

**OUR NATIONAL DRINK BILL AS IT  
AFFECTS THE NATION'S WELL-BEING:  
A SERIES OF LETTERS TO THE "TIMES"  
AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS TOGETHER  
WITH ORIGINAL ARTICLES**

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Our National Drink Bill as It Affects the Nation's Well-Being: A Series of Letters to The "Times" and Other Newspapers Together with Original Articles by William Hoyle

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**WILLIAM HOYLE**

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THE NATION'S WELL-BEING

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TOGETHER WITH ORIGINAL ARTICLES

BY  
WILLIAM HOYLE

AUTHOR OF "OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES AND HOW THEY  
ARE WASTED," &c.

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NATIONAL TEMPERANCE PUBLICATION DEPOT  
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1884



## P R E F A C E.

THE letters which are found in the following pages are selected from contributions which have appeared in the public press during the past seven or eight years.

The letters bear almost entirely upon the statistical, economical, and commercial aspect of the temperance question, with occasional references to its historical, physical, or moral aspect.

In selecting them the writer has sought to include only such as were likely to be, not only of immediate, but of permanent value.

In the concluding chapter the legislative obligations which are the logical outcome of the facts and arguments of the book are discussed.

The statistics given are almost wholly taken from Government Returns. In those cases where they are not they are taken from the best authorities.

The reader will probably notice that sometimes statistics are repeated. Wherever this is the case it is done to illustrate some fresh argument or fact, with a view to

make the argument more widely applicable and the book more extensively useful.

In conclusion, the writer would remark that though the main of the figures given in the following pages have appeared in many of the newspapers of the day, he is not aware that there has ever been any serious attempt to controvert their truth.

WILLIAM HOYLE.

CLAREMONT, BURY,  
LANCASHIRE, January 1st, 1884.







# OUR NATIONAL DRINK BILL.

## A RETROSPECT.

THE circumstances which existed fifty years ago, when the Temperance Movement came into life, were peculiar, and they were of a nature calculated to retard the spread of temperance truth. For instance, there was a belief which was virtually universal that intoxicating liquors were not only useful, but absolutely essential to secure health and strength; people thought it was impossible to live without them; these drinks were especially favourites in all festive and social gatherings; and they were everywhere regarded as the national beverages. It will be manifest, therefore, that the work of the temperance reformer must have been most difficult; it was to persuade people to abstain from beverages which they thought they could not live without, beverages that they liked, and which besides being especially fascinating and enslaving, had a prestige of a national character.

And more than this: at that time Parliament came in and increased the delusion by passing the Beer Bill. The cause of its passing that bill was the drunkenness which abounded, and the notion that the drunkenness arose almost exclusively from the use of spirits, and that if people could only have better facilities given for