

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE,

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE & NEWS.

PLEDGE.--We, the undersigned, do agree, that we will not use intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, nor Traffic in them; that we will not provide them as an article of Entertainment, nor for persons in our Employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community.

VOL. XVIII.]

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 15, 1852.

No. 25

Twenty-five Objections to the Maine Law considered and answered.

1. It is unconstitutional.
It has been decided otherwise in the Supreme Court of the United States. Says Chief Justice Taney: "Every State may regulate its own internal traffic, according to its own judgment, and upon its own views of the interest and well-being of its citizens." And, says the Governor of Maine, "If we can legislate for the extermination of ravenous beasts, we may for the extermination of the greatest of evils which reduces the human form divine to a condition worse than that of savages."
2. It destroys private property, and without compensation.
It destroys nothing legally held; nothing which a man keeps for his own use or for lawful sale; nothing but what is confiscated by known and wilful defiance of law. And who ever heard of compensation for confiscated property—for a mad dog, for instance?
3. It is a sumptuary law, interfering with a man's household.
It does so in no sense. A man may eat, drink, and wear what he pleases; have wine, brandy, and cider, daily, on his table; put the bottle to his neighbor's lips and make him drunken, and the Maine Law makes no interference.
4. It interferes with and destroys a vast amount of regular business.
So did the Gospel with the business of silver shine making at Ephesus; so does machinery with handiwork; so do canals and railroads with turnpikes; and steam with ship navigation. What then.
5. It renders that unlawful which has ever been held legal.
So did the law against the slave trade, and so do laws against lotteries, and gambling, and horse racing, and other laws too numerous to mention. And why should they not? The good of the community requires it.
6. It will prove destructive to vast liquor manufactories.
If it does it may be a blessed thing for the community; but if we may credit their owners, these will have full employ in supplying medicine, the arts and the Sacrament.
7. Congress regulates commerce and Congress allows importation and sale in 15 gallon casks.
And the Maine Law offers no hindrance, but allows the sale for medicine and artistic and sacramental purposes; forbidding it only where it will be destructive to the body politic.
8. It will be an unwarranted and impolitic interference with the agricultural and commercial prosperity of the State.
If it renders some crops useless, it will leave the ground for others. If it prevents a vast expenditure of money for one article, and that worthless, it leaves it in the hands of the people for expenditure for other articles. If the ten millions of dollars now expended for liquor, were to be expended

for bread, and meat, and clothing, and furniture, and comfortable houses, and education, the public would be no loser, but gainers. Every branch of industry would be benefited and millions of capital would be added to the State.

9. It will interfere with the ready supply of Alcohol for medicine and the arts, and of wine for the Sacrament.

Not in the least; manufacturers and importers and agents may still furnish all that is needed.

10. The public are not prepared for it.
Some portions of the public are most thoroughly prepared; some fathers and mothers, some tradesmen and mechanics, some farmers and shipowners, some drunkards and hard drinkers. The crime, the pauperism, the taxation, the suffering of the state call for it. Some men are not ready, but cannot tell why; and some, because of the cravings of appetite and the love of gain, who never will be.

11. It is a law too stringent in its character.
Not for any willing to obey. It has no feature too hard for the obedient—no stringency but to secure its object.

12. It can never be enforced.
This is begging the question. It was so said in Maine, but has proved otherwise. No other law was ever enforced so easily. It well nigh enforces itself. It but asks for a trial.

13. It will produce a reaction, like the Sabbath Mail Law, destructive to the cause of temperance.
It has not done it in Maine. It may not do it elsewhere; we are willing to trust it.

14. It goes too far, and excludes the temperate as well as intemperate from the purchase and use of intoxicating drinks.

It goes none too far for the good of the community. If it restrains the temperate, it may prove for their own benefit and the benefit of their children, as well as the salvation of the drunken. Philanthropy, patriotism, and religion call for it.

15. It prevents free trade.
So do all license laws. No man has a right to sell without license; and if the State may forbid ninety-nine in a hundred from selling, because the good of the community requires it, on the same principle it may the whole.

16. It disfranchises the freemen of the State; deprives them of their rights.

Rights to prey upon their fellow-men; take their money and give them no equivalent; fill up poor houses, and compel the people to support them. Liquor sellers' rights!

17. It will drive our trade to other States.
What if other States should adopt the Maine law,—what then? Would it not bring their trade for rum here? Surely the liquor sellers of New York would vote for that.

18. We have law enough now.
Yes, full enough to protect liquor sellers in their business, but none to protect the people from their poisons.