

## Selected Articles.

## SUMPTUARY LAWS.

Men tell us that sumptuary laws infringe on the personal liberty of the citizen. This proposition I deny. John Stuart Mill has wisely and truly said: "That the liberty of the individual ends, however profitable to himself, when it becomes injurious or fatal to another. That pursuits that are injurious to our neighbor must be abandoned or wrongly pursued." Now, sir, the sale of intoxicants is injurious to individuals as well as to communities. Restraining laws only, can protect the individual and community from the baneful effects of intoxicants. Mills said apply his rule and it teaches plainly, that all pursuits of business which are injurious to our neighbor must be abandoned. If an individual or much more, a community, is injured by the business of another, though such business be never so profitable to the person carrying it on, such business must be restrained by protecting laws. Now, sir, the sale of alcohol, as a beverage, is admitted by every reasoning person to be injurious both to individuals and communities. The effect of intoxicants on communities is condemned by Prophets, Apostles and scientists, and known to be—not a small evil—but the greatest of all evils man is heir to. No one claims that the community is benefited by the sale of liquors, as practiced by those now engaged in the traffic. All can testify as to the injury done by liquor in every community.

What, sir, cannot laws be passed to restrain the use of the worst enemy communities have? If laws can be enacted to protect property, why can not laws be made to protect our wives, children, and husbands from those terrible schools of crime? It is a fact that alcohol ruins more bright hopes and prospects than war, pestilence and famine, and I may add, earthquakes. Seeing, then, that alcohol may be called the destroyer of our race shall we be deceived by arguments made by those in the destruction of individuals and nations, and incorporated into party platforms which declare against sumptuary laws, or reasonable laws of restraint on the cause of crime? To claim that laws which strengthen good advice, are curtailing the liberty of the individual is so far from the truth that no one need be deceived.—*Judge A. D. Boren, in San Bernardino Times.*

## NURSERIES OF CRIME.

In an address by Hon. George C. Christian, of Chicago, at Lake Bluff, Ill., Aug. 20, the saloon is thus painted:—

"A murder is committed in our midst. Where do the police and detective officers go to find the murderer? Do they go to the church, or the prayer-meeting, or to the Sunday-school, or to the day-school, or to the stores or shop or offices of business? Those places are never once thought of. It is to the saloon, or to some of its ramifications, they turn their attention, and it is in these they sooner or later get on track of their man. It is the gang to be found there who can furnish the desired information.

A robbery or burglary is committed. Some neighboring saloon is at once placed under the sleepless eye of the law officer. The same is true of almost every crime in the entire catalogue.

Did you ever ask yourselves why this is so? The answer is founded in the truest philosophy. The great bulk of crime is committed under the influence and inspiration that grow out of this accursed business, and almost the entire class come from that order of society. THERE, they are created and THERE they grow and THERE they thrive. It is there that their friends and associates are to be found. It is therefore perfectly natural that the officers should seek them there. This is not an idle statement, but it is a fact, borne out by the experience of the police and detective forces of all the cities. It is a circumstance mighty in its power to convince men that the saloon is the home and nursery of crime. It speaks louder than mere statistics. It gives you the common, every-day experience and verdict of the very men who are set apart by our municipal and state governments for the detection of crime and the arrest of criminals. It tells you that the shrewdest men in the community go right to the saloon to find the criminal. The common mind of the community also assents to this proposition."—*Western Wave.*

## RESTRAIN THE TRAFFIC.

Charles F. Thwing, in the *Christian Union*, of New York, draws a deplorable picture of the influence of the liquor interest as a factor in the government of the great cities of the United States. Thirteen of the twenty-four aldermen of the city of New York are liquor dealers. Its county clerk is a liquor dealer, and a distinguished student of the municipal politics of that great city says that "the police and the law courts are completely under their control." In Boston the state of affairs is not quite so bad, yet eight out of about sixty of its councilmen are registered in the city directory as liquor dealers. One of them, who is also on the Police Department Committee, not only keeps a saloon, but has twice been convicted of Sunday selling. To elude the State law, which forbids that a license be given to a drinking-saloon, situated within four hundred feet of a school-house, the school-children have been repeatedly turned out of certain school-houses until licenses were given, and in some instances they moved back again. Turning to the west, a striking illustration of the hold the liquor interest upon the country is afforded in the case of Milwaukee, a distinguished citizen of which says that "the saloons practically own the city." Chicago is just as bad, and other places are not far behind.

Probably the state of affairs is not so bad in any of the Canadian cities, but there is danger that they may at any time become so. It is a lamentable fact that those whose line of business is such as relies upon a demand created by the lower appetites and passions, are able to amass wealth much faster than almost any other class. Hence it is that the power of the purse will almost always be found to be great on the side of the liquor dealers. It would be but a trite repetition of a patent truth to say that the progress of civilization and culture, and of Christianity which is the best promoter of both, is to-day more obstructed and more endangered by the traffic in drink than by any other agency that can be named.

What is to be done? Many are working hard and well for radical reform in legislation. The prohibition sentiment is growing rapidly in England, the United States and Canada. But its triumph is still, it is to be feared, far in the future. All experience goes to prove that the most stringent enactments are practically powerless unless strongly backed by public faith and feeling. There are no truer friends of humanity than those who are striving earnestly to create such a feeling based upon such a faith. Let them never relax their efforts for a single day.

But in the meantime, what? The people in many sections of the United States are arousing themselves to give a practical answer to this practical question. They are setting about the enforcement of the prohibition they have. They are entering upon a campaign to enforce the provisions which in most cases are in some shape already upon the statute books, prohibiting the sale of liquors to minors, or on Sundays, or after midnight, or to habitual drunkards, or within certain prescribed localities. Let the friends of temperance in Canada do the same all along the line. No one can doubt that the rigid enforcement of the restrictions we have would greatly curtail the worst forms of the traffic and result in incalculable good to thousands. It is too true that many earnest advocates of temperance and prohibition are weak-kneed and often positively cowardly about enforcing existing laws. There is an objectionable odor about the business from which they shrink. They fear to create enmities, or to be brought into contempt as informers. Out upon such mawkishness! Those who know that they are doing right, are engaged in a good cause, the cause of philanthropy, of humanity, of God, as this is when engaged in with right motives, should play the man. They should shrink from no approbrium, and quail before no threats or dangers.

The legal restrictions placed upon the liquor traffic—restrictions which are without a parallel in any other line of business—are in themselves a logical admission that the traffic itself is injurious and ought not to be tolerated. The enforcement of these restrictions would be most salutary in several ways. It would greatly diminish the worst evils of intemperance. In doing so it would afford the best demonstration of the good to be gained by still greater restrictions. By minimizing the numbers of both dealers and drinkers it would lessen the opposition to prohibition, reduce its money powers and recruit the ranks of the radical reformers. Let the prohibitory clauses of our liquor Acts be enforced at all costs and hazards,—*Canadian Baptist.*