

*PROHIBITION.*

The principal arguments with which temperance reformers are confronted are :

First. That Prohibition does not prohibit.

Second. That under a license system the law will have control of the traffic and a great revenue will be derived from rum.

Third. "Sumptuary laws."

Never in the world were there three more untenable or absurd positions. Let us proceed to see why.

First. No Prohibitionist, knowing fully the nature of the subject which he is treating, claims that Prohibition does away entirely with the use of intoxicants. It would be a falsehood were I to say that in the Prohibition states of Maine, Iowa, and Kansas there is no liquor drunk. But may I inquire who are the persons that drink it. Is it the class of old drinkers which enlisted in the army of inebriates long before Prohibition was established, or is it the class of young men which are usually enticed into a saloon? I think the anti-prohibitionists will concede that it is the former class. There is no legislation that will prevent a man from drinking who will take the shoes from his feet or the tools from his workshop and sell them to satisfy the craving of his demon appetite. But there is legislation that will protect the boys and youth of our land from being victimized by the gay allurements of intemperance.

A strict prohibitory law with penalties attached to it will remove the *cause* of intemperance, and thus the young man who lays the foundation of his ruin by occasionally taking a drink with his friend (?) because he is invited, rather than because he wants it, will be spared the temptation. It's true there will be liquor sold, to the 'rum-soaked' inebriate regardless of any law, yet the dealer will not risk the young man, who would not act so prudently in case of need. The objection that Prohibition does not prohibit is no argument against

Prohibition. It does prohibit, and at the right place.

Second. Two things are sought for in licensing the sale of liquor. In fact only one is sought for, the other is only a pretension. The thing that is actually sought for is the tax, the thing pretended is to give the license to none but respectable citizens.

I think, in fact I know, many persons are led into the belief that a great tax is accumulated in this manner. Leaving out the fact that it is a tax accumulated from a sinful thing and from the blood of the innocent, we have conclusive proofs in our court registers, penitentiaries, insane asylums, and poorhouses, that there is more money expended on trials and to keep these institutions up than there is derived from this system of taxation, besides the misery and tears that it costs.

High license will not stop the drinker, and it does not effect the seller; another bucket of water to the barrel will make up for the extra license. All the retailer has to do is to be a little more enterprising in seducing weak men and thoughtless boys into his den. He makes it up by the ruin of a few more than he would have been content with without it. High license gives more life to the business. Makes the dealer more enthusiastic.

I repeat. The manufacturers and dealers have it their own way. The poor victim must have it, and will have it, no matter what the price may be. Price is nothing to him. Food for himself, clothing, shelter, and fuel—when a man can part with all these for rum—it makes no difference to him what the price may be. He will have it.

One should be ashamed to speak about the pecuniary aspect of the trade with the degradation it brings before him, but there are those who cannot be reached in any other way but the dollar and cent way.

When the people of this glorious country of ours were fighting for their liberation from the