

will not be able, without a police stronger and more inquisitorial than any free country will maintain, to compel all men, in obedience to their fiat and that of a bare majority, to drink nothing but cold water. So much seems to be clearly proved by the experience of Maine and other districts in which their system has been tried. The use of beer and light wine they will probably succeed in preventing, because these beverages are not easily smuggled; and ardent spirits, which are easily smuggled, will necessarily become the sole drink of those who are not content with water. It is certain also that the denial of other stimulants is followed by an increased use of opium. Nobody questions the goodness of the end which the friends of Temperance pursue. But they must allow us freely to discuss the means which they propose, and to forecast more carefully than moral crusaders are apt to do, not only the immediate and direct but the remote and indirect consequences of their measure. They must also permit us to say that justice is the soul of the commonwealth, and that we cannot afford to have it summarily set aside in order to clear the way for a particular measure of sumptuary reform, however passionately desired. We cannot afford to let respectable citizens, for carrying on a trade not only lawful but licensed by the State, be treated as "bed bugs" or as "vendors of dynamite for murderous purposes." Society has set itself free by centuries of effort from the single-headed tyranny whose instrument of coercion was the sword: it does not want now to fall under a many-headed tyranny whose instrument of coercion will be the ballot.

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INTEMPERANCE in drink is not the only sort of intemperance or the only sort which produces bad effects on the health of the body and of the mind. Railway men who have employed large numbers of Irish emigrants say that the lives of the emigrants are short, and ascribe the mortality quite as much to excess in the unwonted luxury of meat as to excess in whiskey. A man who has dined heavily on ill-cooked pork is at least as ripe for treasons as one who has taken a glass of wine. In voting for a Maine law the American farmer, for the most part, is virtuously condemning a vice to which he has no mind; but the ingredients of his own meals, his pie, and what he fondly calls his tea, would equally provoke the censure of a sanitary Lycurgus. Most of us, probably, eat too much. Those whose occupations are sedentary, especially, must often overload their stomachs and cloud their brains. Society