

of our Prohibitory Law a more particular examination. The result is a more thorough conviction, that the Law is efficient; that it is generally enforced, and that it is and has been productive of a vast amount of good. I have no doubt that there are men of intolligence in the State, who will contend that this is not so. They are prejudiced against the Law; they hear the complaints of those who have been broken up in business, or who consider themselves aggrieved because their liquor has been seized, their ears are open to exaggerated statements, as to the amount of intoxicating drink used privately or in clubs; and they irrationally suppose that because there are more prosecutions for drunkenness now than before the Law went into operation, there is more drunkenness now than there was then. But among those who sincerely wish to put a stop to the evils of intemperance, and who certainly do not desire the trouble, not to say expense, of enforcing a Law, unless it is productive of good, I can say with confidence, there is no diversity of opinion—they would regard the repeal of the Law as the greatest calamity that could befall the State.—I have no doubt that the Law is to some extent evaded by secret clubs. This cannot be entirely prevented, so long as there are no great facilities for obtaining liquor, in small quantities in the city of New York. A Prohibitory Law in your State, effectually enforced, would materially aid half New England, in preventing the evils of intemperance. That such a law will receive the sanction of the Legislature, is the sincere wish of

Your ob't servant,

HENRY DUTTON.

V.—LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR OF MAINE.

*Augusta, Me., March 5th, 1855.*

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 27th ult., is received. I rejoice for the sake of humanity that your noble State is being aroused and is putting forth its strength in favor of the cause of Temperance, as indicated by the popular branch of her Legislature, to which you refer. I most ardently hope the Senate will act equally worthy of the "Empire State."

I trust the enemies of Temperance will not succeed in misleading any friend of Temperance in your State, by falsely asserting that the Law we have does not work well in this State. No man who has carefully watched the operation of it, in suppressing the liquor traffic, will deny that it is doing a great work, and fast extinguishing those haunts of vice, drinking-houses and tippling shops, which have so cursed our State. The people of Maine have decided that those nuisances shall be abated, and they have the utmost confidence that it can be done by Prohibitory Law.

Notwithstanding the opposition the law has met from political men, who have courted the smiles of rum sellers and rum sympathisers; and moreover, the armed neutrality which Executive officers have manifested in relation to the enforcement of the law, it has accomplished a great amount of good. In very many towns where it has been enforced, the rum traffic has been annihilated and the sources of drunkenness and crime dried up. Throughout the State it has immensely diminished the quantity of intoxicating liquors, heretofore used, and the friends of Prohibitory Law, yes, and its enemies too, are fully convinced that the sale of intoxicating drinks, can be as completely suppressed by penal enactments, as any crime known to our laws of equal prevalence and magnitude.

The Legislature of this State, now in session, will, I have no doubt, add more stringency to the law, and among other improvements, punish the offender with imprisonment for the offence. Public sentiment demands additional penalties for violation of the law, and our Legislators are determined to give them.

Never was the cause of Temperance so prosperous, and the Maine Law so strong in the hearts of our people, as at the present time; and looking at the results which a partial enforcement of the law has produced, the friends of Temperance, feel the fullest confidence that the days of rum-selling in Maine are nearly numbered. Grog-shops will be closed. The traffic in intoxicating drinks will soon be so thoroughly restrained, that offences of that kind will be as rarely committed as those of larceny and other crimes, for the suppression of which penal statutes have been resorted to by all intelligent communities.

Wishing you every success in your labors for the promotion of Temperance, I am, very truly, yours.

ANSON P. MORRILL.

EDWARD C. DELAVAN, Esq.,

President N. Y. State Tem. Soc'y.

### Swedish Laws with Respect to Intoxication.

The *Gloucester Journal* says that the laws against intoxication are enforced with great rigor in Sweden. Whoever is seen drunk, is fined, for the first offence, three dollars; for the second, six; for the third and fourth, a still further sum; and is also deprived of the right of voting at elections, and of being appointed a representative. He is besides, publicly exposed in the parish church on the following Sunday. If the same individual is found committing the same offense a fifth time, he is shut up in the house of correction, and condemned to six months' hard labor; if he is again guilty, to a twelve months' punishment of a similar description. If the offense has been committed in public, such as at a fair, an auction, &c., the fine is doubled; and if the offender has made his appearance at a church, the punishment is still more severe. Whoever is convicted of having induced another to intoxicate himself, is fined three dollars, which sum is doubled if the person is a miner. An ecclesiastic who falls into this offense, loses his benefice; if it is a layman who occupies any considerable post, his functions are suspended, and perhaps he is dismissed.

Drunkenness is never admitted as an excuse for any crime; and whoever dies when drunk, is buried ignominiously, and deprived of the prayers of the church. It is forbidden to give, and more explicitly to sell any spirituous liquors to students, workmen, servants, apprentices, and private soldiers. Whoever is observed drunk in the streets, or making a noise in a tavern, is sure to be taken to prison and detained till sober, without, however, being on that account exempted from the fines. One-half of these fines go to the informers (who are generally police officers,) the other half to the poor. If the delinquent has no money, he is kept in prison until some one pays for him, or until he has worked out his enlargement. Twice a year these ordinances are read aloud from the pulpit by the clergy, and every tavern-keeper is bound, under the penalty of a heavy fine, to have a copy of them hung up in the principal rooms of his house.