

or parts of the political body—the state. They assist the state in performing its functions, as the legs and arms of a man assist him. The moral and social conditions of the cities affect the whole state. The elector in a city votes as an elector of the state. The corruption of a voter in a city means the corruption of the state. The legislator elected as the tool of the slums in the cities, assists in making laws for the whole state. The political health of New York city has injured the political health of New York state for years. With the tendency of vice to congregate apply the local option principle to the other forms of political and moral disease. If Brigamite Mormons establish a town and have a majority of the voters, let them license polygamy. If prostitutes and their followers are in majority in a city, let them license the social evil. If gamblers and their cappers are in majority in a city, let them license gambling. The objection to this would be, the state is a society of justice, and granting vile men and women the power to control, in centres where they congregate, would weaken the power of society to do its work; besides, the effect of these vices is in no sense local, and how can the state in justice give the vicious in cities the power to injure the moral people of the country? The liquor traffic, like all other vile institutions, tends to centralize. It is leaving the country towns and getting in cities where, by its debauched following, it makes and unmakes the officers who have in charge the enforcement of law. The saloon, by its following, elects the city government, the city government appoints the city police, the police arrest a saloon-keeper for violating the law, the saloon-keeper demands protection from the government that he elected, and the government removes the policeman from the force. The people object, but how can you expect a creature (the government) to be greater than the creator (the saloon-keeper)? The slums of the cities are simply great ulcers on the body of the state. There is not vitality enough in the cities to remedy the low condition to which they have been brought by the slums. The only hope is to bring the vitality of the whole body to bear on the diseased centres. The objections to local option are :

1st. The law does not make liquor-selling a crime, but teaches that a majority vote of the people can make it either right or wrong. The effect of such a law is to constantly demoralize public sentiment, because law is always an educator. If it is based on right principles, it educates right; if on wrong principles, it educates wrong.

2nd. It applies to a municipality, which, if it adopts prohibition, may