

of its strictness, I objected on the ground that he simply did his duty, and contended that the pledge did not imply that such an act was a violation. The matter was referred to the Grand Lodge, and some Grand official in reply wrote to the effect that it was unsafe to make exceptions in favour of the most urgent cases, because undue advantage would be taken of it. This, to my mind, meant that Sons of Temperance could not trust each other's honour. All the members of that Lodge admitted that in similar circumstances they would act as their brother did. I discovered that the pledge was a snare, and resigned. I may here state that, though I have not held at any time the extreme views advocated by many, I have used very little alcoholic liquor of any kind for the last forty or forty-five years, indeed, during a great part of that time I have been a strict abstainer, and practically so during the whole time. I have always believed, however, that a sober man is at liberty to use it whenever he has reason to consider it beneficial to him. He has that liberty given to him by God, and should not yield it to any amount of clamour and fanaticism. Any attempt to deprive a christian of the liberty of soberly and thankfully using the gifts of God's providence either by ecclesiastical or civil law, is a tyranny and an unrighteous encroachment on his rights, and ought to be stoutly resisted by all sound thinking men.

It is painful to find intelligent and pious christian ministers, who understand how to interpret the Scriptures, carried away by the childish arguments of the pleaders of abstinence and prohibition, and even led to use the same unsound reasoning on the subject. I believe such respected brethren are labouring under a serious mistake. They are encouraging the people to become intolerant of all views that do not accord with their own. In many places where prohibition is advocated, it is extremely dangerous to a minister of the Gospel to whisper his dissent from prohibitionist views. The moment he is known even to hesitate to support that wonderful panacea for intemperance, the "Scott Act," he may expect soon to hear mutterings of the purpose of certain men to withdraw from his ministry,