

*Henry.*—They are styled victuallers, which, I suppose, in plain English, means a shopkeeper.

*James.*—Well, so I should say. Now, if every shopkeeper in this town was to open his or her shop at one o'clock, keep it open till three, then close it till five; open it, and keep it open till ten or eleven, what would be the consequence?

*Henry.*—Why, I suppose the police would visit the keepers of the shops, and tell them that it was contrary to law to have their shops open on Sunday, and order them to be immediately closed.

*James.*—Exactly so. Now the legislature, or, as you say, the act of parliament, compels these honest traders, who vend useful and necessary articles, to close their establishments the whole of Sunday, whilst to the dishonest traders, who vend spurious and unnecessary articles, the act of parliament allows them to keep their establishments open for eight hours on the Sunday. Oh, it is an injustice, Henry, that ought to be speedily rectified.

*Henry.*—Well, if every one were like you and me, they would not keep their establishments open for any great length of time, either on Sunday or any other day.

*James.*—Ay, but all are not teetotalers, would that they were. Yet I feel ashamed of myself for having done so little in the cause of total abstinence; for I have often neglected to use my effort in persuading those with whom I have been in company to adopt the principles of total abstinence, and sign the pledge. How is it, Henry, that I never see you at our temperance meetings?