# Business Notices.

## THE LIQUOR-DEALERS AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY.

MOVEMENTS OF COL. VANDERPOOL.

We have had occasion before now to warn the Liquor Dealers against the insidious wiles of proscribed politicians, who endeavor to attach themselves to the organization with no other view than that of controlling it for their own benefit, or to subserve their own party ends. Whenever a new party organization arises these gentlemen immediately volunteer to take it under their paternal charge, confident in their conceit that no one can doubt their ability as leaders, and that they have only to offer their services in order to be at once intrusted with command and control. But it is for the very reason that they are so well skilled in political manoeuvers that we distrust them. It is because they are so intimately versed in all the intricate movements of political machinery that we fear to trust ourselves in their hands. Recent events have justified our fears, and proved that the apprehensions entertained by many of our friends were but too well grounded. We learn from Albany that the machinations of Col. Vanderpool of Buffalo, to make the Liquor Dealers an appendage of the Soft party, have succeeded in producing some effect in the first named city. Col. Vanderpool has induced the Albany society to follow the example of defection set by him at the extreme Western limit of the state, by repudiating a portion of the nominations made at the Convention of the 5th of October, of which Convention Col. Vanderpool was himself a member. We learn also that similar movements have been made in the Counties of Dutchess, Orange and Westchester—with what effect remains to be seen.

Now we propose to examine the claims which Col. Vanderpool has on the confidence and respect of the Liquor Dealers. We propose to show his connection with the movement, how far he is committed to it, and what motives as indicated by his conduct, caused him to take part in it. Some time during the month of June last a circular, signed by Mr. John Taylor, was was received by some prominent Liquor Dealers in this city, requesting the members of the Liquor Dealers' Society to meet a committee of gentlemen at Albany on the 5th of June, to take into consideration the propriety of calling a State Convention opposed to the Maine Liquor Law. When the gentlemen from this city arrived in Albany they were astonished to find present persons from every part of the State, so that the meeting appeared to be rather that of a Convention than a Committee. The persons who took the most active part in this proceeding were prominent members of the Soft party, who had no direct interest in the trade. The evident intention was to break down the independent organization of the Liquor-dealers and to use them as Softs. This might have been a very good move for Col. Vanderpool and the Soft politicians who had allized the wires, but it would have been fatal to the Liquor-Dealers as a party. A gentleman from New-York remonstrated against any action except in the capacity of Liquor-Dealers for the very obvious reason that if they should extend their organization so as to embrace all who were opposed to the Maine Law, they would open the door for a multitude of persons from other parties—opposites and infidels—who would rush into it in order to serve their own interests or the interests of their respective parties. But these terms or the interests of their respective parties. But these sound and discriminating views were overruled by the majority of the persons present, locky politicians who evidently had no other motive than to absorb the Liquor Dealers' organization and to render it an integral portion of the Democratic party.

The same attempt, as to the development of the plan, was renewed at a Convention of the Liquor-Dealers held, for the purpose of making preliminary arrangements, on the 8th of August. Col. Vanderpool and his coadjutors appeared there and attempted to carry out the plan of changing the name of the organization, and opening the door for designing politicians. Fortunately the attempt failed. Subsequently a Convention of Liquor-Dealers was called to meet at Syracuse on the 5th of October, on which day a Convention of the Constitutional Right party was called to meet at the same place. On the latter Convention Col. Vanderpool was a member, and obviously supposed that he had it packed to suit his purposes. It was chosen, not in the manner in which conventions are usually chosen, but in the manner in which conventions are usually called, that is, it was called together by circular letter, and was in consequence of a large majority of Soft politicians, kept in countenance by just enough Hards to make a show of decency. But in spite of the precautions which had been taken, the Liquor-Dealers attended in larger numbers than had been anticipated, and carried out the disorganizers. So far as the Conventions were concerned the plot was a decided failure. The ticket was ratified by both Conventions, and thus their action became binding on their members. The Soft ticket was not adopted, as the Soft politicians had hoped, and just to that extent Col. Vanderpool and his lieutenant, Mr. Hendricksen, were disappointed. But so lucrative a politician was not to be baffled by such trifling obstacles as State Conventions, even though he had himself been a member, and might be honest, straightforward traders, like the Liquor-dealers, be supposed to be bound by their action. No such scruples of honor or of conscience are suffered to interfere with the current of Col. Vanderpool's calculations. Two failures only sufficed to prepare him for a third effort. No sooner had the Convention adjourned than he returned to Buffalo, called a meeting, and procured the repudiation of the very ticket he had just assisted in making. This movement of the chief disorganizer at Buffalo was met with a response from his assistant at the opposite end of the State. The Albany meeting is Hendricksen's reply to Vanderpool. It is nothing more than the last spasmodic effort to break down the Liquor-Dealers' party as a distinct organization and absorb it into the ranks of the Softs. Col Vanderpool and his assistant care no more for the Liquor-Dealers than for the Black republicans. They want to elect the Soft ticket and if they accomplish that, the Liquor-Dealers and their interests will be forgotten in two days.

## THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.

One of the most important principles involved in the liquor question, to be set aside or established at the ballot box in the November elections, is the inviolability of the rights of property.

Our constitution guarantees to its citizens the undisturbed possession of all property honestly obtained, with full exercise over its distribution, excepting only cases where a mental imbecility exists in its possessor.

It would be absurd to suppose that the original framers of that constitution intended to confer, among State rights, the power to our local governments to set aside an established national principle.

A process thus confirmed would produce constant collisions between our State and national legislatures, and give rise to a contest for supremacy which must ultimately terminate in anarchy or despotism.

If the inviolable right of property be as we contend it is—an established national principle—no local government has the power in any case, to circumscribe its benefits or to interfere with its free and full exercise; the attempt cannot be otherwise than unconstitutional, being in direct opposition to the established laws of our country.

The foundations of commerce would be shaken to their center if the right to purchase should cease to imply that of disposing of our purchases.

In this view we consider the passage of the Maine Law act as a direct attack on a great constitutional right handed down to us by the wisdom of our forefathers, and which we are bound to transmit unimpaired to our posterity; an attack not only on the millions invested in the liquor business, but on every species of property throughout our country.

The isolated application of assumed power, acknowledged by the silence of a people, has often in the history of nations become universal, and they have awakened from their political lethargy only to behold the last pillar which supported the temple of their liberties crumbling beneath the hand of despotism, without the power to arrest its decay.

The contest between the enemies and the friends of the Liquor-Dealers' Association is a national as well as sectional issue; the principle which they seek to establish a right to seize upon the property in the shape of alcohol, may assail every other investment. The artisan, the mechanic, the farmer, the producer and consumer, among all classes of our citizens, may become the victims of the application.

We feel assured that our citizens generally will accord to the justness of our remarks on this important issue; that they will look far beyond the limits of its present operation—to its foreshadowings in the future; that they will see the insecurity in which all species of property must be held if the principle of sectional interference in national rights is not once and forever abolished at the ballot box; that they will view the election of the candidates chosen by the Liquor-Dealers' association not only as a proper elevation of men to offices of trust who have resisted an unjust encroachment on individual and constitutional rights but as a means to destroy in its incipiency an assumed principle, dangerous in its tendencies, universally destructive in its application, and subversive of the best interests of the country.

No sacrifice of political opinion is required by the association to which we have referred—it embraces citizens of a political creeds—the Whig, the Democrat, the Hard, Soft and Half-shell may be found among its members; it opens the door to men of all parties and invites them to unite on an issue more extended in its consequences than any that has agitated our country since the period of the Revolution; it is in every sense a sectional and national union for the defense of established rights, and as such demands, as it will receive, the warm support of every friend of Freedom in our coming political contest.

## COERCION AND MORAL SUASION.

In the appeal shortly to be made to the ballot-box on questions connected with our City and State politics it becomes the special political duty of every citizen in the exercise of his franchise to offer a voluntary homage to moral right and a determined opposition to ill-timed, unnecessary and illegal coercion.

