

that traffic. It has already been tried, and with signal success, in the free, and truly enlightened State of Maine, which has set the first noble example on the subject. And if it has succeeded there, and has also been adopted with success, in several other States of the American Union, why may it not succeed in every other country called civilized and christian? No sufficient reason can be shown to the contrary. To say the least, both duty and interest require that the trial should be made, and without the least further delay.

But, there are some who object and say, that every such prohibitory enactment, is arbitrary and contrary to natural right, as well as to British constitutional freedom, and privilege. This objection, though seemingly plausible, on its first suggestion, by reference to certain primary and fundamental principles in the organization of society, and of civil government, and to various legislative proceedings, under the free British constitution,—can readily be shown, to be without any just or available foundation. It will be admitted by all who are, even tolerably, versed in the constitution of civil society, that its primary and principal design is,—to secure the *general safety, prosperity, and happiness*. In all well constituted governments, therefore, it is perfectly understood, and implied, that if *individual* or *class* interests, are clearly found to interfere with those general advantages, and blessing, such particular interests must yield, or be placed in abeyance, or entirely set aside. It is true, such has not always been the case, in actual experience, yet, the principle has remained the same, and has ever been recognized as sound and correct, and to be kept in view, in civil institutions generally, and in all legislative, and legal proceedings. To say the least, it has been professedly recognized as valid, in all well defined constitutions of government, whether Monarchical, or Republican. Each of them, accordingly, has been vested with powers to attain and preserve the social advantages of the general safety, and welfare, and to prohibit and remove, every proceeding and influence, which would prevent or impair them. Independent of any special provision, or declaration, on the point, it is, indeed, necessarily implied in the social compact, and interwoven in the framework of every government, founded on just and well defined principles. Few persons, indeed, are aware, in how many instances, under the most liberal forms of government, individual pursuits and interests are restrained or prohibited, where the public morals, health, or prosperity, or