sale of the contents of the packages in which the articles arrived, although the contents thus prostituted are no other than the identical articles whose sale is not to be prohibited. Nor only have we seen this judicial monstrosity fastidiously lauded as a fair and profound distinction, but under the hole in many of our States, of prohibitory laws virtually denying the right inherent in all men, to drink the beverages of their own choice, by absolutely interdicting the sale for such a purpose. It is needless to say that the concurrent right of the Legislature thus to pervert the prerogative of municipal or police regulation into an absolute interdict upon the sale of any article of established use and preference among a free people can never become so evident as to indisputable as the personal right to use it. No political or legislative majority however preponderating—no partial abuse however deplorable—could infuse moral authority into an act so essentially despotic and unjust.

It is evident that when an arbitrary edict of this kind is directed, (has the recent fanatical law of this State) against the sale of those agreeable and social beverages which have been in universal and immemorial use by all civilized nations, and which are cherished by nearly all mankind as personal comforts and refreshments, conducive to social intercourse and intelligence and indispensable to a liberal hospitality—have sons which have so noble uses in the hand of friendship in the social feast and in the public festival, as those generous impulses of our nature of which they are the appropriate pledges and concomitants—it is evident that whenever any prohibitory law is levied against these, it must not only be a despotic mandate, outrageing the feelings and rights of a vast majority of every populous community, but must also become a source of embarrassment and ruin to a far-extending business interest connected with their manufacture and sale by ties of livelihood and dependence. How far that chain of interests may extend cannot be distinctly known until the convulsive shock takes effect; but its connections have already been sensitively indicated in unsuspected quarters, complacently deemed too remote to be affected by its dissolution.

That the destructive force of this infamous enactment will fall first and most directly upon us—the various classes of liquor dealers comprehended in the call of this meeting—is evident from its special provisions for that purpose. It not only utterly interdicts our business and makes criminal a great department of trade which has hitherto been sanctioned, in all Christian countries as reasonable and useful from the time of the hospitable marriage in Galilee to the present hour, but it also seizes, confiscates, and destroys, our entire stock in trade, without compensation or the possibility of redemption. That this vast amount of property, estimated at many millions of dollars, was felonious or otherwise [illegible] is not alleged; that it was so honestly purchased and held under existing laws, as any other description of property which justice and equity protect is undisputed. But a dominant faction of fanatics demands that its power shall be poured forth as a libation to the altar of the idol which they idolatrously worship, and as law-abiding American citizens we are all called upon to make the sacrifice cheerfully, without recompense and without complaint. Thus this is the first instance in the history of the civilized world in which so large amount of personal property, lawfully obtained, was ever thus confiscated to the State, we are well assured; and whether we can look to constitutional redress for such a ruinous outrage, even in this country of rational freedom, is among the provoking uncertainties of the law.

But this first operation of prohibition, however gigantically destructive of personal property, is in reality one of its mildest functions. The twenty or thirty thousand persons directly dependent upon the business as employers, who will be simultaneously thrown out of employment to seek other occupations for the support of their families, at a time of unusual difficulty in this respect and of unprecedented distress to the thousands already unemployed, present a strong appeal to the feeling of ordinary humanity, though it will be heard with indifference if not with fanatical triumph by those authors of the calamity, whose sympathies are alone with the voluntary destitute and disconsolate. To that number of sufferers we might add thousands more, in other sections of the State who, engaged as coopers, bottlers, brewers, draymen and laborers, will speedily become reduced to idleness and want. Of the agriculturists involved in this ruinous tyranny, we say nothing, leaving them to balance account with those country members of the Legislature, who, in prohibiting the distillation and brewing of liquors, while prohibiting their sale when made, may have succeeded in convincing their constituents of their growing conviction that their interests were duly secured.

Upon the extent to which this reckless act of despotism may affect the general mercantile and real-estate interests of this commercial metropolis, and thence all others, we can offer no adequate estimate. That it will seduce many of the smaller dealers to irretrievable bankruptcy and thus cause heavy losses to the larger mercantile, is scarcely a matter of speculation. Equally certain it is, that in losses of rent upon leases now rendered worthless to the tenants who hold them as well as in the delay which must occur in the new adaptation of hotels, taverns, porter houses and groceries, to other modes of occupation, not to mention the cumulative depreciation of other property, unprecedented embarrassments must ensue. A state of things so entirely unexampled in the history of any large emporium of commerce as the closing of all the accustomed places of social intercourse, personal interview, casual refreshment, and current conversation, admits of no other distinct conception than that of general disturbance and confusion, aggravated by a common feeling of indignation and shame toward the groundless and vicious fanaticism to which we have so supinely submitted.

