## Abolish All himself from drunkenness—to notify him that the law locks up the wretched drunk

## PROHIBITIVE LIQUOR LAWS.

Appleton Morgan in the Current Number of the Popular Science Monthly.

(Construted From last week)

BUT we have not closed the catalogue yet; there is still another, and this by means a slight, evil, which is caused to the community by prohibitive liquor laws which might be called, perhaps, the intel lectual evil which they work. This is the begetting of the very general horror of wines, spirits, malt liquors, and other drinkables of more or less vinous character, which is allowed to prevail, not but is sedulously and cultivated in certain communities, unti very young people are apt to consider virtuous rounded by alcoholic demons seeking their destruction, whose fault, and not their own, it will be if they tumble. This idea and sentiment are enormously prevalent, thanks to those industrious the 'temperance' reformers (though they insult one of the cardinal though they insult one of the cardinal virtues by so calling themselves). I can indeed instance no severer proof of it than to narrate that, having been so fortunate, in the case of some special inve gation then on hand, as to unearth the diary kept by an officer of the Revolution during the march of Arnold's and Wooster's commands through the snows of the terrible winter of 1775-76 to relieve the army in Canada, and the subsequent retreat in rags, hunger, freezing, and wretchedness, I intrusted its copying to a worthy lady, a desce of the officer who kept the diary. In due time she returned the copy, "I have omitted all brandy and eggnog, as not part of our country's history." And yet to me, and I fancy most of us, it was "history" and the "history of our country" too! How those patriots lived through and managed to survive at all the terrors that winter, certainly was history; and I for one am thankful that, at least, if there was no food betimes, there were brandy. and an occasional eggnog, for those sturdy and starving patriots! But this worthy lady lived in rural New England, and had been taught from her youth of the terrors and misery that lay hidden—not for fools for everybody—in a And she could not see that God's gifts to men sometimes have come to his perish ing creatures in the liquor form. public inconvenience of this belief is not nconsiderable. Not only are its citizens deprived of the sanitary potency of liquor in emergencies (for I have heard apparently sane persons, in a village not nd miles from the city York, declare that they would rather die than have their lives saved by a glass of liquor), but the youths are taught, not to be virtuous and sober, and to shun drunk enness, but to persecute liquor sellers and to waste liquor by emptying it into the gutters: that the unfortunate who drinks himself into imbecility, or into becoming a public nuisance, is no nal or a law breaker, but an example of the wickedness of the hotel keeper-and so not the sinner but the sinned against Not be to be disciplined or chided, but the innocent liquor is to be cursed, and the liquor dealer to be deprived of his property! It would appear to most of us that to preach a little less about the hoty rum, and a little more about the political obligation of the citizen to keep

himself from drunkenness-to notify him ard, not because he is not a citizen who can not drink if he please, and not because liquor is a sa ful thing, or because his neighbor has no right to invest his capi if so pleased, in hogsheads of liquor to retail it by the glass or spoonful. but because he is drunk, and because a drunkard is a nuisance and a threat community-would be an experiment worth the trying. Another experiment would be to rely upon such an adminisstration of what laws we have as will encourage temperance by punishing the drunkard, not the liquor which he drinks or the manufacturer or the seller of it. nor yet the community whose misfortune and for whose sins it is that the drunkard is a part of it. We can not reclaim our wayward youth by sending their parents community of drunkards by refusing to sell liquor to the sober man. equires no statute to refuse to sell it the debauchee. This land of ours is ruled The trend of progress is toward larger and more enlightened, not a lesser and more ignorant liberty; and civiliza-ations move not backward. In the calm eye of the law, the owner of pipes of liquor is as much entitled to his own as is the owner of a "temperance" newspaper, as long as he injures not his neighbor. of the wine pipes must not sell to the habitual drunkard, or to the hereditary victim of alcoholism who works damage is his cups; neither shall he of the printing press libel in words him of the wine pipes, invite his fellow-citizens to viol against him or destruction of his worldly For over one and all is the law the land. Let our youth learn this, and not that others have obligations and stand at their peril, while he alone is free, if he only will sign a pledge and wear a blue

In still another way the Prohibitive liquor laws have worked, and are still hardship to our people. The liquor drink ing habit in large and metropolitan cities is palpably on the decline. Here the ever-increasing complexity of affairs, the immense demand of competition, the necessity of care and vigilance lest one be outrun in the race for success, and the strain of business methods, render it in judicious to drink much wine or liquor arge corporations exact a rigid temper ance, often total abstinence, from their officials and employees. Either because edicts of fashion for once have followed the demands of business, or for some other cause it appears to be absolutely no longer fashionable in cities to drink deep or long at table. In the natural course there is reason to believe that this fashion night reach the interior, to prevail there But, in the towns and cities of the liquor law-ridden States, the more stringent the ordinances, and the more important and bustling the "smeller," it more and more becomes a point of self-respect, almost of henor, between man and man, to drink much and often, and liquor drinking in-creases daily. Even lads of tender years, creases daily. Even lads of tender clubbing together, buying a demije what purports to be something of which they have heard their elders speak, and hiding in some cellar or bedroom, exper ience all the fearful joys of dissipation In other interior precincts where there liquor drinking, but where the itinerant reformer stands in lieu of lyceum or theater or assembly, the liquor habit will remain about th same, not increasing, but not allowed by the reformers to die out and their occupation be gone. So the maxim of Horace Greeley, that the habitual drunkard is quite as useful a member of society as a imperance reformer, remains unerringly true, not only, but he is positively a re tarder of public progress. But once let every liquor law be expunged from the statute-books of our American States and the temperance reformer would disappear, the benign influences of the city spread to the country, liquor drinking sing no longer a matter of courtesy or telf-r ect, but an indifferent matter of taste, would decrease, as it always has decreased in the civilized communities when let alone and to itself. The horror of liquor would disappear, and only the hor-ror of the drunkard would remain. And the enormous gain would not only be the salvage of the money wasted in pretendenforce incompetent ar ing spected laws, but in benan or pre-ality, because with no sumptuary laws to there would be no decent orable citizens turned into law breakers no personal and paternal statutes to

