

in drinking, if I abuse my liberty—but not otherwise—and I claim that Prohibition does interfere with my liberty as a temperance man, as a moderate drinker, when you close the bar against me, because there are some people who abuse the privilege. Because John overeats, that is no reason why you should close the dining room against me.

Because John oversleeps and is lazy, that is no reason why you should kick me out of bed. I want to emphasize this point of the argument, for it has not been faced by the Prohibitionists. They keep talking about drunkards and those wasting their money in saloons and so forth, but they have not yet said why the moderate man should be deprived of his enjoyment because there are some who abuse the right.

I know the religious Prohibitionist brings forward the moral or altruistic argument, and says that I should prohibit liquor because it will help to save my drunken brother. I should deny myself for his sake. But denying myself is not Prohibition. Prohibition is compulsion; it is my brother forcing me to that which I don't want to do, and that is not moral. If I wish to deny myself and if all Christians wish to deny themselves for the sake of others, there is no law to prevent them. That would be a very beautiful moral example. But that is not Prohibition. Prohibition is to compel me to be a total abstainer, which in itself, is unchristian. The gospel of Jesus nowhere teaches physical or legal compulsion. It is Moral always. It appeals to the volition of the heart; it makes a new man of one, and leaves him make his own laws.

2. In the next place: Prohibition robs the country of a good and substantial revenue. This assertion opens up the entire economic question. The country derives a big revenue from the liquor trade, and it is money secured without being a burden on anyone. You buy a glass of beer, or a glass of wine, and you are none the poorer. You have secured a personal pleasure and an hour's sociability for your five cents. You have received value for your money, and yet, you have been a