That the coercive limitation of our hotel beverages to Croton water and its decoctions of herbs, will seriously damage the reputation of the City in the estimation of mercantile visitors from the southern and western States who are strangers to tyrannous restraints so degrading to the character of freemen, and so intolerable to habits of self-control and undisputed personal liberty, may be regarded as inevitable. And when to this indignant sense of unbearable deprivation and humiliating restraint be added the conviction that they cannot here find a secure retreat in the private rooms of their hotels, but are ever liable to find, as they assuredly will find if this atrocious law be enforced against our own citizens, that their very bed chambers and closets will be searched by the emissaries of the law, under the alleged assumption that they contain prohibited beverages supplied to them from the cellar, it is not altogether a gigantic assumption that their opinion of the City and people of New-York will not be very highly enhanced.

The duties which the present crisis imposes upon us as liquor-dealers whose personal rights and personal property are to be trampled into the dust with more emphatic degradation and injury than those of any other class of citizens, are, we trust, so manifest in themselves and so imperative, at once upon our self-respect and self-protection, as to be well understood and agreed upon by all. We avail ourselves, however, of the present public occasion to proclaim our sentiments and intentions to our fellow-citizens at large, as well as to those dealers in liquor who may not be present or acting in concert with us in this assembly. For this purpose we respectfully submit to this meeting of the trade a series of earnest, fifty-fifth-worded resolutions, which, if confirmed by your concurrence, will acquire the force of moral and political obligations, insured in the presence of many witnesses. We therefore, only further promise, in the pertinent words of him whose venerated name we first invoked thus, "I know no law as "is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts no "recommendation of law, and it is necessary to fortify or confirm "the attachment." Be it, therefore,

Resolved, That in order to give full and fair effect to the new law of the State, prohibiting the sale and therefore the use, of those established and popular beverages in which we deal, and to test its practical operation and general approval in the eyes of the tyrannous fanatics, political hypocrites and public traitors by whom it was enacted, it shall be enforced impartially in this community upon every class of our fellow citizens, and on all occasions, if it be enforced upon any or at all.

Resolved, That our hotel palaces shall be no more exempt from its virtuous and convincing discipline than the humblest porter-house in the City; and that their gorgeous saloons, their suites of rooms, their public tables, and their most private chambers, shall be equally subject to the search and seizure clause of this aristocratic law with the communest bar-room and the profoundest oyster cellar.

Resolved, That no public banquet or complimentary dinner, whether given in the honor of cruising Legislators, complacent Governors, or the highest or noblest of our own or foreign lands, shall assert the unlawful privilege of furnishing its guests with the grateful beverages of their choice, provided that privilege be denied to the humblest refectory, in regard to the obscurest citizen, at his daily meal.

Resolved, That although this rigidly impartial enforcement of the law was by no means intended or contemplated by the hypocritical and political portion of its authors, yet we will construe it as they construe the Constitution—in direct opposition to its real intent and meaning.

Resolved, That the aristocratic partiality and injustice of this law are manifest in excluding the tenants of every house in any part of which there is any office or place of business, from the privilege of keeping their accustomed beverages, even for private use, while that extraordinary privilege is graciously conceded to the wealthy, who can afford to occupy exclusive houses remote from business appurtenances.

Resolved, That we regard this prohibitory statute as the most flagrant and daring outrage upon every right of person, property and domicil, which it is the object of all just government and legislation to secure, that has any known record in the annals of despotism.

Resolved, That its pretexts are as fanatical and false as its objects and anticipations are visionary and impracticable; it being predicated upon a degree of general immorality and crime arising from the use of the ordinary beverage of civilized men, that does not exist in this State nor in any portion of this country; and it being, at the same time, projected upon the preposterous theory of curing the poverty, vices, and crimes of mankind, and restoring them to Paradise by the cold-water treatment.

Resolved, That it is not to be passively and patiently endured by a people at once moral and manly; that they should be branded with the two-fold stigma inflicted on them by this law, of being so immoral as to require a prohibitory statute to restrain them from their otherwise invincible habit of intoxication, and so unmanly as to submit to this foul disgrace although it were well and truly deserved.

Resolved, That while every observant man in this community well knows, and every candid man in it will readily admit, that he may traverse the streets of New-York from the Battery to the 86th Bridge, and from the rising to the setting of the sun; that he may mingle in its most crowded throngs, in places of business or popular resorts; and that he may even perseveringly explore each and all of its respectable hotels and bar-rooms in succession, with the average probability of not meeting or seeing one drunken person, the foul imputation implied in this law, that drunkenness is our predominant and flagrant popular vice, will be repelled with scorn as a fanatical falsehood, and a mere pretext for sectarian domination, emolument and distinction.

Resolved, That the legal penalties heretofore existing, to restrain the vice of inebriety, and the sale of liquor to known inebriates, would be, if enforced by the offended moral sense of the community, amply adequate to banish its open examples, at least, without any higher degree of legislative severity.

Resolved, That while we deplore the tendency of the new law, unwise in all things and wicked, to increase private and habitual inebriety, by removing the powerful restraint heretofore imposed by public observation; and especially to foster and multiply those places of low resort in which it may be indulged with impunity, in association with every other variety of depravity, we nevertheless believe that no degree of vice or crime which it may promote, or which it may have been enacted to prevent, is half so vile in moral turpitude as the intense and complicated criminality of the law itself.

