

Nay, in the government of the Israelites under Moses, God's servant, while drunkenness was severely condemned and rigidly punished (see Deut. xxi. 20, 21), the right to partake of strong or fermented wine and strong drink, and enjoy the same, was positively provided for as part of God's permissive law. This we shall hereafter show.

Instead then of a fish of increased happiness and advanced liberties, this proposed law would be a serpent encolling us under more severe or more unnatural restraint, and giving more trouble than we have from existing evil forces. To carry out the law would involve a den of lions in every community of conscienceless officials, of savage instincts, who would pry into the houses of any persons suspected of having more than they consider he should have of what they decide as poison.

One of the great charter rights of the children of Israel, delivered from a state of bondage, was that every man could enjoy himself under his own vine and fig tree, none daring to make him afraid.