

true cure for the existing intemperance is to stop the sale of spirituous liquor, forgetting that the manufacture and sale are but the inevitable outcome of the operation of the inexorable natural laws that regulate and govern supply and demand. So long as human nature craves and demands a stimulant, human beings will invent and manufacture one to meet that demand, all the Scott Acts and prohibition liquor laws in the world to the contrary notwithstanding. Let the demand cease and the supply will stop itself. No one will waste labour and capital in producing an article that nobody wants; but so long as everybody (or nearly everybody) wants it, somebody will produce it. To reason with men dominated by a hobby or a craze would be a sheer waste of time—as well try to reason a hypochondriac out of his delusion. I have no hope of influencing such men; but there are others just as well-meaning, upright, honest, and conscientious, if not more so, who may be induced to pause and think, ere committing themselves to the support of a system of sumptuary penal laws which, wherever tried, and under whatever name, have invariably produced vastly more evil than good.

The Scott Act prohibits the sale of spirituous liquors except (1) to druggists licensed to sell it again under certain restrictions, and (2) in quantities of not less than ten gallons to be forthwith removed out of the county, and any adjoining county in which the Scott Act is in force. The licensed druggists are permitted to sell in quantities of *not less* than one pint (1) on the requisition of a clergyman for sacramental purposes; (2) on the certificate of a physician for medical purposes; (3) on the certificate of two Justices of the Peace for mechanical purposes. And here the question naturally suggests itself. If the sale of spirituous liquors be such an unmitigated evil as the Scott Act assumes it to be, why submit the druggist and his clerks to the temptation of keeping large quantities of it in stock for sale? Are they not entitled to the protection of the law from the danger and temptation of becoming drunkards? Why sacrifice the poor druggist to save the poor gutter slums? The clergyman's certificate will procure an unlimited quantity of wine. What is to prevent him and his elders or deacons or trustees from ordering enough to supply all their private wants? The physician can procure any quantity of spirituous or fermented liquors on a certificate that it is required for medicinal purposes. What is to prevent the physician and his intimate friends in this way getting all the liquor they want? Two justices of the peace—the Scott Act only entrusts as much discretion in this matter to two justices as to one clergyman or one physician, which is rather hard on the justices, some of whom are respectable, honest men—but two justices can at any time procure a supply of the ardent by simply certifying that it is required for mechanical purposes. They can get a mechanic to join in the pool just to keep up appearances. But here a strange anomaly comes in. The certificate alone of justice number one is not worth the paper it is written on; the