Had the principles which governed the original movement in the cause of Temperance been fairly carried out—had the moral suasion which produced the auspicious results of 1849 and subsequently, been left unshackled by political intrigue and the attempted enforcement of unjust penal enactments—had the "Carson League" in its ruthless career not sought to trample on individual liberty, and to "crush out" resistance by threats of fine and imprisonment—the "Liquor-Dealers' Association" would not at this day possess that decided and distinct political influence on which its enemies look if not with astonishment, at least with dismay.

It has been said, and truly, that an individual may be prosecuted into notoriety. The saying is applicable also to communities—and in no instance within our recollection has it been more completely verified than in the new sectional issue recently carried on against many of our citizens connected with the liquor business; their "association" has been literally nurtured by its enemies; it has increased tenfold by each successive persecution of its members; from a nucleus called into existence by imperious necessity, its proportions have become truly gigantic; no longer imploring justice at the doors of our legislative halls, it demands it in a voice to which our State legislature cannot be inattentive, and which must produce a decided impression in the formation of our national Congress.

The principles of the "Carson league," though at present directed against the liquor dealers of our State and city, involve an abstract question of civil and political right, and if not overruled at the ballot box, may hereafter be used to subvert our most time-honored local institutions, and to tear from us our best and dearest privileges.

That our Judiciary has declared the Maine Liquor Law to be unconstitutional, and nobly refused to carry out the measures of its advocates, furnishes no positive security for the future; it has done its duty, but we cannot answer for its successors; the people, the only true source of right, must be consulted. Their election will elevate to power none but the friends of Impartial Justice.

We are no friends to intemperance; we look upon the individual who seeks by moral suasion to remove this evil from among us, as a great benefactor to mankind. We honor and respect his motives; but when its professed advocates, discarding those only legitimate means of reformation, seek to make its cause subservient to the purposes of insatiable ambition or political cupidity, it is time to tear the mask from the face of the hypocrite and expose him to the gaze of honesty and truth.

## THE PROHIBITIONISTS AND THE JUDICIARY.

The Liquor-dealers are frequently accused of attempting to exact pledges from judicial candidates in regard to the manner in which they would decide questions of constitutional law if elected. We have already shown that this accusation is false, and that the liquor-dealers have only sought to learn the opinions of candidates on the whole policy and propriety of the law. We have also shown that this is perfectly legitimate, and corresponds with the action of all political organizations in making their nominations. We venture to say that the prohibitionists have not nominated a single candidate for a judgeship of whose position on that question a shadow of doubt remains in their minds. The accusation of attempting to exact pledges comes with a very ill grace from them. We believe that they have gone astray for her. We believe that they will not nominate, and will not support for a judgeship one man who is not directly pledged to them to maintain the constitutionality of the liquor law and to give it the countenance of judicial sanction. Indeed they have publicly avowed that they would not vote for any man of whose opinions on this point they were not assured.

The judiciary, as at present constructed, was not chosen with reference to any such question; yet many judges after full and impartial examination, have decided that the Prohibitory law is an invasion of personal rights and an infraction of the Constitution. Will the Prohibitionists support a single one of those judges? Most assuredly not. Will they not do all in their power to defeat them? Everybody knows that they will. Why do they make nominations for the judiciary, if not to secure judges devoted to their views? The accusation they bring against the liquor dealers is only intended to hide their own proceedings from public view. The liquor dealers have explicitly expounded as principle the policy of requiring pledges from judicial candidates. Let the prohibitionists make the same official declaration, and act upon it, before they claim credit for sincerity or superior virtue.

## ULTIMATE EFFECT OF THE MAINE LAW.

The Prohibitionists contend that if they can once carry their pet measure into effect, all the evils of drunkenness will disappear with the disappearance of the means of gratifying the desire for stimulants. The argument is specious but false. The light of history, by which alone a philosophic eye should examine such questions, makes its fallacy plainly visible. The Maine Liquor Law may be new in form and new in its application, but the records of the past furnish many parallels of its principle. History is crowded with examples of the efforts of governments to regulate the private conduct, the domestic economy, and even the political and religious opinions of individuals by means of legal enactments. Scarcely a sect in religion, in politics, or in philosophy, has ever arisen in the world which has not advocated the necessity, and frequently adopted the practice, of forcibly imposing its views on society. The love of power seems to be inherent in the human bosom; and power itself is an instrument apparently so efficacious, that men are strongly tempted to use it for the attainment of whatever object they deem desirable. They are impatient of delay; they and the process of reasoning either too much for their abilities or too slow for their desires. They are anxious to behold the practical operation of their theories, just as the inventor of a machine forges to see it in motion.

