

carried into effect, from trying the experiment of violating it. Then, the provision excluding jurors who are, or who recently have been engaged in the traffic, will render convictions more certain than they have been. The further provision, that the possession of intoxicating liquor, under suspicious circumstances, shall furnish presumptive evidence of an intent to sell, will supply a deficiency in an attempt to convict, which has always been felt, and which has enabled hundreds of the grossest violators of such laws as have existed to go unpunished. If the law contained nothing more than what has already been specified, it would prove far more efficacious than any law which has ever before been passed in this State.

But the essence of the law has not yet been alluded to. It outlaws the prohibited article—no action will lie to recover the price of it, if sold—no remedy is furnished for the recovery of damages, if taken away or destroyed. The article itself is forfeited to the State. Some objections have been raised to this strong feature of the law, but they are clearly without any foundation. The law of forfeiture is of very ancient date. By the common law, any instrument by which the death of a person was caused, though by mere accident, was forfeited. Whole cargoes are frequently forfeited, for violating the laws of Congress. By the law of that body, which has long existed, the very article, of intoxicating liquor (distilled spirits and wines) if imported, and not properly inspected before landing are forfeited, and a heavy fine incurred besides. Even the landing of these articles, without the precaution of seeing the proper officers present, makes a forfeiture. Vessels engage in the slave trade are forfeited. By a law of Connecticut, of long standing, about which no complaint has ever been made, the mere drawing a seine to catch shad in one of our principal rivers, contrary to the regulations of the statute, causes a forfeiture of the seine and tackle.

The next object to be gained, was to put the public in possession of the property which thus accrued to it. The new law provides a summary way of accomplishing this object. It authorises the proper officers to go and take the article. If it is exposed to view, there is no difficulty. If it is concealed, the officers are directed to search for it. If it cannot be reached without doors are to be forced open. Nothing of this kind, however, is to be done, until a reasonable foundation has been laid for it, by the oath of three persons of good moral character, residing in the same town, deposing to their belief, that intoxicating liquors are kept for sale in the place to be searched. All that is required of these persons is, that they should have a good moral character. If men of sufficient courage and philanthropy cannot be found, females will do quite as well. If any town sees fit to elect justices, who are under the control of rumsellers, the law still can be enforced, if a Justice of the Peace can be found in the county who is willing to discharge an unpleasant but highly important duty.

Some persons are at first startled with the idea that a dwelling-house may be broken open to search for intoxicating liquor, kept for sale. We cannot, however, see anything in this provision, calculated to create any alarm. A dwelling-house, when used as a dwelling-house, should be regarded as sacred. But if the owner chooses to vest it of that character, and make it a gambling resort, a powder-house, or a groggery, ought it not to lose its sacred character? There is no reason why it

should not be entered. Is it no longer a suitable place for a family. The owner himself has given the worst part of the community access to it. What reason has he, then, to complain, if the rest of the community insist that he shall not be so exclusive. In this portion of the law, the utmost care is taken to give every one an opportunity to justify himself, and to lay claim to the liquor which has been seized.

He can, if he pleases, appeal the case to a higher court, whether he was named in the original process or not, and he subjects himself to no risk in making a claim, except that of paying costs, if he does not succeed.

Another valuable enactment in the law, is that which authorizes an officer to take the testimony of a drunkard, whenever he recovers his senses enough to testify. Hitherto groggellers have enticed their victims into their secret dens, and deprived them of their money and their senses, and then turned them out upon the common, to lie in the common or to die, according to the strength of the doses which have been administered. But hereafter this will be a hazardous operation; the drunkard, after he has recovered his senses, can take his choice, either to go to jail himself, or let the author of his degradation do it. The whole proceeding will be rather unpalatable to the prisoner and the poisoner. We think it will be almost as effectual to prevent such selling as the provision regarding searches and seizures.

We are at a loss to conceive how any thing can be added to this law, to give it greater efficiency. We rejoice to have it complained of for its stringency. This is its most precious quality. It is the want of this which renders the operation of so many penal laws unequal and unjust. If the principal of the law is right, what wrong can be done by its stringency? No one need suffer from it. Every man who obeys the law will of course be safe, and no one will violate it without doing it knowingly and deliberately. It is no matter, therefore, how severe it may be upon him.

Far away in the Woods.

On a sultry afternoon during a late harvest season, one of the men came into the house saying he had broken his scythe, and was going to the village to replace it. Now, going to the village was quite an event, for as we dwelt several miles from it, time could seldom be spared during the busy season, unless, as in the present instance, something indispensable was required. We generally obtained our papers and letters when we went to church, though we never visited the Post Office on the Sabbath, but a friend residing near it, took them out on the Saturday, and had them in readiness for us the next day. But it sometimes happened, as now, that we would be two or three weeks without any news. On the last Sabbath it had rained, and on the one preceding the minister was absent, so that this was the third week we had been without our papers. The opportunity to send was eagerly embraced.

"Will you call for the papers, Peter?" I said, "yes," he replied, "if I have time."

He went, and how long the time seemed till his return, I need not say, but at length the welcome parcel was placed in my hand.—*Four Witnesses,—five Temperance Advocates—twenty-seven Records, Agriculturists, &c.* After glancing over the contents, as there was still an hour before the men would be in for their after-