

# THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW.

## A LECTURE

DELIVERED IN HALFAX, ON THURSDAY EVENING,

13th January, 1876,

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And published by the Grand Division of Nova Scotia.\*

What is the *Maine Law*? The most erroneous ideas are afloat respecting its principles and provisions. During the reigns of Edward III. and Henry VIII. of England Sumptuary Laws were in force. They were designed to prevent luxury. They specified the kind and the cost of the clothing to be worn, of the furniture to be used, of the food to be eaten. There are not a few who look upon the Maine Law in a similar light. They think that it is intended to effect in regard to drinking what these were intended to effect in regard to diet and dress. Be it known, therefore, at the outset, that the Maine is no Sumptuary Law. It takes cognizance, not of the use, but simply and solely of the Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquor. It does not forcibly wrest the cup from a man's hands and peremptorily interdict his touching, tasting or handling at all. He may drink as much as he likes, if he only gets it in a legitimate way.

The Maine Law prohibits his making merchandise of it. It plies him with the patriotic consideration, that

\* The Sons of Temperance at the Quarterly meeting, held in Newport, January, 1876, ordered five thousand copies of the accompanying Lecture to be published for general circulation.—J. PARSONS, Grand Scribe.