

a right to have anything that is a nuisance to his neighbors, or that endangers their lives and properties. To restrain a man from disturbing or injuring others does not restrict any liberty that God has given him, while the liberties of his neighbours are preserved by these means. I was lately informed that the learned advocate of the "Canada Temperance Act," Prof. Foster said at a meeting, that, "since it is proper to suppress the sale of corrupt literature, it is also proper to suppress the liquor traffic." No doubt the learned Professor considered his argument conclusive and uncontrovertible, and I presume many of his hearers had the same opinion; but it does not require much discernment to see that the two things are not parallels; for God countenanced and approved of the use of alcoholic drinks, but he never recommended impure literature. All repressive laws that are not supported by the consciences of the people are unwise, and clearly tend to the demoralization of society. This is manifestly seen in our Customs regulations. Though all citizens are bound to obey the laws of the land as far as they do not enforce what is sinful, yet many people cannot resist the temptation of buying goods in a cheaper market beyond the frontiers of the country, and run the risk of detection when bringing them home. In this way any scruples of conscience in the matter they may have are seriously weakened. As far as Customs laws are needed for purposes of revenue they are just and proper; but the "Scott Act" is only a fanciful attempt to suppress drunkenness, and will not fail to produce a large amount of cunning shifts, prevarication, falsehood, and even perjury to evade its provisions, and to escape conviction for its violation. Vile and wicked as drunkenness is, craftiness and lying are more devilish vices. These shall inevitably be the miserable effects of this mad movement, if the people of the land do not set their faces against it. It may be replied that all criminal laws produce similar evils. Yes; but they are founded on moral principles, whereas this is not.

Advocates of prohibition in a very easy and off-hand way treat the plea that taverns with power to sell alcoholic liquors