bad times," when profits are low, the men who suffer directly from this extravagance should endeavour to correct the evil and save their money. Their association may do more to purify the air than the late Lord Advocate's bill, which consists in a power so balanced by other powers, that it is, we fear, almost nothing.

The Smoke Nuisance Act of England was made for use. The Smoke Act of Scotland was made for show. At the Thames Police Office, on last Friday, a brewer was fined five pounds because his furnace was not consistent with the Act; an iron founder was fined two pounds for the same offence in a mitigated form. In both cases, the evidence of the Government engineer was the proof. Who is Government engineer in Scotland, or on this subject? The Act recognises no official of that character, but only the Lord Advocate. He is alpha and omega of everything. He may have never seen a steam-engine, except on the railway train. Very clever lord advocates have existed, who knew nothing of steam. Our late, or our present, or our previous Lord Advocate, who drew the bill, is ignorant of mechanics, except in a circumscribed and non-practical sense. The next one learned in the law may also be ignorant of furnaces. Still, in his day he will be the Government engineer of Scotland for the purposes of this bill, unless ere then some reform of the infantile statute be affected.

The English, or the metropolitan rule, brings offenders before the nearest stipendiary magistrate. In this country, the complainant may be driven from the Sheriff Depute to the Sheriff Substitute, and from the latter functionary to the Lord Advocate, with the consciousness that he may have to pay all the costs in the end, even after he has obtained the consent of the Lord Advocate to go anywhere. It would have been difficult to devise any measure better calculated to maintain silence, and prevent the courts from being troubled on the subject.

The bill, on which the decisions at the Thames Police Court, last Friday, were founded, makes no distinction respecting expenses of alterations. It has nothing to do with expenses. It requires the originators of smoke to cease from its propagation, and they are left to consider the means that may be necessary. The Scotch bill, with great regard for them, fixes a limit—a very circumscribed limit—for the expense of alterations, and takes every furnace that will cost more money to rectify out of the jurisdiction of the local magistrate, who might personally know the merits of the case, away to the Lord Ordinary, who will know nothing of the matter. Twenty-five pounds must have seemed an appalling sum to the Lord Advocate, if it were to be expended in engineering, and nothing, or next to nothing, when required for legal costs.

Voluntary associations, like that proposed for Glasgow, may save any further applications to the Legislature, because the interests of the owners of furnaces and of the public are identical. Our hopes in this plan is not, however, very strong. It may, and probably it will fail. The next and stronger step is the formation of a general sanatory association for Scotland, with branches wherever they can be formed. An association of this nature would promote many objects of an extremely necessary character, and could prosecute cases under this and other acts with far more efficiency than private individuals—than even police committees or public prosecutors. As one example, we may confidently say that in next session of Parliament a powerful sanatory association would procure an amendment of the Smoke Act, by obtaining the appointment of a Government engineer, or public inspector; by preserving local jurisdiction to local magistrates, with a power of appeal in certain circumstances, but without regard to the twenty-five pounds limit; and by converting the bill into a compulsory, instead of a permissive measure. At present, the local authority is permitted, with the concurrence of the Lord Advocate, at the cost or risk of the same person, to discharge a certain duty, by enforcing the law of the land. This is probably the only example of a law that enacts and justifies the negligence of public functionaries. Other laws leave them judges of the proof without exonerating them from duty, when the evidence is clear in their opinion. This law leaves them judges of the proof, with permission to prosecute or not; or rather, with permission to apply for permission from a superior functionary, to prosecute, if they please. And if they do not please to make the application? Well, if they do not please—in any way it is impossible for them not to have discharged their duty under this extraordinary bill.

The local authority can do no wrong, according to law, respecting smoke in Scotland. Whatever fate befall our smoke, a sanatory association, under active and earnest management, is greatly needed for this country. A body formed for sanatory purposes, with branches, local committees, a creditable executive, and general meetings, would have stilled this imperfect act and substituted a useful measure. We have had societies for the suppression of cruelty to animals; and human beings are animals, though they are excluded from their operations. We have Royal Humane societies, confining their attention to accidents on the waters. The deaths from preventable causes in Scotland annually are not under 30,000 in number, and might call for other societies. The formation of a sanatory association would be well rewarded by the extension of only 10,000 of these lives.

