

people of any given District or City for which they act. The present Municipal Councils would present the necessary medium of exercising this power, were it not deemed better to elect officers expressly for this purpose, and with no other duties, in each County or District. This latter plan would, I think, be greatly preferable, as the administration of the license law would thus be separated from political, and all other considerations.

If the law be administered as at present by the magistrates, I think licences should only be granted once a year (if at all) and that, at a meeting expressly called for the purpose, and that no less number of magistrates, should have the power to grant a rejected application afterwards, and especially that it should be clearly understood that the Executive will not interfere in the decision of said magistrates so as to grant any application which they have rejected. It would also be most important to subject the applicant to advertise his application for a certain length of time, with the names of the magistrates recommending it, in the nearest paper or in some other public manner, in order that magistrates may be deterred from violating their oath of office by certifying to what they must often know to be untrue, and also in order that the inhabitants of the locality in question may have an opportunity to petition the Quarter Sessions against the application, if they desire to do so.

*Question.* You have suggested that the sale of intoxicating drinks should not be licensed at all. Do you think then that it could be suppressed?

*Answer.* I do not think that it could be wholly suppressed by coercive enactments, in the present state of public opinion on the subject, which, however, would effectually prevent such enactments from being obtained.

*Question.* Would it not be still more injurious to society, to leave the traffic in intoxicating drinks free, than it is at present, with all the abuses of the licence law?

*Answer.* It need not be left free. Legislation should from time to time be directed against it, as far as the advancing state of the public mind on the question will allow. All, who engage in this traffic, should be rendered amenable to actions of damages to be tried before juries of their neighbours for the injuries they are the means of inflicting upon families. And they should be