Resolved, That the effrontery and falsehood which claim for this despotic law the sanction of public sentiment, and the support of a numerical majority of the people of this State, are exposed, in the first particular, by the vast aggregate amount and value of the beverages which it prohibits, as consumed by the people every year; and, in the second, by the political fact that, but for the factious divisions which existed in the Democratic party, the faithful and noble Horatio Seymour would have been elected by a majority of fifty thousand votes, while Myron H. Clark, who now adorns the Chair of State with a purity and intellectual grandeur altogether peculiar to himself, would have been left at but one third of his way thither, covered with the spoil of his journey.

Resolved, That the enactment of any law which limits the right of trial by Jury by our peers, while it inflicts the fines and imprisonments due only to ignominious crimes and appoints execution before judgment, is a gross violation of our national and State compacts, which must, if not arrested, utterly dissolve every tie which binds the States of this Union together.

Resolved, That in accordance with these many momentous considerations, and with the primary object of this meeting, we now announce ourselves a political organization for the restoration of our lost rights, and their future security as well as for those of our fellow-citizens at large.

Resolved, That we will henceforth neither directly or indirectly vote with any political party, or faction of party nor for any candidate for any public office, without satisfactory evidence of a faithful intention on its and his part, to labor for the abrogation of that traitorous law, and to resist the enactment of any other of a like or proximate character.

Resolved, That to this end we pledge ourselves to unceasing and unstinted efforts to extend our State League in cooperation with our fellow sufferers in every other State, and upon the basis of our constitution and by-laws.

Resolved, That we shall emphatically hold all who are engaged in any branch of the trade and yet do not unite in our efforts for the legal resistance and legislative repeal of that law, as greater enemies of the cause than those not interested in the business, who may openly oppose us.

Resolved, That we will sufficiently remember our political friends, and test neither personally nor commercially shall we be apt to prefer our enemies.

Resolved, That we will faithfully cooperate with every branch of trade injuriously affected by the Prohibitory Law, and will cordially meet them in Joint Committee upon our united interests.

Resolved, That, as this most infamous law adds to its aggressive upon every principle of freedom which an American was hoped more precious, the wanton and unprovoked insult of insupportable despotic reign on the very birthday of our national liberty, we pledge ourselves, by every hallowed memory which associates that day to our souls, to merge it on the page of history from the foul stain of that revolting perversion.

Resolved, That we respectfully invite all other minded people to read the proceedings of a meeting held at the Metropolitan Theater, last evening, to approve of and concert with each other and the public on the passage of the new prohibitory of the sale of intoxicating liquors believing that doctrines and sentiments such as were vociferated at that meeting and put forth by their speakers, especially those fulminated by the individual who proclaimed his preference for a despotic form of Government over that under which we live, carry with them their own condemnation.

When the reading was finished, Capt. FRENCH was called for, and was greeted with loud applause. He said:

