

constitutionally be noticed by the governing power, unless it interferes with the rights of others. Drunkenness *per se* is not a crime, but a vice; and are we justified in seeking to restrain all mankind because a small portion of them happen to be the slaves of this vice?"

The fact that a prohibitory law may be passed with a good object, makes it none the less a tyrannical measure, and, as such, incapable of enforcement.

If the advocates of prohibition have not found this out yet, it is not for want of proof. Forty four years have elapsed, since the passage of the Maine Law. It has been amended upwards of thirty-nine times, and made part of the State Constitution. And yet, as a cure for the disorders at which it was aimed, it has proved, from beginning to end, a lamentable failure.

Our own prohibitory legislation has had no better success.

The only thing that keeps such laws on the books, is the fact that they are so easily broken and avoided. The enforcement by government of a law entirely cutting off the manufacture and sale of liquors, would raise such a storm about their ears that the obnoxious act would be repealed within six months.

To clergymen and women, their opinions and wishes, is due the greatest respect. But when they leave their proper sphere of action to interfere in politics and legislation, we may know there will be bungling. We have seen our parliament egged on by clerical influence, against their better judgment, pass a prohibitive act in which they had no faith, and hand it over to be put in action by a half-hearted executive; and we have seen its failure, and the disorders which have arisen therefrom.

In the endeavour to prevent the abuse of a thing in itself lawful and good, they have interfered with its proper and right use; and we have the annoyance to find that, while depriving ourselves of a good thing, the evil remains and increases.