

guilty?" but instead of making it he draws back, begins to whimper, and says: "If I had not stolen the horse some other man would!"

The court would say: "That has nothing to do with the question; it is a question involving your character, reputation and liberty, a simple question of fact; are you guilty or not guilty?"

The prisoner continues to whimper, and says: "People have always stolen horses, and they will always steal horses, and it is not fair to pitch into me."

No court would accept such a plea. I can imagine the indignation of the court when for the third time he asks, "Are you guilty or not guilty?"

The prisoner, drawing back among a crowd of roughs, answers, "And if I am guilty, what are you going to do about it? All prohibitory laws for the suppression of stealing have failed. Persons steal in every section of this land. You cannot stop it. Prohibition is a failure. Let me tell you what I will do. If you will let me go and continue stealing, I will give you half the money I received for the horse."

If the judge, in the face of such a threat, should accept the bribe and release the prisoner, how quickly the people would move to impeach and depose him for corrupt practices.

The temperance leaders draw the indictment on which the liquor business is brought into the court of the people. They insist and demand that the traffic shall plead; not sneak into its dens of infamy, not crouch with the bludgeon in the hands of drunken assassins, not bulldoze and intimidate law-abiding citizens; but, like any other criminal, come and plead to the indictment before the people. Bring the traffic in the person of its representatives, into court. Read the indictment. Mr. Liquor-dealer, what is your plea?

The liquor dealer commences to whimper, and says:

"These temperance people are all hypocrites."

"Come, now, brace up and be a man; true or false?"

He says, "If I don't sell, some other fellows will."

"What has the question of another individual's guilt to do with the question of the guilt of the whole traffic? The question is simply, Is your business guilty? That is all. If it is not guilty, the business will go on, all the stronger; if it is guilty, it must die. Guilty or not guilty?"

"The people have always drank; they always will drink, and it is not fair to pitch into me."