

as they have ever been doing, they have, as an essential ingredient in their very constitution, and in accordance with that primary principle of society already adverted to,—the right to prohibit altogether, the sale of them, as articles of beverage, if experience has really proved, that notwithstanding all the most stringent and penal regulations ever imposed, such sale has, indeed, been prejudicial to the public interest. But in judging of this point, we are not left merely to inference, or theoretical conclusions. There are many of the very highest authorities, and under the most free systems of government, directly in favor of the social right, and the constitutionality of such an entire prohibition of the traffic. In *seven*, or more, of the most free States in the American Union, such prohibitory enactments have already been passed, the State of Maine having nobly taken the lead, in thus striking the only effectual blow at the foundation of this system of crime and ruin. Several of the Judges, in the highest Courts of the American Union, have given their decisions, in favor of the constitutional right to pass such a prohibitory enactment. But, further, the legislature of the Province of New Brunswick, has actually passed such a law, with reference to certain descriptions of intoxicating liquors. This law, as in all other cases of Colonial enactment, has undergone the examination of the Parent government, as to its being consistent with the principles of the British Constitution, and the general laws of the Empire, and has received the Royal Sanction, and has been in operation throughout that Province.

But, beyond all other authority in the British dominions, the action of the Imperial House of Commons, with reference to the manufacture and sale of certain kinds of those liquors, affords the most conclusive proofs, as to the constitutional right, to pass such a general prohibitory law, as is here contemplated, either in the Imperial, or in a Colonial Parliament. As late as the year 1834, on the motion of that eminent philanthropist, James S. Buckingham, Esqr., then a member of the British House of Commons, a resolution was passed, under which a committee was appointed to enquire and report as to the "Vice of intemperance, especially among the labouring classes, and in order to ascertain, whether *any legislative measures* can be devised, to prevent the further spread of so great a national evil." That committee,—which consisted of 38 of the principal members of the House,—examined a great number of witnesses, belonging to various professions, and occupations; and after continuing their investigations for a