

all the machinery of their production demolished, the ingenuity of man would yet remain, and that ingenuity would manifest itself in the secret and illicit production of the goods. Therefore, until something better is promulgated, the world will continue to have its alcoholic beverages. It then becomes the duty of every right-minded citizen to endeavor to settle the question by the elimination of drunkenness. After that the question can only be one of compromise.

No one is going to contend that a glass of whiskey, or beer, or wine, let us say once a month, or once in two or three months, is going to do any physical harm to any individual, though that habit is persisted in over a long life. No doctor of medicine knows that it will. He cannot say from any evidence ever produced that it will. No physician can say that amount, taken at such intervals, can produce any disease in any organ or tissue of the body. No one can claim that amount does any one any harm in any way. The man in Class Two is, then, no more liable to any disease or harm than the man in Class One. He is never a nuisance to society from his alcoholic habits. The thought then travels naturally down to Class Three; and the question may properly be here put:

What quantity of wine, beer, or whiskey can a person drink daily—and never becoming drunk—without injury to the vital organs, and consequently without shortening of life in any way? Here is the crux of the whole question: If a person can safely take one, or two, or three glasses daily—and the medical profession ought to know—and then let the public know—the question would be largely solved. Does the medical profession know this? It does not, absolutely. But they can give a proximate estimate of it. For instance, if a man in Class Three consulted a physician as to what he should drink, when he should drink, and how much, the same as he would do as regards his diet in disease, the doctor would invariably advise him not to drink at all. But if the man persisted and stated that there certainly must be some quantity a person could drink daily, weekly, or monthly, without harm to his physical economy, and without even approaching the appearance of inebriety, then what would the physician counsel? It is quite likely the answer would be: Every person is a law unto himself. He must first find out the quantity from his own personal experience. He must realize for himself when and where the acme of satisfaction comes in or arrives, and where another drink would start him down the path to drunkenness. This might be one, two, or three, or more, say in an hour's time—