

### Economy of the Maine Law.

We have been favored by the Hon. Neal Dow, with the following tract, which is No. 1, of a series of Tracts, got up by the friends of the cause in Maine, during their late struggle for the right kind of men, to represent the State in the House of Representatives. Tract No. 1, answers the question, "What has this law done, or what is it likely to accomplish, that it should be overthrown?" The people of the State of Maine have got on the right track, and seem determined to keep it; they first passed this model law, and now they have filled the House of Representatives, by 3 to 1, in favor of its maintenance.

Canada must not be behind the State of Maine. She has set us the example, a noble one it is, and we should not be slow to follow it, with the view of doing our part in the struggle, for struggle it will be, and that with the arch enemy of man's best interests. We will from time to time give what we can gather of the means employed by the people of Maine to effect their object:—

"In a tract of four pages, but a brief answer can be given to these enquiries; but all right thinking people feel a deep interest in the subject.

The Maine Law was framed and enacted, to effect a radical cure of intemperance, which all admit to be the greatest evil in the land; and though but one year old, it has been adopted in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Texas and the Province of New Brunswick—and has passed through one branch of the legislatures of New Hampshire, New York and Pennsylvania; and throughout almost all the States of the Union, its enactment therein is the prominent question now before the people. Why should it not stand in Maine as the fixed law and policy of the State? Who can answer?

Before the enactment of the Maine Law, there were expended by the people of this State, annually, for strong drinks, at the lowest estimate, more than TWO MILLIONS of dollars—and this expenditure involved a loss to the people in time, diminished industry, unthrifty habits and other sources of loss, to an amount of at least two millions more; so that we had an expenditure for these drinks, directly and indirectly, of at least FOUR MILLIONS of dollars per year.

Now what is the result to the State of this great expenditure for strong drinks? Have the people been the happier for it; better fed, better clad, better sheltered, better educated? No, just the contrary. The enormous amount of four millions of dollars has been a dead loss to the people year by year; and even worse than that, for they have not only had no valuable equivalent for it, but have received that which undermines their morals and tends directly to their impoverishment and degradation; while no persons are benefitted by the rum traffic, except a few men who have grown rich in furnishing the means of ruin to their countrymen.

What a vast amount of good may be accomplished by four millions of dollars properly expended! That sum would construct a Railroad every year, as costly as the Atlantic and St. Lawrence; would furnish every city and town in the State with churches, academies, school houses, and libraries, and support comfortably all the pastors and teachers necessary for them; would construct elegant hospitals for the gratuitous accommodation of all our sick; asylums for the reception of the superannuated poor, and all the orphans in the State who have none to care properly for them; and would endow all these institutions with ample funds; would create a fund, whereby all our State and municipal taxes might be paid, so that the people of Maine would be entirely exempt from taxes for the support of government. In

one word, the entire suppression of the traffic in intoxicating drinks within our borders, would render the people of Maine in a few years, in proportion to their numbers, the richest people in the world; they would be the most virtuous and the happiest people; better fed, clad, sheltered and educated, and more industrious and prosperous than any other people. Intemperance would be entirely unknown among them, except as yellow fever is known to us by a few imported cases; our jails and prisons would be tenantless, or nearly so; of paupers we should have none; or if any, so few that almshouses would not be necessary, and vice and crime would be so far reduced in amount, as to be scarcely known to exist among us.

Such will be the effect of the Maine Law, if it remain upon our statute books and be steadily enforced.

Men of Maine, is all this desirable or not? Do you prefer that rumselling, with all its long train of fearful evils, shall exist among us, or that it shall be suppressed, that we may enjoy the wonderful benefits of the change? For many generations, all the governments of Europe and America have felt the rum traffic to be a great evil, and have endeavored to protect their people from its effects as far as possible. All these governments have often enacted laws to regulate and restrain this traffic—they did not think it could be destroyed; but Maine has undertaken to expel this traffic entirely from her borders, and with wonderful success.

The civilized world is now looking with admiration upon this great experiment; if it succeed, the people of Maine will be happy and prosperous, and all the nations of the earth will follow her example; if it do not succeed, it will be through the indifference or timidity of professedly good men, who fear to resist bad men in their efforts to overthrow this law, which restrains their appetites and passions and affects their interests.

In the year during which this law has been in existence, its effects have been more decisive and salutary than its warmest friends had anticipated. The wholesale traffic in strong drinks has been entirely annihilated throughout the State; the grog shops are very few, and are kept in dark and secret places, so that temptation is entirely removed from the way of the young and inexperienced. The quantity of spirits now sold in the State, cannot be more than one-tenth part so great as it was before the enactment of the Maine Law, so that the saving to the people, is already at least one million eight hundred thousand dollars per year. The result of this can be seen in the improved habits and circumstances of our people. Many men, formerly miserable drunkards, are now perfectly sober, because temptation is removed out of their way; many families, before miserable and dependent upon the public, or upon charity, for support, are now comfortably fed, clad, and lodged. Our Alms Houses are not crowded as they were: their inmates are greatly diminished in number, and some of them are nearly empty. Our jails are almost tenantless, some of them entirely so; our Houses of Correction are now almost without occupants, and all this, because few men become paupers or commit crimes except under the influence of strong drinks.

Why should this law be repealed; what evil has it done?

Neal Dow, Mayor of Portland, in his annual report says, "at the commencement of the year, the number of open rum shops in full operation in the city, was supposed to be from 300 to 400; 300 was the lowest estimate; at present there is not one. The receipts of these places per day, at the lowest figure, may be reckoned to average three dollars; this for 300 days excluding Sundays—and Sundays were the best days for such places—would give \$270,000 per year!

It may be thought that this sum is much too large to have been expended annually by the people of this city for intoxicating drinks, but it is believed that the number of grog-