de, and so no statute evaders. But until we wipe out all these present restrictive liquor laws we can not hate the drunkard. We must be charitable with him, even cherish as well as pity him ; we must even respect him as a man who is upholding the liberty of the subject at the expense of his health; as a sort of public martyr. We must reverse many a popular maxim in his behalf. In-stead of "Drupkenness leads to poverty." or "Drunkenness leads to wretchedness we must read it "Poverty leads to drunk enness," "Wretchedness leads to de-Wretchedness leads to drunk horrible inebriate go home and brain his family and smash his furniture, we must cry, "Poor man, he is out of employ-"Poor man he has an unhappy home, a shrewish wife and bad children and there was nothing left him but drink It is not his fault, it is the fault of that horrid liquor seller. And so on, as if the selling of liquor and not the besotting of one's self with liquor, were the crime as if the seller and not the drinker were the criminal; as if one who would drink could be made a drunkard by the selling of liquor ; or as if the fruits of expressed or distilled were unholy and abhorred, when in any other form they were God's best gifts to man.

Like most admirable servants, liquor is apt to be a bad master if allowed the upper hand or permitted to get into polities. But there are many persons, not habitual drunkards themselves, who actually believe that malarious and impurwater is a circulator of disease, but can be disarmed and rendered safe by the dilution disarmed and the boards of her think with whiskey. The boards of her think while (New York city, for example), in their printed directions to the public the prevention of cholera, advise that the water given to infants and very young hildren in the heated season be with a few drops of whiskey. But liquor laws are legislation, not as babies, but against the few against sick whiskey which might save their little lives. and if the poor parents can not afford to pay a physician for a slip of paper giving the Latin name of whiskey, the poor baby must die, or run the risk of death, by If there drinking malarious water. any such thing as a salutary liquor law, not derived from excise or police jurisnot derived from excise or ponce juris-diction, it would be perhaps a statute in-suring the purity of liquor; reviving that old English functionary, the "ale taster," with his care over all drinkables publicly offered for sale. This would be a legiti mate and a constitutional law, as providing for the public safety (which is, after all is said, the origin and the summit of all laws). There is no greater charm to the tourist in rural England than the certainty that, no matter how small the village through which he passes, he will find the inn refreshment and comfort, "eat able things to eat and drinkable things to Indeed, the ale-taster was once drink. a public benefactor and more important than the mayor, and such was his benign influence that old Harrison, writing in the sixteenth century, declared that the glory of England was her inns. The roads might be rough and full of highwaymen,

but at any inn the traveler could take lassease and he sure he would not be possessed. For four hundred years it has been pessible to enter an inn in the smallest and most insignificant rural handlet in Eagland and get a thimbleful of liquor webout peril to one's stomach or to one's self respect. How is it in those of the United States which prohibit the sale of liquey? As to one's stomach, I merely copyan item from a local messpace printed in one's those States (suppressing the localities only):—

"Some recent cases of poisoning heres bouts have brought out the statement the poor whisky is abundant in this city. It is sold principally in the kitchen dive and in places on the outskirts. Some of the whisky, it is said, has been so poor that wholeaside dealers have dischaimed a knowledge of having sold it. Some of the unlicensed dealers have been selling "whisky," but where obtained it has been one of the mysteries that are impossible to explain. With the poisoning of the three men on Sunday night and theires tigations which have followed, some light has been shed on the subject.

"It was stated in these columns Monday that there had been a man about selling a receipt for making whisky. vestigation proves that this is so, impossible to find a laquor dealer who will say he purchased it for five dollars—th price asked. This receipt as near as cabe ascertained is as follows : One drach oil of vitriol or sulphuric acid, drachms of spirits of turpentine, thre drachms of spirits of juniper, six drach of oil of almonds, and a quart of elder berry wine ; a seductive decoction indeed These fluids diluted with twenty-four gal lons of water will make about twenty-fiv gallons of whiskey, and cost in the five cents, while the same quantity of di tilled whisky would cost from forty seventy-five dollars. Just how much business this man has conducted inis not known, but that he has been far ored with a fairly good trade is not doubted by the regular wholesale lique donlors He has been all through the vil lages in the ---- and has also been

So much for the visitor's stomach : no for his self-respect? As a native of the State most strenuous in its policy of prehibiting the sales of liquor, I have been now and again a curious collector of the sundry ruses resorted to evasion of the statutes by its best citizen and I am able to note the latest as expe ienced during the present summer. certain watering-place hotel within it paternal jurisdiction, guests who desir wine at dinner, or stimulants at othe times, were invited to purchase a keg of an interesting compound known as re-A price for this alleged k charged to them on their hotel bill, an they were at liberty to visit he will room, or to order from the waiters a liquor desired, until the price was e hausted, when another keg of root be was charged to them, and so on? This
of course, is only one of the hundreds o
such devices, which are the rule and no the exception in the liquor-prohibitin States. And I beg to ask, what respect State can expect its citizens to have for or for themselves, when forced hab itually to resort to a deceit which deceiv nobody, in order to live as they see and as they have an inalienable right

live? Liquor has always properly been, as always properly will be, a subject of reenue, or, as it is called, excise, and the excise is most conveniently levided in the subject of the concerned of the convenient of the convenie



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