Mr. President and fellow citizens, prior to seconding the resolutions and address which has now been read, [cries of "Order, order."] I will state that I have received a note from some gentleman outside, who says that there are thousands of men outside who cannot get in. [At this time the back hall of old Tammany was not more than half filled.] He sends up to know if we have no speakers to come down there. [Cheers and cries "Hi, hi, "hi."] I suppose, Mr. President, that we may account for this monstrous gathering here to-night from the fact that the admission to this meeting is free. [Applause.] We require no pecuniary here. Every man who has entered this fight has energy enough to draw down his money, without drawing upon the curious spectators who came together to hear the most curious civings in this City. ["Hi, hi, hi," cheers and hisses.] Mr. President and gentlemen, it may be as well, before we proceed further, to state that the organization termed the Liquor-Dealer's Society should be laid before you. There are persons in this room, who are engaged in this traffic, who have not yet joined in this Association and aided in getting up this monstrous assemblage. They should all join. It is not the money we want; it is the members. We want not only the money of these men; we want their votes. ["Have 'em."] If you succeeded in the Courts, you would but gain merely a respite, and the contest would have to be renewed again next September, for if there are any deficiencies in the law, you have got the same house to correct those deficiencies that passed the law. It is not the Courts that you have to rely on, because by winter, if you beat them in the Courts, you will have another law to deal with ["D—d little ingenuity in that bill."] There is ingenuity enough in that bill to have brought a large meeting together. And those who think that it is powerless may find, to their sorrow, when they come to feel its penalties, that there is more ingenuity in that bill than they dream of. If the liquor interest had not been so sanguine—if they had not ridiculed their friends who were laboring on their part, and come up themselves, and used their whole strength at the fall election—you had not now been called together for the purpose of repealing that law. It has been those gentlemen who have told us that there is no ingenuity, no force of character, no sterling decision to pass a law of this character. They believed that their Legislature did not care to pass it, but they find they are mistaken, and they find that the Church, by the confession of one of its preachers, last night, in a theater in Broadway—[laughter and loud cheers]—coming out before the scenes, and there stating that the Church was united in favor of that law. They find that another hopes that the whole Christian Church will unite, not only for the purpose of converting mankind but for the purpose of calling on the Executive power at Albany for the purpose of burying their bayonets in the bodies of the people. [Cheers.] We find that the intention is to bring out the military; but I trust, and I know, that there will not be the slightest cause for that. [Hisses, and cries of "Order!" "Order!"] The people have too much respect for their own self government to resort to the practices of tyrants and despots. They will obey the law. They will meet it by laws, and when the election comes next fall they will meet them at their ballot-boxes, and teach them that the liberties of the people the people know how to protect. [Cheers.] Gentlemen, it has been stated in our resolutions that the Liquor-Dealers' Society is a political organization. It is a political organization; it is more; it is an organization in which every member has to pledge his honor to vote for any candidate nominated by that Society or by any Convention in this State, or in any other in which this Society has a representation. My word for it that when they are thoroughly organized in this City and in the State from the City to the Lakes, they will scare up a whirlwind that will sweep bigotry, fanaticism, hypocrisy. [Laughter and cheers.] It is true, Sir, that an immense interest like this, which, having borne all the contumely of the Press, and the oppression of corrupt politicians who by trickery got into our Legislature, by preaching a religion which is very pious at that particular era. ["True." "Put it into Goodwin."] But, Sir, the Temperance men, they stood for their candidates like men, and I am sorry to say that the liquor-dealers of New-York did not. If the liquor dealers of New-York—I mean the importer, the brewer, the hotel-keeper, the merchant, the retailer, and everybody, even the bottler—["the consumer"]—put him in if you choose, [Applause.] The Temperance party, although it is evidently but a very small faction, have achieved this law by acting on the balance-of-power principle. Now, we are a balance-of-power party, and we will meet them on that ground when the next election comes on—I mean Primary as well as General—and if you are true to yourselves you will sweep them into obscurity. ["They will lie in as they did last fall."] I think that we should not have any personal remarks, because our friend Raymond is represented up there, (pointing to the Reporters' gallery.) [Laughter and applause.] If all these men come up and join us, what shall we have? Why, the mere men who sell over their bars amount to 6,000 or 7,000 men. Then there are the bottlers, importers, and brewers, all of whom employ a large number of men. Now, take those connected with them, and you will find from 20,000 to 30,000, without soliciting a vote. Counting in outsiders, some 5,000 men can be found to join our Society. Our dues—$1 a year—will give you $20,000 a year, and then with the establishment of an organ in New-York that will be second to none on this Continent, you can sit under your own vine and fig-tree with no one to molest. ["You can go up on Dutch Hill "of a Sunday, too."] Gentlemen, I will not detain you any longer, I merely arose for the purpose of seconding the address; and also now I will state that we do not hold any man trammeled in our Society. Wherever a man joins our Society, and cannot conscientiously vote for the man designated, he has the privilege of resigning; but while he remains with us, he must go upon that old-established usage, and support regular nominations.

Mr. French took his seat amid loud cheering. "Three cheers for *The Herald*," was cried by somebody, but only one was obtained, and that pretty well diluted with hisses.

Cries for "Rynders, Rynders."

The PRESIDENT—One moment, if you please. If you will allow us to conduct this meeting, we shall introduce to you proper speakers. [Loud cries of "Order, "Order."] Before, however, we proceed any further we will take the question on the resolutions.

The resolutions were adopted with but few dissenting voices.

The PRESIDENT said that those who objected to them had the permission of the meeting to leave the room in quiet. ["No—No."]

AMBROSE L. PINNEY was next introduced. The uproar was so great during the first few sentences of Mr Pinney's speech that but few words reached the Reporters' gallery. The cries of "Order" were so deafening that the President interposed, and said:

Gentlemen, keep as quiet as you possibly can, so that your speakers may be heard.

