

And we respectfully ask, in the light of such a disclosure, who can hereafter presume to say that the deadly influence of alcohol has been exaggerated? Who will dare to deny its all-pervading influence, striking at the essence of man's complicated nature; assailing, at the same time, the physical, mental, and moral man, reducing his corporeal part to a loathsome mass of putridity; the mind to stolid idiocy, and blotting out his moral existence. Nor is this the climax! It perpetuates the idiocy in a succeeding generation.

If such be its ultimate results, what eye but that of the Omniscient can trace its progressive influence in diluting and deteriorating the mass of mind where it prevails? While in all that is tangible it presents the most revolting evidence that it is omnipotent only for evil, and hostile equally to the government of God and man.

Another argument in support of our application, which we beg leave briefly to state, is drawn from a fact well known to the trade, to wit—That the various intoxicating drinks sold in this country purporting to be of foreign origin, are most spurious preparations, into the composition of which some of the most virulent poisons known to the chemists are infused, to give the colour and flavour of the article they counterfeit.

There is on your statute book a law, prohibiting the vending of any poisonous drug without a label which shall apprise the purchaser of its character.

But we would respectfully ask, has any legal protection been thrown around the victim of this base fraud, and foul conspiracy against his entire being? Whose duty has it been made to apprise him that the deadly chalice he is raising to his lips, while it poisons the fountain of animal life, will penetrate, and blight, and wither the immortal soul?

Again, the assertion has been made from an official source, to our utter surprise and astonishment—"That the Excise law of 1845 was the occasion of increased intemperance and all its attendant evils." We deem the assertion gratuitous and wholly incapable of proof. The statistics of crime, as they have been gathered from the records of the criminal courts of several cities and counties in this State, demonstrate the reverse to an extent that should call up the blush of shame upon the cheek of those who have thus attempted to abuse the public mind, (as we have reason to believe) for the most unjustifiable ends. We select from many the example of Rochester in proof of our position. In the three months of May, June, and July, of 1845, the commitments were 319. In the corresponding months of 1846 they were but 150. But in May, June, and July of 1847, which succeeded the repeal of the Excise law of 1845, although a large portion of the particular class who are the subjects of police supervision had been withdrawn by military enlistment, the commitments rose to 311. It is then, not the enactment, but the repeal of that law, that has given a fresh impetus to the evils of intemperance.

And we trust the Legislature will receive with due caution those declarations, whether they emanate from the rumeller, the political press, or any other source which invert the internal relation between cause and effect, and challenge credence for the grossest absurdities.

Your memorialists are aware of the repeated objection

"that the law for which they petition could not be sustained by the public opinion, and would therefore be powerless." We deem the objection unfounded, and cite as conclusive on that point the sixty-seven thousand majority cast for the "No License" law when substantially the same question was at issue. Nor can it be shown that public opinion has retrograded on that subject. The most we apprehend that can be shown, is the probable conspiracy of the liquor dealers with certain political leaders, to produce such an impression on the public mind, for the purpose of repealing that law.

But were it otherwise, who will deny the power of wise and wholesome laws to mould public opinion into conformity to their dictates? May it not indeed be safely affirmed that with the masses law is almost the only standard of right? hence the tenacity with which the venders of intoxicating drinks have defended their trade. We state the fact, without endorsing the sentiment, believing that the only true standard of right is unchangeable and eternal. It is to that principle the thousands of petitioners appeal, who are now knocking at your doors for Legislative protection from the ravages of a deadly foe, subtle and expansive as the electric fluid, pervading alike the halls of science, the awful seat of Justice, and the sacred temples of the Most High. The demon of intemperance levels all distinction of rank, and wealth, and power, and like the great destroyer who travels in his path, "he loves a shining mark," reveals in the prostration of the giant intellect which had held Courts and Senates in breathless admiration, blighting a nation's hopes, and blotting out the fairest image of God in the soul of man. The cottage and the palace groan equally under the inflictions of the fell destroyer; nor can your memorialists suppress most humiliating reminiscences of his former triumphs in the halls of Legislation.

We respectfully submit, that these statements are no figment of the fancy, no overdrawn picture of a vivid imagination. The pen of an angel would in vain attempt to portray the untold horrors that cluster around the traffic in intoxicating drinks, nor will the half be told till the retributions of eternity disclose them.

In view of these premises, we do most respectfully, but most earnestly and firmly remonstrate against any enactment that shall legalise the traffic (on condition of a bond of indemnity to be executed by the vender) in these elements of death, or on any other condition whatsoever.

1. Because we humbly conceive that such enactment would outrage public opinion, set aside the claims of benevolence, and violate the command "thou shalt do no murder."

2. We believe it would be wholly illusory, impracticable, and entirely inadequate to redress the ills complained of, which, from their very nature, mock at the idea of pecuniary equivalents.

3. It would perpetuate all the mischief of which we complain, and which have extorted one agonized cry of wrong, oppression, and death from suffering humanity in almost every portion of the globe.

4. It would jeopard the health, happiness, and life, of the generation that is fast budding into manhood, on whom hang the most cherished hopes of their kindred and country.