Convinced of the truth of their systems, they wish to put them in practice at once. They cannot wait for the gradual effects of reason when they can avail themselves of the rapid and tremendous power of the law. Historical records abound with illustrations of this truth. The persecutions of the early Christians by the Pagan Romans; the persecutions of Christian sects by each other; the contests between the Arians and the Catholics; the image-worshipers and the image-breakers; the Catholics and the Protestants; the Jesuits and the Jansenists; the persecuted protestants and republicans by monarchists and monarchists by republicans, are all manifestations of the principle. Yet these contests in which differences of opinion have involved society have shown that though force may be in appearance the shortest, it is not reason is the surest method of establishing truth. The Italians continued to worship images, and the Iconoclasts persisted in destroying them after they had been burning and crucifying each other for hundreds of years. After the wars and the revolutions of three centuries, after the massacre of the Huguenots by Charles and the burning of the Catholics by Elizabeth; after the victories of Gustavus and the triumphs of Charles V, the Catholics and the Protestants divided equally between them the empire of the European mind.

Persecution may kill, but it cannot persuade. More heathens were converted by the preachings of Augustine than by the sword of Charlemagne. Western made more converts in a day than Islamism the Koran could have made in a century. Gough makes more sober people in an hour than the Maine Liquor law could make in a year. Wherever force is successful in establishing religious or political doctrines—wherever terror usurps the place of reason and argument is banished by the sword—it is followed by a stagnation of intellect which is fatal to progress, fatal to truth, fatal to liberty. Independence of thought expires with independence of action and the mind as well as the person becomes a slave to the despotic authority which dictates opinions and laws at the same time.

It is fortunate for mankind that another law governs humanity and society, which is of equal, perhaps superior, vigor. These two principles—the love of power and the love of independence—have waged with each other a ceaseless war. Reason is the only mediator between them. Political philosophy has failed to reconcile the manner in which they may be reconciled, or at least caused to act in harmony, by allowing to the majority the right to rule, within a restricted sphere, and with an inviolable regard for the recognized rights of the minority.

It is a law of the moral as well as of the physical world, that action and reaction are equal. The force of the recoil is measured by the force of the blow. The persecutions of Diocletian prepared the way for the conversion of Constantine. The fires of Smithfield were succeeded by the triumph of the reformation. The tyranny of the Bourbons gave birth to the license of the revolution; the license of the revolution paved too way for the despotism of the empire. The alien and sedition laws of the elder Adams heralded the success of Jefferson and the democracy. Macaulay draws a brilliant picture of the contrast between the state of society in England under the reign of Charles and under the Commonwealth. The Puritans, Puritanism attempted to England, what its legitimate descendant is now attempting in America. It endeavored to regulate the customs and the habits of individuals, by its own notions of propriety. For a time, England was converted into a vast conventicle. A whole nation lifted up its voice to Heaven in accordance with the most approved forms of Puritan worship. The saint and the sinner sat together beneath the droppings of the sanctuary. Petitions for office and petitions to Heaven were both offered up in a nasal twang. The avenues to Zion and the avenues to power were forbidden to the gay coats and silk gowns of the cavaliers and the Episcopacy, and were only open to the solemn garb and subdued colors of the Puritans. Theatres were closed as temples of Satan; amusements, always regarded as innocent, were denounced as inventions of the devil. A cheerful countenance was considered an evidence of worldly thoughts—an upturned eye and a measured voice were regarded as infallible indications of spiritual grace. For a time it seemed as if all England was on the straight road to Heaven, and as if the regime of the Puritans had destroyed licentiousness, abolished profanity and established the reign of the Saints on earth. Less than a generation served to dispel the illusion. A few short years were enough to prove that the Puritans had made hypocrites instead of making converts. Even the tyranny of Charles II was welcomed as a relief from the tyranny of the Saints. The nation fled from the big try of the commonwealth, only to fall into the license of the Restoration. Never had the strength of the Episcopacy been so great; never had the Puritans been regarded with so much contempt. The forced morality of the republic was succeeded by a miasma of licentiousness. The Court was a brothel, and the nation imitated the Court. Never had the theater been so popular, yet never before nor since has it been so degraded. The English literature of the Restoration is a living monument of the reaction of that era. The exclusion of the drama in its best form gave birth to the drama of Beaumont and Fletcher. The authors of the time of Charles II have written passages which would have disgraced the pages of Aristophanes or Petronius. Actions and expressions were welcomed upon the stage which would scarcely have been tolerated by a Greek or Roman audience. The poetry of Rochester succeeded to the psalms of the Covenanters. The exile of the actors was followed by the reign of Nell Gwynne. In fact, every peculiarity of bigotry and intolerance that characterized the commonwealth found its antithetical excess in the days of the Restoration.

