

To this we reply :

1. That the breaches of the law, however numerous, prove nothing against the principle of the law. God's law is perfect, yet is it broken times without number. Each commandment of the decalogue is holy, just, and good, delivered amid the most sublime accompaniments and enforced by the most solemn sanctions; yet do men daily break them in thought, word and deed. But was Sinai a failure? Has this divine Code which has extorted admiration even from the most outspoken occupants of the scorner's chair, turned out a huge blunder? Because men are chargeable with profanity, idolatry, and Sabbath breaking and disobedience, and countless violations of the tables of the law, should the lips of the Almighty have been sealed instead of giving forth these immortal and immutable "Thou shalt not's."

2. Still further, supposing the breaches of the prohibitory law which have been blazoned abroad, to be well founded, is this the only human law that has ever been broken? What mean our jails and gibbets? What the entire system of human jurisprudence; the administration of law; the infliction of punishment? Are there no thieves, or murderers, or perjurers, or unclean persons? Is it ever heard of as an argument against the laws which forbid stealing or murder, adultery or perjury, that men break them? It simply shows how thoroughly depraved man is, that his evil passions will burst through all such legal restraints. But for their existence and operation, he would be a great deal worse. And these repeated violations, which fill up the world's big Newgate calendar of crime, go but to show, not certainly the propriety of repealing or relaxing these laws, but rather of increasing their stringency, and so, all the cases that can be flaunted before us of the breaking of the Maine Law, go but to show his drink-ward, and so devil-ward tendency, and therefore, the need of his being hedged round the more.

3. The cases mentioned prove only the imperfect administration of the law, not any imperfection in the law itself. The very difficulty experienced in obtaining intoxicating liquor—the mean subterfuges to which those are compelled to have recourse who try at all hazards to obtain it—whenever the law gets anything like fair play, shows convincingly what a power it is.

4. Let it be remembered, too, who chiefly have gathered the instances of failure, and from what quarters they have been got. Strangers and wayfaring men turning aside to tarry for a night, generally prejudiced against the law, and lynx-eyed to detect flaws in it, often men with drinking proclivities, whose information has been obtained from characterless loafers or worthless hangers on upon dens of infamy, where not this law alone, but all laws, human and Divine, are contravened.

These unfavorable reports, too, have been almost entirely connected with cities where it is confessedly most difficult to enforce the law, and so many elements are constantly at work to thwart its enforcers. Many of these adverse reports cannot be relied on.

5. On the other hand we have in our possession "a cloud of witnesses" summoned to testify during the past year, some of them hostile to the principle of the law, whose "uniform testimony is that the Prohibitory Liquor Law of Maine has produced a great and marvellous effect in reducing the quantity of liquor sold and consumed in the State."

These testimonies have come from the most authoritative and unimpeachable quarters, such as His Excellency the Governor of the State, ex-Governors, Mayors of Cities, ex-Mayors, all the Senators, representatives of the State in Congress, the Judge of the Supreme Court of Maine, Judge of the Municipal Court (Portland), Judge of the Probate Court, Dr. Enoch Pond, the representative man of the Colleges and Seminaries, Aldermen and City Clerks of Portland and Bangor, the two leading cities of the State, the Sheriff, the Clerk and Registrar of Cumberland County (which includes Portland), pastors of the leading churches of all denominations, and many others.

The general bearing of this testimony, which the most truth-loving statis-