

regulation of any one's diet, or an infringement of his liberty as to what he shall drink; but the prohibition of an immoral, soul and body-destroying traffic. Strange that men will shut their eyes to a distinction so manifest.

The other point was to the effect that—*If a prohibitory law be passed, we ought to remunerate the liquor-dealers for the loss of their business.* It would be greatly to the advantage of the country to buy out every establishment in the Dominion, destroy the whole stock, and allow no importation, except what shall be placed under the same restrictions as other dangerous articles on the apothecary's shelf, rather than permit matters to go on as they are now. But if we begin the work of compensation, of course those who have profited by the trade must be required to remunerate those who have been ruined by it. Thousands of our population are groaning under injuries and miseries which money cannot repair or alleviate; how are they to be compensated? If the Legislature refuse a prohibitory law, will they agree to indemnify those who will suffer by the present license system in the future? If they do, they will soon have no trouble in distributing a surplus revenue. The idea of remunerating those who have been fattening on the degradation and calamities of others is a gross absurdity and outrage. Let them turn to some useful calling as a means of support, thankful that they get off so easily as to be allowed to do so.

The trade in strong drink is a root from which grows a rank crop of all moral and social evils; it is a tree planted in our midst whose spreading branches drip with poison, and in whose deep shadow death reigns. The only effectual protection we can have against its influence is to cut it down and cast it out. I have no sympathy with those timid warnings against "legislating in advance of public opinion." The idea that we are not to proclaim a truth or enact a law until everybody is prepared for it, and the bulk of men think alike about it, is contrary to the whole philosophy of reform and improvement, as well as to the teachings of history. That the law would be violated is no argument against its enactment. What species of crime can be mentioned which prohibitions and penalties have entirely driven from among men? Not one. The laws against murder, profanity, robbery, outrage, perjury, are disregarded by many. Would that prove the propriety of their being abrogated? If public opinion is wrong, let the laws be made right, thereby hastening the work of leading the popular mind on to the truth.

We may all become educators on this subject. Let the friends of sobriety and good order determine to take a part in the struggle now going on. When thousands upon thousands of the loftiest intellects and the most generous hearts are annually destroyed by rum. When multitudes of broken-hearted wives and worse than orphaned children are imploring us to aid in securing a triumph which will restore to them deluded husbands and fathers. When the drunkard himself is calling upon us, in his misery, to give him that shield which will protect him from the tempter whose syren-voice will otherwise draw him on to destruction. Can we longer be silent and indifferent? Never was there a more favorable time for action than now. We must all become agitators on this subject in our own vicinity; and we must press it upon the attention of our law-makers in such numbers and with such earnestness that they will be compelled to yield. The demon will yet be trampled down—annihilated; and the banners of victory will wave over our gladdened earth. Temperance will yet triumph. Both God and man call upon you to labor for its spread.