Mr. PINNEY.—I have had an invitation to come here, ["Order, order, order, out there!" "Keep "order yourselves."] I should have expected to have met buoyant hearts, strong lungs, and plenty of boys to have made a hurrah. But when I reflected for a moment that these were not the men who were come here to-night, that it was not upon an occasion which was full of expectation, that it was not the men ["Order, there, at the door," "Order, order," great general uproar."] Men coming more for a hurrah than anything else. When I reflected for a moment that I was to meet here the serious, reflecting, producing, law-abiding community, I was, I assure you, gentlemen, at a loss what to say to you. [Hi, hi—continued uproar. Mr. Pinney's voice rose above the confusion.] Upon this occasion, if you feel as I feel, you will say to yourselves that there is something in this meeting, and the occasion that brings you here, and me here, that is calculated, indeed, to make a man sick at heart. I have never witnessed before, even in this Hall, such a mass. ["Order, order, order."] I have never before been in Tammany Hall upon so solemn an occasion. [Laughter.] I have never been present before when my fellow-citizens, and the very best class of them, have felt constrained to remonstrate against an arbitary and unjust enactment. [Cheers.] Sickening must it be, when men of our law-abiding community, have come into this Hall to set their faces against the establishment of the Statutory law of the State. In this the occasion that they have felt constrained to do so. This is the occasion in which they have felt it a sense of duty to themselves that they should come here and meet at the threshold an arbitary constitutional enactment. [The voice of the speaker was for a few moments lost in the uproar.] Can you look about and see the class of men that is here? [Hi, hi," greeted at the door.] Is they are not the rabble. ["Hi, hi," greeted at the door.] Is it not a matter of excitement [The groans at the door grew shrill and louder. ["Hi, hi."] Our rights have been invaded. [Cries and yells.] This seems to be candid reflection, and this seems to be the inquiry you should make here: What are you to do to oppose this law? Shall you resort to mob force? Clearly not. How, then, can you resist it? Why, resist it as you would the ravings of a madman. Heed not; set it at defiance by a total unrecognition of it; pay no attention to it, and when you are attacked by those fanatics, array against them the laws of your country, and appeal to the tribunals of the land. [Applause.] Mob force should never be resorted to. The time may come when revolution is necessary, but never resort to revolution so long as you have a law left and a Judiciary to appeal to. I say, never resort to a revolution until the Judiciary fails you. ["Hi, hi, hi!"] When comes the necessity for revolution, and it will come, they, you are here to night simply to demonstrate, and, fellow-citizens, you have had a noble example set before you, a precedent that is worthy of your imitation—that of our forefathers; and the blood that runs in your veins ran through theirs, those men that remonstrated against obnoxious and tyrannical laws. I can fancy almost to myself, when I look about this sea of heads here, that I see the congregations that met in those days, when they met seriously to reflect and remonstrate. When they resorted to argument they had found that remonstrance was in vain; they had appealed from day to day to the crowned heads, but in return they had enacted laws that were oppressive to us and to the people; they had refused and they had passed oppressively. The more we complained the more arbitrary was the laws that they passed upon us. When they had done, when they had petitioned, when they had complained, reflection was the order, and not mobocracy. I say, fellow citizens, you have a noble example set before you by the patriots of that day. You are their children, and you have come here to-night in a similar cause. If you have not the crowned heads of England to petition to, you have those who have lorded it over you for the past winter. Why, their legislation should have been to protect the rights of the citizen—that is the legitimate business of legislation. They have taken the reverse of all that; they have attacked not only the rights and liberties of the citizen, but they have gone home and attacked your property, and your business, and your families. [Cheers. "Hi, hi, hi."] What, then, do you complain of? Why, we complain in the first place that you have prostituted the legitimate business of legislation. Instead of legislating for our property, to protect that which it was your business to, you have not only violated it and abandoned it, but you have turned the sword upon it. You have become the aggressors and the attackers of our liberties and our property. You have taken the liberty of legislating over our appetites and when we suffer you to say when we are dry, and when thirsty, and what we shall drink when we are dry, the next thing you will do will be to say what we shall eat and what we shall not eat. I have been told by those who have suffered the sensation, that the sufferings of thirst are tenfold greater than those of hunger. I say if these men are allowed to dictate in this way, you may depend upon it these fanatics will, who are already bordering on insanity, so much so that it would be futile to attempt to reason with them—they would rant and roar like maniacs—yet if you allow them to thus dictate in relation to your appetite, they will attempt other inroads upon the personal right of the citizen to do what he pleases. We can, indeed, find persons already in this community who are dictating what you shall eat. Take the Grahamites, for example. They will tell you that you shall not eat any other bread but theirs. [Laughter.] How long will you submit to this kind of school-boy legislation? Why, if you do not look well to the ballot-box, you do not know but the Grahamites will drop upon you as the Prohibitionists did this winter in Albany, and if there should be a majority of Grahamites in the Legislature, they will pass a law that you shall eat nothing but Graham bread! [Laughter.] It is laughable, but it is really a serious matter. It will bring pauperism upon a large class of the community. How many are here to night who are dealers, who depend upon this trade to prevent yourselves and families from starving? How many are there here who have embarked all their capital in the liquor business, or in carrying on this trade, who will lose all they have if these fanatics have their own way! Suppose when you go home to-night you find your store burnt—I am not speaking in relation to insurance—suppose you find your store burnt, and all your fixtures and stock destroyed, would it not turn more of you out upon the world in perfect paupery. Yet, on the 4th of July next if these men have their way, you will be no better off. Your fixtures are good for nothing to you except for the business for which they were made and your capital expended in them will be a dead loss. Is it possible that men in their senses can say that we are to submit to such laws as these? [Cries of "No," and uproar.] That we shall have a legislative enactment, and submit quietly to it, thus making our best citizens paupers among us? Is it again, Gentlemen, stay to your business. [Applause.] My judgment is that that law which is unconstitutional is no law. ["Good." Cheers and uproar.] I say no man is bound to submit to a violation of the Constitution under which he lives. [Cheers.] I say that a law that is unconstitutional, whether it stands upon the statute-book or not, is a violation of the rights of citizens in other respects, and does not deserve the respect of the community. [Cheers.] But you should be careful and cautious how you resist the law, lest you degrade yourselves. Your judgments will dictate to you how you can best do this.

