

"A man's building his house so near to mine that his roof overhangs my roof; erecting a house or other building so near to mine that it obstructs my ancient lights and windows: keeping noisome animals so near to the house of another that the stench of them incommodes him, and makes the air unwholesome; a setting up and exercising an offensive trade—as a tanner's or a tallow chandler's; erecting a smelting house for lead so near to the land of another that the vapor and smoke kills his corn and grass and damages his cattle. And so to stop or divert water that used to run to another's meadow or mill, or to corrupt or poison a water course, by erecting a dye-house or lime pit for the use of trade, in the upper part of the stream, is a nuisance which society has a right to abate."—3. *Blackstone*, 217, 218.

Now where is the man who had not infinitely rather than any of the above named nuisances should be set up near his dwelling than to have a filthy debauching rum shop right at his door, to send forth its corrupting stench, its pestiferous moral influences, to destroy his and his neighbors' children. We say therefore, no compromise with the enemy, no parrying about modifications, keep the law as it is, put an end to the infamous rum business, and close up every drinking house and tippling shop in the land.

It will be seen that the above is designed as an argument against any change in the present law of Maine. We cite it as an argument why we in Canada should not ask for any thing less than the law of Maine.

From the same number of the contemporary above named, we cut the following—read it:—

A miserable victim of the rum jug living in a town a short distance from this, was induced by the cravings of an appetite which the heartless rum-seller had helped him to form, to take from his wife's ears, while she lay dead in the house, and that too, almost before her body was cold, a pair of gold ear-rings and exchanged them with a being in human form for rum. The dealer knew the circumstances, knew that his victim's wife was brought to a premature grave by the brutality and abuse of her husband, knew if he had the liquor he would be drunk at the funeral, as he was; still he took the rings, gave the man the rum, and called it a fair business transaction. Will moral suasion drive such scoundrels from the business? What think ye who oppose the liquor Law, of moral suasion for such a villain?

But is not drunkenness increased by moral suasion? Yes, the bar is opened, the tippling shop is entered, and as the law protects the sale the poor infatuated victims of carnal pleasure are deceived and betrayed. The moral suasion working so much evil to which we refer, is finely expressed, and a faithful warning given respecting it by the Cayuga Chief.

"What'll you take," is a question which is heard in every bar room, and often in the street, as it is used by men who are treading on the very verge of the crater of ruin. It is the stereotyped and oft repeated vernacular of the grog-shop. It slips easily from lips already perfumed with rum, appeals to the degraded appetites and habits of associate tipplers—It is the voice of temptation; and meets the foulhardy at every corner.

What'll you take, asks the old sot of one equally as besotted as himself, as they stand at the bar.—We know what they have been taking. They have been taking steps which can never be retraced. They have taken that which has wrecked all the hopes of their earlier manhood and now bears them to a dark and forbidding shore. They have taken the wrong course in life and now look back and find but little which they would wish to remember. In exchange for property and reputation, they have taken that which has robbed them of both. They have taken the part of a fool indeed, and as they dream fitfully in their sober moments, their thoughts rest upon no pleasant memories or look forward to a future hope.

What'll you take, asks a young tippler as in the vigor of youth, he and his young comrades stalk jauntily into the saloon and call for drink. That is a fearful question to put. A feeling of dread will creep over us as we hear it. The future floods in upon our vision, and we see two palsied, broken down and degraded old men, lingering like fallen spirits around the portals of the dens of death, looking dimly out upon a world which is all dreamers to them. We see them shunned by all,—dreaded at home—dying uncared for.

Young friend! for God knows we are a friend to you—we would not take your steps by all that is sacred on earth and hoped for in Heaven. You are taking a step that will lead you blindly to ruin.—You are taking a viper to your bosom. A naked fang glitters in the bottom of the cup, and the flash of the bubbles on the brim, is the bright but deadly light of the serpent's eye. Your wild heartless ha! ha! is the echo of the maniac's laughter. You are grasping dead sea fruits and you will find them fearfully bitter. You seek pleasure in a course which is marked by physical, intellectual and moral ruin. The spectral shadows of manhood's wreck, fall around your footsteps. The chill gloom of the almshouse and prison, gathers ahead of you. Your steps are guided by the gibbet and grave stone. You shout in your revelry while the stench of the dead breathes around you like a pestilence. The livid death light which is fed on the Upas vapors of dead men is the beacon you follow. You go to an un-honored grave, and no records of good deeds to fall there like mellow sunshine to speak pleasantly to the living. Take yourself away from the grog-shop—take a higher and more honorable course—and you can take and keep a position in the world which will make that world the better for your living in it.

Good advice that, "Take yourself away from the grog-shop." Well will it be for all when the grog-shop shall take itself away. and when, therefore there will be an end to that "What'll you take."

Grand Division.

We have recently been favoured with copies of proceedings at the Quarterly Sessions of the G. D. of Western New York, G. D. of the State of Massachusetts, and the G. D. of New Brunswick; also, the Semi-Annual Reports of the G. D. of the States of Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana, and of Canada West. It would occupy too much space to extract from all these documents, but, suffice it to say, that the impression made on our minds from their perusal, has tended to deepen our convictions of the vast power of this order; and, so far as we have been able to see, that power has been exercised in the right direction. We hope the direction of the affairs of this body will be continued in the hands, or rather, always committed to the hands of good and wise men, so that the good the order is capable of doing, may be fully brought out, and the sources which are at their command may be employed only for the legitimate work of the order. We cannot close without complimenting the officer in charge,—who, we suppose, is the G. S.—for the promptness with which the Divisions have been supplied with printed copies of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Canada West Grand Division. It speaks well for his qualification for the responsible office which he fills. We are glad to perceive that the cause, in general, is still onward, and though, from a few quarters, the order does not seem so vigorous as formerly, yet we hope that the seed already sown will yet spring up. We have already referred, at considerable length to the proceedings of the G. D. for Canada West, which renders a lengthened notice at present unnecessary.

Petitions for the Maine Law.

Let the friends of temperance everywhere, by whatever name they may be known, exert themselves to the full, to obtain a free expression of the public mind on this all important subject. We want this law, but not unless a great majority of the people petition for it, and thereby uphold the government should the minority yield to the force of truth, as well as sustain the officers of justice in the administration of the law. It is said that the Queen will "disallow" the bill, no matter if she should see fit to do so, which we would be inclined to question, it will at all events show our strength, and be a clear and undeniable expression of our wishes. We have thought it advisable to give in this number of the *Advocate* a form of petition, which is now in circulation by