

ing the early part of the century Maine was, perhaps, the most drunken State in the Union. A recoil, essentially religious in its origin, began in 1826, which reached its climax in the course of the next 15 years. Total abstinence became a popular enthusiasm all over the State. As early as 1831 the official year-book of the State said that "the quantity of ardent spirits consumed in Maine has been reduced two-thirds within three years." The idea of prohibition never entered the minds of those early reformers. The Washingtonian movement, whose achievements in suppressing intemperance were enthusiastically celebrated in popular songs, reached Maine in 1840, but neither did it dream of prohibition. As one of the leaders said in 1841: "Washingtonians are firm believers in the efficacy and power of moral suasion; this they believe to be the main lever; they hold that doctrine to be unsound which includes the principle of coercion, and therefore they cannot go hand in hand with those who cry out 'give us the strong arm of the law'." Human nature, however, is impatient, and success is apt to make it intolerant. It loves short-cuts.

Maine enacted a prohibitory law in 1846. What has been the result? In the half century that has since elapsed 50 amendments have been called for to meet the evasions and the difficulties attending attempts at enforcing the law! Just as men who have drunk too much are thirsty and cry "more brandy," so the Maine prohibitionists have never ceased to cry for "more law."

Let me refer all who are interested in a study of the Maine liquor laws, and indeed of the whole question, to an admirable volume entitled "The Liquor Problem in its Legislative Aspects," which gives the results of a careful, thorough and impartial investigation, under the direction of the most eminent educational and social reformers in the United States. This enables fair-minded men to form conclusions regarding what prohibition can, and what it cannot, do.

EVASION OF THE LAW.

Prohibition can abolish the manufacture on a large scale of distilled, fermented and malt liquors within the area covered by the law. Whether it is moral to abolish factories in which men have invested their property, and which have grown up under the law, without offering the slightest compensation to those whose property is destroyed by law, is another question. But no one pretends that prohibition can abolish illicit manufacture; and illicit stills always turn out the strongest and most poisonous liquors. In Maine, the "hard" liquor usually sold produces forms of intemperance most injurious to health and life. It is