

But others besides these interested witnesses say the same thing : Prohibition does not prohibit ! If by this they mean that it does not entirely prohibit, it is admitted, of course. No law of God or man entirely prohibits. The law of paradise did not prohibit. The inexorable laws of nature do not prohibit abnormal formations. The laws of the land do not prohibit theft, murder, or any other crime against which they are levelled. Are they, therefore, improper in themselves or to be set aside as ineffectual ? Further, prohibition has not had a fair trial. License has, and has proved itself wanting. But prohibition has not. It has been tried only for a short time comparatively, over very limited territory and under heavy disadvantages. Interested parties have tried to embarrass and discredit it at every step and in every possible way. When towns, counties, or States have adopted it they have been surrounded by others where the traffic was permitted and from which intoxicants could be easily obtained. Politicians have derided it, and for base political ends have tried to defeat it ; manufacturers and retailers have used all the power of money in immense sums and of votes under saloon control to break it down. And even good men have derided its adherents as fanatics and cranks. It has had no fair trial. It has contended against immense odds on all hands. And yet, circumscribed, ridiculed, denounced, vilified as it has been, it has done enough to vindicate itself before all honest and impartial minds ; if not, why are the friends of high license airing at it ? Take the following from a leading Des Moines daily of recent date : " In my own city I have seen prohibition, though poorly enforced, do that which, if generally accomplished in American cities, would make this republic a model. In ten years a city of twenty thousand people, ruled by a bold, corrupt, and powerful municipal ring, and with sad extremes of wealth and poverty, has been transformed into a city of seventy thousand

orderly, contented, and prosperous people, with almost no business failures ; with savings banks piling up large deposits ; with the working men, once an engine of misrule, now a reliable power for honesty in public affairs ; with the better elements easily in control at all times, and carrying all city elections almost without effort ; with the worse elements discouraged and submissive ; with churches and schools dominant, and with nearly three thousand students enrolled in colleges within the city limits. This did not come without fierce opposition, rioting, and even assassination ; but it has come, and it is what America needs everywhere, even if it must involve martyrdom here and there." Take this from a late issue of the Kansas city *Star*, quoted in the *New York World*, December 5th, 1892 : " Kansas is probably the only State in the Union where the jails are used for granaries, and that is no mean distinction."

Such testimony has been given over and over by governors, congressmen, preachers, and reliable public papers. And yet prohibition does not prohibit ! If license can make any such showing, let it be produced. Prohibition, with all its disadvantages, does prohibit. If all or even a large number of our States could be brought under it, as Maine, Iowa, and Kansas have been, or as Georgia now is, with her hundred and twenty seven " dry " counties under local option, it would be an unspeakable gain for personal, domestic, civil, temporal, and eternal welfare. Why not go in for it, then, heart and soul ? How long shall the accursed business go on legalized and unchecked, breeding poverty, wretchedness, and crime, spreading desolation and damnation wherever it goes, having its sixty thousand victims annually in our beloved land, having drowned the poor Indian in " fire-water," and now turning its course upon poor benighted Africa with the same diabolical tendency ? How long, O Lord, how long ? We shall never kill this serpent by futile efforts to clip his