

paupers; they cause immense expenditures to prevent crime; they cost sober people immense sums in charity; they burden the country with enormous taxes; because the moderate drinkers want the temptation removed, drunkards want the opportunity removed; sober people want the nuisance removed; tax payers want the burden removed; the prohibition would save thousands from falling; the sale exposes our families to insult; the sale exposes our families to destruction; the sale upholds the vicious and idle at the expense of the virtuous and industrious; the sale takes the sober man's earnings to support the drunkard; it subjects numberless wives to untold suffering; it is contrary to the Bible; it is contrary to common sense; we have a right to rid ourselves of the burden."

The principle of prohibition has now been adopted by all the New England States, by the great State of New York, by several other states; by the Province of New Brunswick; and was only lost by the Legislative Council in Nova Scotia. It is therefore evident, as this law is carried into effect in these several places, Canada must become the last resort, or a sort of general reservoir for the outlawed liquor in all these places; smuggling will increase; intemperance will increase; poverty, crime and insanity will increase; all the army of evils proceeding from the traffic will increase; and patriotism requires every man that loves his country to arise in the strength of reason and religion, to stand in the breach and stay the evil. Such a law is for the peace, order and morality of society.

"All laws for the restraint or punishment of crime, for the preservation of the public peace, health and morals are, from their very nature, of primary importance, and lie at the foundation of social existence. They are for the protection of life and liberty, and necessarily compel all laws of secondary importance, which relate only to property, convenience or luxury, to recede when they come in contact or collision. *Salus populi suprema lex.* The exigencies of the social compact require that such laws be executed before and above all others. It is for this reason that quarantine laws, which protect health, compel mere commercial regulations to submit to their control. They restrain the liberty of the passengers; they operate on the ship, which is the instrument of commerce, and on its officers and crew, and the rights of navigation. They seize the infected cargo and cast it overboard; laws for the preservation of health, prevention of crime, and protection of the public welfare, must of necessity have full and free operation, according to the exigency that requires their interference."

This question, whether the law shall be made to throw its shield over the welfare and morality of society, is one of vast magnitude, and of infinite consequences to the people of Canada, on which hangs the destiny of thousands of its inhabitants. "I am persuaded," said Lord John Russell, when Prime Minister of England, "I am convinced that there is no cause more likely to elevate the people of this country in every respect, whether as regards religion, whether as regards political importance, whether as regards literary and moral cultivation, than this great question of Temperance."

This question, whether as relates to the evils of the present license system, or whether as relates to the feasibility and benefits of the "absolute prohibition," is now fairly before the people and the Parliament, to say what shall be done. It is to be hoped that the present Parliament, which has already adjusted some most important issues, may have also the honor of conferring the great boon of prohibition upon the peo-

ple of this Province. More than forty thousand petitioners have earnestly asked this boon, and it now remains for our Parliament to say how and when this prayer shall be granted; to say whether the struggle of intemperance against drunkenness, of right against wrong, of virtue against vice, of truth against error, of morality against the great immorality of our days, shall be ended or not. Should they decide rightly, the traffic will cease, its evils be removed, and society be protected for the future. They will be remembered and blessed for the Act of Prohibition, by myriads that are now reduced to the lowest stage of want and almost hopeless misery; even with the blessings of them that are ready to perish, shall they be blessed. Such an act will cause ten thousand hearts to beat more quickly for its glad news, and ten thousand eyes to fill and sparkle with tears of gratitude, hope and joy, for the great temptation removed, the monstrous traffic in human happiness, health, life and morals destroyed; and that, though late, a benign legislation has prevailed, and the country secured,

PREVENTION !—PROTECTION !!—PROHIBITION !!!
All which is respectfully submitted.

HANNIBAL MULKINS.

KINGSTON, March 31st, 1855.

APPENDIX A.

NOTE, No. I.—From the returns on the Jails and Houses of Correction, in the State of Massachusetts, for 1853, it appears that the whole number of criminals confined in the jails in that year were 11,526; of this number were committed,

For Intemperance, 4531
Added to Intemperance, 958

The whole State, therefore, excluding those addicted to drunkenness, had only 6037 criminals out of 11,526. The expenses of these jails for 1853 were \$50,789.

In the same year there were confined to the Houses of Correction 4734 persons.

For Intemperance, 2692
Added to Intemperance, 3045

Thus, excluding those addicted to strong drinks, there were only 1489 offenders in all the State, confined in the Houses of Correction.

Of the whole number in both jails and Houses of Correction 7223 were confined for intemperance; 3924 were strongly addicted to drunkenness; 11,147, out of the total 16,268, were involved, directly or indirectly, in consequence of the legal sale and use of ardent spirits.

The total costs of these establishments are reported as follows:—

The Jails, \$ 50,789
Houses of Correction, 50,378

Total \$101,167

This vast expense is paid by the Counties, and does not include any of the judicial or criminal expenditure of the State.

APPENDIX B.

I. TABLE showing the number of Convicts in Penitentiaries in the year 1850:

STATES.	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.
Massachusetts	389	42	431
Maryland	115	120	235
Virginia	132	71	203
Mississippi	85	1	86
Missouri	164	2	166
Indiana	146	0	146
	1031	236	1267