

less and mischievous, but the total prohibition of the traffic appears to be impracticable, and the principles on which it is advocated, are evidently unsound. Dry goods stores produce serious embarrassments to not a few, and the more numerous they are the greater the temptation to certain unprincipled and incautious people to get into debt. Many use their credit as long as it lasts to procure silks, muslins, and so on, to decorate their persons that they may sail up and down the streets of cities, towns and villages, to the admiration of the public, as they suppose, and incur liabilities which their incomes cannot nearly meet. Such thieves, and their name is legion, are as great criminals as most drunkards, and far more contemptible, and yet many such advocate abstinence and prohibition that they may have more money to purchase drapery wherewith to make a little display. Though dry goods stores are an irresistible temptation to those, yet no one dreams of putting them down, or of restricting their number by statute. Besides this, the social intercourse of young men and young women produces considerable evil, and sometimes of a rather disagreeable and painful nature. Should that intercourse be therefore prohibited by statute? We reply that such a law might be approved of by fanatics in the ages of asceticism, but it will be scarcely adopted in the nineteenth century. To this we add that money is the cause of the most terrible crimes that are committed in the world, but he who would advocate the prohibition of traffic in it, would be justly regarded as a madman. We see then that the great argument of abstainers is simply infantile. But, say they, alcohol is poison, and it is therefore a sin to use what contains it in any quantity. This is rather far-reaching, for it is well known that all articles of food and drink contain poison, even water ("*God's best gift to man,*" as Good Templars say,) is not free from it, and most of them contain alcohol, so that to refuse everything that contains poison and alcohol, would prove rather inconvenient. We scarcely think that even abstainers and prohibitionists are quite prepared to carry out their own principles to their legitimate consequences. They say, however, that alcohol