A VOICE—By vote.

Mr. PINNEY—Yes, that is what I say—by your vote. That will come on in the fall. There are many now who are suffering because they did not use their votes right at the last fall election. [Cheers, and cries for O Keefe.]

The CHAIRMAN—Is Mr. Wager in this house? [Repeated cries for O Keefe, and much confusion and uproar.] You must submit to the arrangements made by the Committee for this meeting. We have invited gentlemen here from a distance, and before we can ask or call upon any other speakers, we must know whether those we have invited are present. [Repeated calls for O'Keefe and Rynders, and much confusion in the body of the meeting.] I have been informed that Mr. Wager, from Dutchess County, would be in the City, and at this Hall this evening. Is he present? It is quite possible that he may have been in, and not able to gain admission. If he is within hearing of my voice, feeble as it is, I trust he will step forward. [Mr. Wager did not make his appearance.] As Mr. Wager does not appear to be present, I will call on Mr. Munday, member of the Legislature from New-York City—one of our friends there—who will address you now. [Cheers.]

Mr. MUNDAY was received with applause. He said:

FELLOW CITIZENS: I recognize this assemblage as one of the most dignified and respectable that has ever congregated within the walls of any public building in the City of New-York. [An ironical cheer from several persons followed this announcement.] You have assembled here in the majesty that befits the Empire State. You have come here to consult and interchange sentiments with each other for the purpose of remonstrating against and denouncing one of the most oppressive and fanatical enactments which has ever disgraced the statute book of any legislative body. The subject which has congregated such a vast body is of great importance to every citizen of the State, not only to you as liquor dealers, but to every citizen, whatever may be his business or occupation. The law which has lately been enacted by the Legislature of our State, I say without fear of contradiction—and I also said it upon the floor of that House, in my place there, Was conceived in fanaticism, rocked in the lap of bigotry, and matured into its present position and shape by hypocrisy. [Cheers.] I always thought until the final passage of that bill—I really thought the disciples and apostles of temperance throughout the State never desired or wished an enforcement of that law. I believed that they desired to have it the constant subject and theme of agitation. I believe they wanted to have it discussed and cast broadcast throughout the land on purpose to resort to it as a means of substance; but that in their fanatical zeal and enthusiasm they have overstepped the bounds and limits which they had prescribed for themselves, but now that it is passed, they may exclaim in the language of Shakspere:

"Othello's occupation's gone."

["That's good." Cheers.] Ah, fellow-citizens, it was argued upon the floor of the Senate, that a majority of the electors, by the last Gubernatorial election, had declared by their votes in favor of this Prohibitory bill. I deny it. [Cheers.] I state that if the question at issue had been Myron H. Clarke and his Prohibitory bill on the one hand, and Seymour—[loud cheers]—with his veto on the other—I beg pardon for placing him in such a connection—[laughter]—that Myron H. Clarke would have been, at this day, weighing nails behind his counter, and perhaps furnishing splendidly polished screws for the coffin which would contain himself and his obnoxious Prohibitory bill. [Laughter and applause.] Fellow citizens, this bill was introduced into the Assembly almost in its present shape, and it was passed with very few modifications or amendments. It was introduced into the Assembly; it was made the caucus-measure of the party who have now the control of the State. It was discussed in their private caucus. They appeared upon the floor the following morning, and they were all drilled and marshaled to unite as one man; and when the king of the caucus in the discussion of this bill nodded his dictatorial head, all those who were aware of his signs flocked around him, so that section after section was adopted, notwithstanding the most liberal propositions and amendments that were advanced, with all the reason, logic and common sense that could be brought to bear to show the abuses of the law and its heinous features—notwithstanding all these attempts, they passed the bill, independently of anything, however reasonable or salutary. But, fellow-citizens, you cannot expect a pure stream from an infected spring. [Cheers.] I say, that New-York was not represented upon the passage of this bill, when we compare the vote for Horatio Seymour with that for Myron H. Clark in this City. New-York the great commercial emporium of the Western World—so long famed for its intelligence and its patriotism—I say never desired the passage of that bill passed by the Legislature. The issue at the last election was not upon that bill, and I say now that if the question were again proposed to the people of the State upon these two issues, that there would be an overwhelming majority against Myron H. Clark, even with all those who voted for him at the last election. [Cheers.] I consider that it is one then, that each and every one of you, in your individual capacity should exert whatever influence you possess with each other, and with your friends and your neighbors, to have not a single infringement of this law, and I have no fears whatever but that such will be the result. But if you do not prove its unconstitutionality, this I know you can do, and I know you will do at the next election: you will show the State of New-York, show the Union, and you will show the whole world that New-York, when she speaks, speaks in liberal, enlightened, and trumpet tones; that you will sweep from power these fanatic bigots that now disgrace the State, and that you will bury them so deep in the grave of oblivion, that the long arm of resurrection will never reach them to galvanize them into life. (Cheers.) I feel highly honored for having been invited to express my feelings upon the subject. I feel here in this hall that I am in the majority. I felt on the floor of the House of Assembly that I was in the minority.