Death is not the only deplorable consequence of bad domestic and municipal arrangements. It may not be the most expensive result to the nation. Sickness scattered through a million of individuals in preventable forms may be a more costly punishment for the neglect of natural laws. Not even

sickness, perhaps, eats more into the country than the depression of mind which becomes habitual, and leads to more drunkenness than any other cause. Men and women with over-thought or over-toil rush from miserable homes to deposit their burden in the spirit-shop for a time, unmindful of its return to them, heavier by all that they have drank and all that they have paid, and all the consequences of the drinking and the payment. Some respectable people affect astonishment at the persistence of the miserable and the poor in a reckless expenditure for strong drink. The class of people who are in any way wretched are those who are under the most positive temptation to this vice. - It "drives dull care away" for a time, but it cannot keep it away. It has been the resource of the wicked in all ages—the sinning and the wretched; the thoughtless, yet wretched; the

weak and the wretched. "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts."

Air, pure air, and light, clear light, are needful for healthy vegetable growth; not less requisite are they for animal strength. Man will never estimate the loss to men from debility of body, depression of mind, sickness and sorrow in life, and its premature ending, brought on our own race in country and in towns, but chiefly in towns, from the contempt of health enjoined by Mammon, where labourers are cheaper than their homes, and a worldly-wise man takes more care of his horse than of his ploughman.

A sanatory association of the requisite strength might clear away this guilt and loss, leaving the nation after its sufferings "happier, healthier, and wiser."

GIN AND BITTERS.

CHAPTER I.

START not my readers at the heading, neither accuse me of vulgarity in its selection, for I could not well, for a tale like the following, have chosen a better title—albeit "gin and bitters," by fact as well as by association of ideas, certainly *are* intensely vulgar. *Difficile est proprie communia dicere*: I know it. Take, nevertheless, the will for the deed in my case. "Gin and bitters" will form a tale, *not* laid in low life by any means, and, perchance, point a moral—although with a low title. Who is there amongst you that, at the bare mention of the words, cannot instantly conjure up, from fancy's storehouse, loathsome pictures of inebriate depravity; gaudy, tobacco-reeking, gas-lighted, gin-palaces, well fitted up halfway houses to the unmentionable personage, with their motley crew of customers, from the "respectable" tradesman over the way, who has just looked in to suck down "a quiet sixpenn'orth with a friend," to the poor old red-nosed Irish apple-woman, or chesnut-roaster, from under the next lamp-post, who is just going to invest her coppers in a dram of "naked"—as neat spirit is elegantly termed in cockney vernacular; from yonder whiskerless, hard-featured, leaden-eyed, bull-necked, closely cropped costermonger with the eternal tight to the calf corduroys and the blue Belcher handkerchief and no shirt collar, to the haggard, hollow-eyed, parchment-cheeked, dirty slut who is holding her child in one arm and conveying a half-quartern of "Cream of the Valley," to her thirsty throat with the other—from the queer old washerwoman with her three friends regaling themselves on "a quartern with four outs," to the wretched girl who is striving to forget her sorrow in gin. These ideas all pass through your mind at the mention of "gin and bitters." You see the gin, you see the evil

workings of it; the "bitters" indeed are they. Think of them a moment—the neglected, untidy home, the drunken squabble, the screams of starving children, the brutal broil, the unmanly blow, the advent of the policeman, with or without a stretcher, the police-cell that night, the police-court-dock next morning, the magistrate's sentence of six months with hard labour—or possibly the committal for trial—Newgate—the trial—the ermined judge—the shrinking wife-slayer, the verdict—the sentence of death, with the scaffold lowering grimly over all as a drop-scene!

But these are too "vulgar," and I am not to take you into scenes like these. I am going to be "respectable," my dear ratepaying public; I am not going to talk more of the unwashed; my story will *not* open in a gin-shop, even though "gin and bitters" be its title. Apple-women, drabs, costermongers, *et id genus omne*, will not figure in my pages. Neither, dear, sleek, smug respectability, am I going to drag you off bodily in police-van to Newgate, nor to thrust your nervous old body into the midst of a mob of greasy ruffians awaiting some wretched wife-slayer's execution. No such thing. I am going to speak of other classes than these; to speak of a gentleman, and not of a costermonger. "But," say you, "*gentlemen* don't usually drink gin and bitters." Gently, good readers. A drunkard may begin on champagne and come down by necessity, or inclination, or both, to gin, may he not? The story I shall tell is no fiction, and will record both 'gin' and 'bitters' too. And here I would entreat all respectable elderly gentlemen, who abhor all mention of such vulgarities, and who patronise a bottle or two of Carbonell's best port *per diem*; who, never "fou," have, nevertheless, saith dame Scandal, occasionally "a wer drap in their ee;" to withhold their opinion