

The Overseers of the Poor for the year 1853 submit the following Report to the town

The expense of partial supplies to persons out of the house residing in this and other towns and the expense of supporting persons committed to the House of Correction whose labor the town has to pay at one dollar per week whether they are capable of labor or not is a portion of the whole expenditure. The conduct of the people belonging to the House for the most part has been orderly and regular. The demerit of retailers of spirits and the change of opinion in regard to the use of spirituous liquors has lessened the evil which has sprung up from the ~~practice~~ sale with ~~which~~ the subjects have procured that article whenever they have been allowed to leave the limits of the establishment. One or two instances have occurred of persons belonging to the house when allowed to go out obtaining ~~the~~ articles of confidence at some of those places which are still authorized by the laws of the State to vend it. Intemperance is still the principal source of pauperism. This fact no one will deny but although all may be out of view be raised to believe it yet practically it is not generally believed otherwise we should perceive greater extent and greater unanimity in our measures of reformation.

Of the adult persons who have been subjects of the House for the past year more than one half owe their destitute condition to the intemperate use of spirituous liquors. This is not a new fact, but upon an examination of the records of the Work House for the whole period of thirty years during which it has been occupied, the result will be that during that time there has been about the proportion for each year. In ~~many of~~ <sup>many of</sup> the ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> of thirty reports which have been made to the town the subject of intemperance has been brought to their notice with ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~effect~~ <sup>effect</sup> it is impossible certainly to declare ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~decision~~ <sup>decision</sup> of the Overseers of the Poor in 1844 that no spirituous liquor should be allowed to the subjects of the work house and which has been adhered to until this time was then so much in advance of the prevailing popular opinion as to render it doubtful whether the Overseers would be sustained in the ground then taken. During the course of the time which has elapsed since that date public opinion has been gradually changing so that should Overseers of the poor now be so unwise as to allow the use of this article as a common drink they would certainly not meet with support from a majority of the people. But notwithstanding this great change in public opinion our Work Houses, Prisons and Hospitals are still supplied with subjects principally from the use of strong drink. The proportion of those who are committed to the State Prison who owe their imprisonment to the ruinous and beastly vice of intemperance is much larger than it is found to be in pauper establishments. The Chaplain of the Prison in his report states that of 119 convicts committed for the year ending October 1853 that at least 100 owe their punishment to this vice and that of the 15 recommissions which have taken place during the same period that ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> every instance may be traced to the same cause.

The State Lunatic Hospital has been in operation about a year and <sup>at the last return</sup> 164 patients have been received into this institution. The causes of derangement in 33 of these patients is stated as unknown and of the remaining 131 intemperance is attributed as the cause of insanity in 59 & little less than one third of the whole. <sup>Surgeon</sup> The cause of whose disease is known. Of no other single cause does the number approach to one third of this number. Religious excitement and fanaticism may be considered as one of which, combined there are fourteen whose deranged state of mind is attributed to other causes.

This being the present state of our North Carolina, State Prison and the State Lunatic Hospital and to these we might safely add our County Jails and Houses of Correction is not every sober man loudly called upon to make every reasonable effort to suppress this vice and thereby to relieve his suffering fellow men from some portion of their poverty, <sup>by the delinquents</sup> crime and disease?

The course pursued the last year in requiring to approbate any persons as retailers of spirituous liquors and thereby leaving the whole responsibility to the County Commissioners is decreasing of the approbation of the towns. The effect of lessening the facility and convenience of supplying the ~~article~~ <sup>articles</sup> inordinately diminishes the temptation to their vice and had the County Commissioners fully concurred with the Selectmen in their views of this subject we should have been relieved in a greater degree from the evil of intemperance than we have as yet experienced. The success attending past efforts gives encouragement to perseverance in <sup>all</sup> those modest measures which have been proposed to be used in promoting a moral reform.

Of the deaths which have occurred in the House this year in addition  
to two ~~deaths~~ <sup>deaths</sup> paupers we have to ~~mention~~ <sup>lament</sup> the decease of the wife of  
the master of the house whose practical good sense, benevolence  
and activity has contributed largely to the successful manage-  
ment of the establishment. The situation which she so well filled  
was one of great responsibility and calculated to exercise the active  
virtues of her character, one of the best evidences that these virtues  
were happily displayed was the universal approbation of those  
who were the objects of her care as well as of those who  
have had the oversight of the institution -

Intemperance is still a source of pauperism.  
This fact none will deny, though, particularly  
many seem not to act according to their  
belief otherwise there would be a greater  
unanimity in the efforts that are  
making to complete a reform which  
which has been so well begun

voted that the Selectmen be requested not to  
approve any person as a retailer of spirituous  
liquor or as an innholder with liberty to  
sell spirituous liquors and that the Town  
Clerk cause an attested copy of this vote  
to be forwarded to the Chairman of the  
County Commissioners

Draft of the Report of  
the Selectmen of the  
Town of March 10 1894