A VOICE. I am sorry that it was so.

Mr. MUNDAY. So was I.

ANOTHER VOICE—Go on Tom.

Mr. MUNDAY—I say that by the combined efforts of the liquor sellers we shall be able to carry the next election, and that New-York will never allow herself to be controled by fanatics or bigots. [Cheers and confusion.]

Cries were here raised for O Keefe, and others for Rynders. Mr. Rynders made his appearance near the stand.

A VOICE on the platform—Bring him up here; he does not weigh above twenty-five pounds. [Laughter, noise and great confusion, mingled with loud cries for O Keefe.]

The CHAIRMAN—You had better wait, please. It is understood that Mr. O Keefe will be here in a few minutes. [Renewed cries for Rynders.] There are a number of replies from gentlemen who were invited to this meeting, which the Secretary will read to the meeting. [Renewed uproar and calls for O Keefe, Van Buren, &c., but these gentlemen did not appear.] We are bound to read the letters.

After considerable efforts by the Chairman, some degree of order was restored, when

The SECRETARY read a communication from Mr. Commeford.

The CHAIRMAN—There are several letters before us. [Cries of "Rynders!" "Rynders!" and much confusion in the body of the Hall.] You may call for Mr. Rynders all night, and he won't speak until I ask him. If you will be quiet and preserve order—[Repeated cries for "Rynders."]

Mr. RYNDERS appeared at the back part of the platform, and said: I have no intention to address the meeting. I have nothing to do with it any more than any one of you.

The CHAIRMAN—We have many letters, but we will dispense with the further reading of them, and shall probably publish them in the newspapers. I expect still that Mr. O Keefe will be here. Is Mr. O Keefe in the room?

No response was received.

The CHAIRMAN—As Mr. O'Keefe does not appear to be present, and we have a band present, I will ask the musicians to give you Yankee Doodle or something else. [Renewed cries for Rynders.]

The noise and confusion, which now became beyond the control of the Chairman, was at last subdued by the band performing the Marseilaise Hymn.

The CHAIRMAN—If Mr. O Keefe is not in the room, I will call on a gentleman to speak, who I have no doubt will come forward with my special request, not only for myself but on behalf of other members of the Association. I now call on Captain Rynders to speak. [Applause.]

Captain RYNDERS then ascended the platform, and was received with loud applause. He said: Mr. Chairman, I would most cheerfully comply—[Cries of "Come forward, Rynders," "Three cheers for "Rynders."]

Three cheers were then given, amid which

Captain RYNDERS came forward, and said: I have got some notes from one of the previous speakers; I have a good mind to speak from them. [Laughter and applause.] I assure you it is against my will that I come forward here to speak. It was not my intention to say a word in regard to this question. You all well know I have not one single cent of interest in the liquor question, pecuniarily. I come not here to defend the liquor interest. I have something more important for myself to defend. I came here to defend my social rights, and not the liquor interests, [applause,] although it is an important interest. Everything that has been said here to-night—I mean *every sensible thing* that has been said—in relation thereto, I subscribe to. I do not subscribe to every thing that has been said. I have peculiar notions of my own. I am sometimes wrong, and if I am not mistaken, I am sometimes right. I stand here the advocate of personal and social rights—not the peculiar rights of the liquor interests. I grant you, notwithstanding, that it is an important right—that the infringement of that right is the infringement upon that right, upon your right, by a despotic law, that takes away the right from you, also takes it from me. (Cheers.) As a gentleman said before, I eat what I like when I can get it, and drink what I like when I can get it. I thank God I have hitherto had what I want to eat, and as much as I needed to drink. I have no doubt there are many persons here personally acquainted with me, and who would, at any time, tell the truth in preference to a lie, that will say they know I am about as temperate as any man that can be found in the State of New-York, the whole course of my life he ever saw me drunk, or even saw me make use of intoxicating liquor; notwithstanding that I stand here as the advocate of the right of people, to protest against the Maine Law that takes away the right of liquor dealers. [Cheers.] My friends that spoke before me said that this is a law-abiding, order-loving people. So we are. We obey the law as long as the law is just, and when it is unjust and oppressive I am not a law-abiding citizen. [Cheers.] But the question you seem to have here to-night is how to resist this law. We will make appeals, and meet law with law, and all question of the constitutionality of the law will have to be tested. I have no doubt but that the rights of the citizen are violated, our social rights are infringed upon. But then the law does not always give us our rights. Then how are we to get them? We may protest against it, but the lamb might protest against the jaws of the wolf when he is hungry. Protests will do no good. I do not advocate mob law.

A VOICE—"Nor do I."

