

## CONTRARY TO NATURE.

But prohibition is contrary to nature. As you know, you will never win a battle against nature. That is why they tell you that death is certain. Pass a law against the falls of Niagara and they will laugh at you. Attempt by legislative act to abolish gravity, and then jump off a ten storey building to test the effect of your legislation, and see what happens to you. Why, they will pick you up in a shovel. You cannot win a fight with nature, and prohibition is positively and absolutely antagonistic to nature.

Tell your boy that he shall no longer keep company with a certain young lady; that under no circumstances shall he ever marry the girl, and if that boy amounts to a tinker's dam, he will have that girl or die; and if he does not amount to a tinker's dam, I congratulate the girl. (Laughter.)

Begin at the beginning. We have the story of Adam and Eve. They were perfect. They did not have long lines of ancestors reaching back to dark ages with inherited weakness, wickedness and sin; but they were perfect. Their God placed them in an Eden. The birds sang night and day. The flowers bloomed in every season, and when the storms struck the trees they made music like harps; but one day there stood in their presence, not an anti-saloon leader, not a member of the Dominion Alliance with his self-assumed authority, but there stood in the presence of these perfect people the Omnipotent God, who flung a hundred million blazing suns into space, and who holds the universe in the hollow of His hand, and this Omnipotent God said to these perfect people: "Of all the trees in the Garden of Eden"—and up to that point all trees looked alike to Adam and Eve,—but when God added: "Of that tree that is in the midst of the Garden you shall not eat thereof nor touch lest ye die"—Now, what was the effect? You have read the Bible. You have heard the minister speak. Why, as soon as Adam and Eve found that the Garden of Eden had gone prohibition, it was a question of who would get to that tree first, and Eve beat Adam to it. She had to go some, believe me. (Laughter.)

A gentleman in attempting to answer me not long ago said to me, "The Devil objects to prohibition." I said, "No." He could not object to it, because it was the Devil's first opportunity. You know our dear dry friends will be wondering all the days of their lives, and wondering half through eternity how man could have fallen in Eden where there wasn't a single bar in the place. This was not one of God's mistakes, but it was given to us in the Holy Book as a lesson to man to show the folly of prohibition, to demonstrate that even in Eden it failed to promote manhood or morality. That is the lesson. Prohibition then is contrary to nature, and you all know how you want things which are hard to get. Why do you want diamonds? Why, the prohibitive value or price makes the diamond more desirable. If they were as common as cobble stones, nobody would want them; but the very fact that they are hard to get makes us want them more and more. I want to say to you that the thing that caused Adam and Eve to eat the apple is the thing that makes a little child when it falls, get up and try it again. It is the thing that when you meet an obstacle makes you grit your teeth and swear by all the gods that you will win or die; and this thing in man that makes manhood a success makes prohibition a failure. If you would make prohibition a success, you would make man a failure. I will prove that to you in another way in a minute.

## AN INSULT TO MANHOOD.

Prohibition is also an insult to manhood, and I am going to leave that to every gentleman here today. Do you really think, down in your hearts, that it is a compliment to you to have somebody step up and say that you need a legal muzzle to keep you from becoming a hog? That is what prohibition says. It is based upon the child idea of citizenship, and you know they are going to have a parade of children. There will be a parade of children—God bless the little fellows; I have got five of them at home—and there will be a grown up person in charge of each float or group to keep them from gouging their eyes out with tin horns. Prohibition is based on the child idea, the idea that the citizen needs a guardian. Why, we who worship at the shrine of liberty regard every man, rich or poor, high or low, as a sovereign, and in the realm of personal liberty a king. So you have got to take your choice between that child idea and the king idea of citizenship.

But there is another way to show that prohibition is an insult to manhood.