

Kansas the same occurred in 1880. This shows that the people who know most about the law, who are thoroughly acquainted with its merits and its defects, are satisfied, by long experience, that the only way to deal with the traffic is to prohibit it. They are through experimenting. Should we listen to their testimony, or to that of the friends of the liquor traffic?

Liquor laws are remarkable for the difficulties in enforcing them. The opponents of a prohibitory law, to prove that it is inefficient in operation, reason that because it does not annihilate the evil it is a failure. The real question is, does it serve the end better than a license law? But, if a triple alliance of man, women and the devil, to break a prohibitory law, proves the law to be a failure, then the prohibitory law, given to Moses on Mount Sinai, is the masterpiece of failures, and, according to the same reasoning, we should substitute for the prohibitions of the Decalogue, a system of license.

Hooker has said that, "the seat of law is the bosom of God, her voice the harmony of the world; all things in heaven and earth do her homage, the very least as feeling her care, and the greatest as not exempted from her power." Because not merely of its external authority, but because of this strong instinct of reverence which it commands, the influence of a law, though silent, is yet constant and powerful. In this instinct of reverence, and of silent homage to law, which is a part of man's nature, lies the moral force of prohibition as compared to license. By prohibition, the law, with this homage and reverence at its command, points out the path to moral rectitude; by license, the law, with this same homage and reverence at its command, sanctions the path to moral degeneracy.

The remedy offered by the opponents of prohibition is high license, which they claim will eliminate low dives. Perhaps it may accomplish this, but facts do not bear out the contention. Would they try to conciliate an enraged animal by holding a red rag before his eyes? As well try to do this as to try to eliminate intemperance by surrounding its cause with all the enticing allurements which wealth can procure.

What matter to the broken-hearted mother, to the wife and little children suffering from hunger and cold, whether he who would otherwise have been a good son, a good husband, and a good father, procured his first glass of liquor in the gilded and liveried high license saloon, or in the miserable hovel which it may have displaced? The effect is the same. And when