

would have leave from the people to retire ; that the citizens of Boston would never reinstall the same Mayor, and the same government in the office ; yet have they not done so ?

A voice. "By what majority ?"

Mr. Lovejoy. A majority sufficient to carry the election, notwithstanding all other side issues ; that is sufficient ! No party or government can act without liability to objections on various grounds. An army that marches, necessarily exposes its flanks to the enemy's attacks. You let this Maine Law depend upon an election in Boston, and how long would it stand ? They have had an example of this recently in the city of Portland. The originator of the law, who, by all the laws of political usage, as I understand it, was entitled to the nomination and support of his party to be resinated in the office of the Mayor, was refused that nomination and that support. What sign, then, is there that this law will be reinstated in public favor ?

But the argument drawn from all the past—namely, the history of the fifteen gallon law of 1838, in this State, which was loudly eulogized, and whose eulogies had scarcely arrived at the borders of the nation when it was repealed ;—the history of the law of Tennessee, which was immediately repealed, or fell dead, and was trodden under foot ;—of the law of England in the ninth year of George II., which increased by a number of millions of gallons the quantity of gin consumed in eight years. The history of all these laws goes to show that this law will follow in the footsteps of its "illustrious" predecessors.

The gentleman says these laws was not *prohibitory* laws. They did not have this life principle in them : but this law, he says, is a prohibitory law. If these laws had only been prohibitory instead of license laws, they would have lived. Now that the law in England aimed at the same thing as this, is beyond a question, but let us examine this *prohibitory* law. It is *prohibitory*, yet all the distilleries in Boston are licensed under it ! It is a prohibitory law, and yet a gentleman direct from Bangor told me he went into the store of the agency there a few months ago, and sat down and in just thirty minutes, under the license of the Maine Law, he saw fifty persons come in and call for liquors, and all but one got it ! One man asked for a gallon of brandy because his wife was dead, and the agent said that was a great quantity for such an object, and he must get a prescription. [Laughter.] Well, here are forty nine persons buying liquor in half an hour, under a prohibitory law ! What can be a license law if that is a prohibitory law ? He went in there three times on different days, and each time heard more calls for liquor that one could draw and supply ! This gentleman is a man of unimpeachable integrity, who probably has not tasted a drop of spirituous liquor for twenty years and who came to see me on purpose to have a conversation about this law. Said he, "I came to the conclusion, in my own mind, that that law was wrong, that it was doing nothing but mischief, and that there was just as much liquor used as there was before its enactment." It is notorious that there has been an enormous sale of intoxicating drinks in Bangor ; and it is equally notorious that the marshal of that city has been exceedingly active in the destruction of liquor found in the possession of others. Now look at it. Some of the aldermen, or other officers, come to Boston and buy liquors, put them into the hands of the city agent, and sell it for a high price—putting the profits in the city coffers. They then instruct the marshal to destroy all he finds in other hands. Will such a monopolizing machine as that work ? No, sir ; it will go to destruction by its own friction. I should rather undertake to bore nine times through and nine times back, through and through the Hoosac Mountains, than to make the law stand. (Laughter.)

One steamboat that went eastward from a wharf in Boston, within the past year, had a notice in glaring capitals, placed upon a stand by its side, "No Liquors taken on board of this boat upon any conditions," and 150 packages went in that very boat ! (Laughter.) Yet this is a *prohibitory* law.

There is only one prohibitory law possible, Mr. Chairman, and that is to send out the torch and apply it to every distillery in Boston ; sweep every