

the presses under his influence, all the presses in favor of the Maine Law, that good, old, wholesome, scriptural doctrine.

Another and a very practical objection against the law is, that it is a dead letter. The spring time of the year you know is a good time to cut off all the dead limbs of the trees and the vines, and it is now a good time for the Legislature of Massachusetts, if they choose, to cut of this dead law, for it is dead, and will be more and more dead, without any hope of resurrection. Where is it executed? In what city of Massachusetts? In what town? In what country? Where is the man who has the hardihood—(do not misunderstand me, as the gentleman seemed to the other night: I do not say the hardihood in reference to any fear of physical assault or opposition)—but I say, where is the man, with the responsibilities of a citizen, that will undertake to execute this law, that has been pronounced unconstitutional by the chief authority in the United States? Who will execute such a law as that? It is hard enough to execute any law, and the hands that have it to do, ought to be staid up and encouraged by all. But who will undertake to execute this law, which has been declared unconstitutional by one of the justices of the supreme Court of the land? This they will deny, I know. The gentleman, a citizen of Maine, who did me the honor to review, last year, very elaborately, and with as much ability as any other man, the sermon which I wrote upon this subject a year ago, says that the decision of Judge Curtis is in direct opposition to the decision of Judge Shepley, in Maine; that the very points which Judge Shepley, by a mighty stretch of judicial power, declared to be constitutional, Judge Curtis has pronounced to be unconstitutional. But the Judges of New Hampshire, with one voice, and by the most decisive utterance, pronounced the law unconstitutional. In this state it has got as far as the Court of Common Pleas; and in Middlesex County, where I reside, there have been some forty cases, that hang now upon the horns of the alter—upon the horns of the alter of justice—because they could go no further. There they are—look at them! And with these dry bones shaking in your ears, who will dare to execute the law? Nobody! It cannot be executed—and is not executed.

Last year, we had statistics from Maine in plenty. Now let us see what men say. Here is a letter from the interior of the State, written by a distinguished gentleman, the weight of whose opinion on any subject will not be questioned. In allusion to the Maine Law, he says:—"This Law has been, in this place and elsewhere, a dead letter. I am afraid its effects, on the whole, are going to be more evil than good! In Augusta, the Mayor of that city says,—at least he implies it—that it is the opinion of the citizens that the law is arbitrary and wrong, although they think they ought to obey it. He says, moreover, that it has driven a great many desirable citizens from the city of Augusta, in Maine.

Well, now, that is no argument against the law, if it is a good law—whatever the pecuniary sacrifice it must be borne. But if it does injury in a pecuniary point of view, and no good, then it is an argument against it. This law may have produced, in some instances, a partial, a seeming, a limited good. But its influence everywhere, on the whole and generally, is pernicious and destructive.

The gentleman said it was not executed, because it was new, and they had not got used to it. In a little time he thinks they will get the hang of this Maine Law, in the Courts, and then be able to execute it. Well, now, a convention assembled on 23d and 24th of last June, and they said,—“Such is our confidence in this law, we do not hesitate to say, that if it fails, it must fail through the negligence of its friends.” They appointed a distinguished Committee of lawyers—or one lawyer at the head, who was to call in other eminent counsel—to prepare form—a most unusual and unheard of thing! A society, not any part of the civil Government, a society, or convention meeting in anticipation, and taking the law into their own hands for execution. But with all this unprecedented effort to execute the law, it failed.

Well, but they are to rally, they say, just as soon as the licenses are out in Boston. Mr. Chairman did they not tell you six, eight or ten months ago, that he moment the Mayor and Alderman had served out their term of office they