We might safely predict that just such consequences would follow the victory of the Prohibitionists in this country. Human nature here is the same as human nature everywhere else. It is an old saying that it is an easy thing to lead a horse to the water, but it is not so easy to make him drink. On the contrary it is extremely difficult to keep men from liquor when they wish to go to it, or to prevent them from wanting to drink when they have the desire. The Maine Law might make people hypocrites, but it could never make them temperate. The more stringent its provisions the sturdier would be the resistance it would inevitably provoke. Even could it be enforced for a time, it would be liable to repeal by any fluctuation in popular opinion, and the extent of the consequent reaction would be precisely proportionate to the effects of the law when in operation. A community made temperate by force would certainly get drunk by choice whenever constraint might be removed. The ultimate result would be an aggravation of the very evils the law is intended to remedy.

## THE CONSTITUTION INDIVISIBLE.

We cannot, to please the Prohibitionists, dissever the Constitution into fractional portions, each having a peculiar adaptation to sectional views on particular subjects. One species of property cannot be placed under the aegis of its protective influence, and another denied that privilege.

The universality of its application is the corner-stone of its foundation, cemented by the blood-bought sacrifices which secured its adoption, hallowed by the memories of the wise and good—the sachems and the sages of American freedom.

The sacred protection of property, by whatever name it may be designated, is one of the links in the great constitutional chain. Let it be broken, and the massive instrument which surrounds and protects the temple of our liberties crumbles into dust.

Upon the same principle that the Prohibitionists would deny constitutional protection to property under the name of alcohol, they would also withhold it from every other article of commerce, at her foreign or domestic.

We claim the protection of constitutional law over all conditions of property, as the effect of a general and irrevocable principle of right established in 1776. We have yet to learn from the Prohibitionists why alcohol is not property, or to hear any argument by which it is placed beyond the pale of the Constitution. In the absence of these necessary and required evidences, we call on our friends and the supporters of the Constitution to set demagogism on this question at rest forever, at our Fall elections.

## SUBTERFUGES OF THE PROHIBITIONISTS.

The advocates of the Maine Liquor law, unable to sustain their vaunted declaration that the people would demand its enforcement from one end of the State to the other, like the drowning man, are willing to lay hold of any straw that can save them and their vessel from sinking amid the waves of public indignation. Boldly presumptuous and tyrannical in the commencement of their attack on individual rights, they would now weep with the alcoholic sufferer, set before his view in the most alarming colors the noxious influences of the stimulating draught, enter into our criminal dungeons for evidence of the sad consequences of a cobol, and profess to be only the pure and disinterested advocates of a moral and political regeneration.

Excesses of all kinds shorten human life; gluttony produces this effect equally with alcoholic stimulus; the same fact may be asserted of tobacco. It is the abuse, not the use of alcohol, which constitutes the evil of which the prohibitionists affect to complain.