Capt. RYNDERS—You are right in that. It is the peaceable citizen that secures respect, and is best able to maintain his rights. We don't want mobs in this country, but it may be necessary, in order to maintain our rights, that we have revolution on this, as well as on other subjects. [Cheers.] At the present time there may be no necessity for either revolution or mob-law. Yet that time may come, and it is the business of this meeting and your main object in being here to-night, to prevent that time from coming when it is necessary for us to appeal to the force of arms to protect our rights. That is the appeal that all men make. That is the appeal that all men on this earth have had to make, for their is not a single solitary spot on the Almighty's footstool where men have not had to fight for their rights. Mobs, even, are sometimes necessary, although God forbid that it should become necessary in this case. Yet we may have to fight to protect our rights. Now the gentleman said to-night that two great parties of this country when they stood arrayed against each other, that there is never any great infringement upon the rights of the people; and why? Because the party that did it sinks into insignificance, and is put down by the people. They will not submit to tyranny in this land of freedom. [Cheers.] Reference has been made this evening to the meeting of last night. I remember, in reading, that one of the speaker's said: "This is the voice of New-"York." My God! what a voice was there! [Laughter.] The voice of priests and old women! [Great laughter.] Suppose an army of 50,000 were to land upon the Sound, twenty miles from here, or upon Staten Island would you call that the voice of New York? It would be the voice of "Flee from "the wrath to come!" [Tremendous laughter and applause.] One man stated that the church was violent against us. Let us look at that a little. I have always been in favor of maintaining the church in its original purity, and as long as clergymen stick to their legitimate calling, I am not for touching the church while good morals are to be maintained; they may come from the pulpit as well as from any other source, and perhaps better. The preachers of doctrine have a right to preach their doctrine to secure the salvation of souls. But, when clergymen descend into the dirty arena of politics, I have been down into it head over heels a thousand times myself—[loud laughter]—they lose the respect of every honest man. [Applause.] We like not the association of Church and State; "it offends "us." [Great laughter and applause.] I pay for a pew, but seldom go. I have not been known to disturb a religious congregation in my life. You may say that has nothing to do with the subject. It has a great deal. We submit, in this country, to no political, nor ecclesiastical tyranny, which is worse. [Great applause.] It has been charged in our State, and more especially in Massachusetts, that certain priests are interfering in politics—I mean Catholic; and that there was great danger that Bishop Hughes was going to overthrow American liberty, and turn this country to his own account. I do not say that there is not not that there is not, any such danger; but it is a gross injustice to charge this to the Catholics, when we see the Protestants interfering more every day, and the people unprepared for it. [Loud applause.] Why are we banding against them, when the others have their fingers to our throats, and are choking the life-breath out of us? Look at their proceedings last night! I have nothing against the Catholics. I am a Protestant, but I leave every man to choose his own religion; only this, if the Catholic tries to oppress me, I shall fight against him; and if the Protestant tries the same, I will resist him too in the same way. [Great applause.]—allusion has been made to night to politics and political parties; I am a politician; but, regardless of politics, I aver that I will not vote for any man who restricts my personal rights, or those of any of my fellow-citizens; and he who does is a baser slave than I suppose lives on American soil.

A VOICE—Ride them on a rail. [Laughter.]

Capt. RYNDERS—No; they have got on a rail that will ride them out of sight in a very short time. Gov. Clark has been mentioned with some abuse. He is the Governor of this State, and as such I respect him; I may, and will repudiate his acts; but I am an American citizen (I do not mean that I am a Know Nothing) and I respect the Chief Magistrate of this State. At the last election I supported Gov. Seymour to the best of my power; so did Mr. French; but others were not so active as they ought, they said: "Oh, they dare not do it." There is nothing a fanatic will not do; he will dare to do what a brave man will scorn to do. We do not like a sick mouse or a supernaturated rat to run over us—they will do what nobler animals will scorn.

A VOICE—You are out of order.

Captain RYNDERS—What does the gentleman say? That I am out of order? He probably thinks so; but I have a right to my opinion too, and I think I am in order; it is only a difference of opinion. [Loud laughter.] Now, gentlemen, I have had my cold renewed by attempting to address you, as I did not intend to do. So I will conclude by saying that I will not bear oppression. You will always find me ready to speak, and to fight, if necessary, in defense of our political rights.

Three cheers for Rynders were called for and given with good will.

Captain TURNER was next introduced. He said:

Mr. President and fellow citizens—I do not believe that a single argument is necessary for me to use. I only came here at this late hour to say that I will ever, so long as I live, be with my fellow citizens in resisting any unjust and oppressive law. [Applause.]

The meeting called for "Music," and the Band played "Hail Columbia."

Mr. FRENCH stated that all liquor-dealers who desired to join the Liquor-Dealers' Association might do so at the Westchester House till the 1st May, afterward at the Grand Lodge Room, National Hall. He said: We have declared ourselves in permanent session till we embody the major part of all engaged in the business.

Mr F then moved an adjournment.

The CHAIR put the motion; there were some noes, but the Chair decided the motion carried. The band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner," and the assemblage began to leave the room.

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