

and may as justly, nay, much more justly, withhold that privilege from all than grant it to any.

The law will not allow any one to sell tainted or unwholesome food, and the wilful adulteration of food renders the perpetrators of the offence amenable to severe legal penalties. In many places, too, no druggist may sell poisons without the authority of a medical certificate, and no one thinks these wholesome restrictions unconstitutional. Why, then, should the prohibition of the sale of those pernicious beverages, which poison more men and women in a week than all the adulterated food and noxious drugs in the country in an entire year, be considered unconstitutional?

No man may carry his theory of personal liberty to such an extent as to injure the health or property, or to destroy the comfort, of his neighbour. He may not carry on an offensive or deleterious trade near the habitation of man, nor pollute the air or water, which are common to all. In this class of public nuisances Blackstone includes "all disorderly inns or ale-houses, gaming-houses," and places of still viler resort. See also the same general views enunciated in Mill's celebrated "Essay on Liberty," although its distinguished author is opposed to legal prohibition. "Yet," says the Rev. Albert Barnes, "there is no property which so certainly and so uniformly works evil in a community as that employed in the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks."

"If penal legislation," writes Pierpont, "be justified in any case, why not in this? If it be penal to kill your neighbour with a bullet, why should it not be penal to kill him with the bowl? If it be penal to take away life by poison which does it work in six hours, why not penal to do so by one which takes six years for its deadly operation? Arsenic takes away animal life merely, while alcohol gives not only ten times the amount of animal agony, but also destroys the soul, sapping all moral feeling, quenching all intellectual light. Therefore," he says, "I ask a *more severe* punishment for that crime which works the moral and immortal ruin, than for that whose touch overturns a