

Law changes. But, back of all law, written not in books but in men's hearts, are the eternal principles of justice; and when the written law does not correspond with those, be sure there will be difficulty in its enforcement. One of those principles, and one on which the English constitution is based, is that every man shall be free, so long as he interferes not with the rights of others, to do what is good in his own eyes. We have had laws which infringed that liberty. He who has studied his country's history will call to mind many such, and will also remember the fate of all. It was attempted to carry them out. It was found to be impossible. Finally, some of them after remaining as dead letters for centuries, they were ignominiously repealed.

One instance will be enough. There were once laws requiring uniformity in religion. Where are they to-day? The manner in which a person should worship God is felt to be a matter for his own conscience. And we have no more right to use force to compel one to be a teetotaler, than to make a Mahometan a Christian, or a Roman Catholic a Methodist against his will. What is more, we are, and will be, about as successful in one case as in the other.

Such has been the spirit of British institutions; and such it remains. A tyrannical law may be put on the books, but it will never be enforced.

The attempt was made in 1855 to impose on this colony a prohibitory law, after the pattern of that then lately passed in the State of Maine. The Hon. Edward Whelan stood up in the House and manfully opposed it. "If," he said, "we carry out the resolution proposed, we perpetrate an invasion of the rights of individuals and of society at large. * * * The majority of the people of this Island are not drunkards, nor are the majority of mankind; and I for one will not consent by vote of mine to put the two classes on a level—to place the sober and respectable man in the same position as the worthless drunkard. * * * 'Abolish the traffic in liquors,' say the enthusiastic followers of Neal Dow, 'because its continuance leads to drunkenness.' What if it does? Drunkenness carries with it its own punishment, and cannot legally or