The united testimony of physicians in all sections of the Union proclaims it to be the most powerful therapeutical agent in many diseases to be found in the materia medica; in dropsies, and all kidney and uterine obstructions, it stands at the head of medical means. We have nothing to do with its abuses. They are, as in all other cases, visited with merited punishment. In relation to its influences on crime, the nocturnal plunderer and the midnight assassin are rarely, if ever, under its influences. Excesses in alcohol would inevitably destroy the self-possession necessary to the fulfilment of their diabolical plans and purposes. But the Prohibitionists search for isolated cases of crime committed under its stimulating consequences, as the traveler (with far better views and objects) seeks for an oasis in the desert. They find a few as hairy instances of the kind, and at once declare that alcohol is the basis of crime. This subterfuge, like others of its class, is fast fading away before the light of public opinion, and ere long, stripped of a little artifices, we shall behold on the banners of the Prohibitionists what is now visible in their acts—political egotism and aggrandisement.

## THE CONSEQUENCES.

Have the Prohibitionists reflected on the consequences which would attend the enforcement of the Maine Liquor Law in our city? Have they calculated the capital invested in the liquor business, and the numbers engaged in it? Have they stared before themselves an excited multitude driven to desperation by an unjust and arbitrary infringement on their established rights? We heard one of our fellow-citizens a community, a year ago last spring, when the Maine Law act was passed, in the attempt to enforce the Liquor law, should it be necessary. It is this fanaticism—this passion for justice in the attempt to crush individual freedom, and imagination presents the mangled carcasses of humanity as offerings of pure necessity, and rivers of human blood as streams of water, to be poured out at the shrine of sectional tyranny.

## THE PREVENTIVE.

We hold in our power a sure preventive of the evil threatened by the prohibitionists in our strength and union at the ballot-box. It is here the battle for freedom must be fought, the overthrow of bigotry be secured and individual rights established on a basis from which no future attempt of the demagogue or the bigot can remove them. We call upon our citizens generally, for their own sakes especially with zeal, to fix settle their political feuds and animosities, and join as in the struggle for one of the great principles which we advocate for them as a party. Its interest and its consequences not limited to a single generation, but extending over unborn millions of those who are to follow us, and of whose civil and political privileges and rights we are now the conservators. Let us then present at the polls a phalanx which our enemies cannot penetrate, cheered on by the voice of the people in the cause of justice against oppression.

## THE REPEAL OF THE MAINE LAW.

If reason, rather than fanaticism, guided the framers of the Maine Liquor Law, we should be willing to risk its repeal in our next Legislature, even with them. Its unconstitutionality having already been declared by the most enlightened and eloquent judges of our country, grand and petit juries having repudiated it, we should be inclined to think that a body of enlightened men could be found among our citizens who would oppose its unconditional repeal. But as political sagacity has already lost at the cost of the Prohibitionists, we do not anticipate that its advocates, having seen their error, will acknowledge it, in the surrender of their darling project.

Now should the State in which it originated have, through the ballot-box forever been with a grave, its enactments have been scoffed at by the multitude it sought to control, the judiciary throughout our country have unanimously pronounced it unconstitutional, and our citizens have boldly bid defiance to the infliction of its penalties, we see no hope of its repeal with as a political change in our coming legislature. We can have no confidence in those who have betrayed the trust reposed in them for the purposes of political secondancy and the support of particular aspirants for high places in the council of our country. The Augean stable must be cleansed. It may require the labor of a Hercules to accomplish this task, but it may and will be accomplished.

## SPEECH OF JOHN COMMERFORD ON THE MAINE LAW.

We give below a speech on the Maine law, delivered by Mr. John Commerford. We invite for it the especial attention of the public:

We are here to express our opinions in relation to the prohibitory law. We have a right to examine it not only as it stands, but we claim to consider it in connection with the main and constitutional basis upon which it has been ushered into being. That there are natural, and hence reserved individual rights, beyond the reach or control of conventional action, must be admitted. What, for instance, would we think of a set of men who would take upon themselves to create or place a law that the principle of respiration should be restricted or graduated, according to their notion of the amount we should breathe? Or, what would we think of another class who would attempt to direct, by legislative enactment, as to the kind and amount of food we should swallow? Or again, how would we receive a law that, by stipulation, would forcibly interrupt us in the discharge of our domestic duties? From the foregoing and apparent admission of the sovereignty and reservation of the natural rights of the individual, it follows that in the exercise of them there has not, and cannot be a violation where there is an entire absence for the formation of constitutional law. Whenever the privileges of the individuals who compose the State are assailed by the designing let them look back to the purposes for which our government was organized. Is it to be supposed that Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, and the other intellectual giants of that period employed either their time or thoughts in arraying cases against class against State against State, much less a system of despotism whereby an accidental majority would degrade the work of these patriots by erasing out the last vestige of those rights for which they so energetically contended? Among the arguments adduced to justify the necessity for the existence and execution of the law, we find it is urged that in its career it must certainly extirpate poverty, pauperism and crime. Now if this prediction, so often and so heatedly repeated, had the least possibility of being realized, I, for one, would be disposed to listen to the shadowless ravings of those who utter that which is so wildly improbable. Where those who have taken upon themselves the exposition of such a kind of political economy can produce the evidence that the evils which are the undoubted attendants of that state of inequality from which springs the sad array of vice in its various phases are solely attributable to the sale and use of alcohol, then, and not until then, should they be permitted to interfere with the interests of, or to libel and calumniate those who are engaged in the sale or use of it. In the abuse which has been heaped upon those who have been engaged in the sale of liquors we witness the recurrence of the mode of attack which is at all times resorted to by those who from their organic take, choose to forsake the field of propriety, decency and common sense. At those Temperance gatherings we have seen that the calling or position of the speakers have not protected our fellow-citizens or the feelings of their families from the vulgarity and venom of the language and ideas which have been employed. Even the sanctity of a profession which claims to carry with it the sacred and joyful footsteps of the harbingers of "Peace upon earth and good will to men," has been used, and these meeks saints by the wayside have halted to kindle a torch which they hope may lead them to a conflagration in which the charred carcasses of "twenty thousand" victims will attest the glory of the temperance achievement. While we are necessarily compelled to notice the conduct of these men, we are at the same time sensible that it is not indorsed by the great and enlightened body of which they happen to be members. The latter like others, do not look for the reform of the masses of which a State is constituted through the creation of either sumptuary or other laws. To say that poverty and crime are the main offspring of liquor is about as reasonable as to charge that article with the responsibility of having produced, during the last Winter, the crisis which deprived thousands of their accustomed employment. This custom of attributing all the misfortunes which overtake so many of our fellow creatures to the sin of social class is an adroit transfer of the accusation "by the instigation of the Devil." I do not know whence was that shifted the charge from off the shoulders of his much-abused majesty, but I am led to believe that it must have been some of his clerical villifiers who, tired of like his so familiar a character, thought it was time he should be relieved; and therefore, as "King Alcohol" was a more popular butt and a dangerous subject to continually assail, hence the change. Under the pretext of taking care of the earnings of the money of the people of ancient states, sumptuary laws were introduced. Under the new dispensation, the pretext is, that both the rich and the money may come under the supervision of our modern law-givers. With the lessening of this formidable excavator of the fortunes of those who have hitherto indulged in liquors, it is said that all immorality and licentiousness will disappear. War, murder, starving, gambling, adultery and the different degrees of crime will be read of only in the past. Let the philosophy of these men be but true, as the occupation of the "Gulls," the "Humbugs," the "Sparrhawks," and the other great illustrators of physiology and phrenology will passaway. With such a prospect in view, who will blame the intention of the Mayor of Brooklyn in enforcing the law at the point of the bayonet. If the generals of the armies who are in the Crimea could but anticipate such results from their exertions they would not hesitate to make a banquet and victory of slaughtered thousands; if they could but reach the niche destined for the illustrious chief magistrate I have named, the plains of Europe would be made to shake with the groans of their dying enemies. It may be said that I am drawing on the imagination to too great an extent; if so I cannot help it; when I find a man ready to perpetrate murder under the assumption of such doubtful authority, I cannot but believe that he is impelled to its execution from a species of monomania. Believing that the man will carry out the spirit of his declaration, it becomes as a reasonable one to advise the liquor dealers in that unfortunate locality to submit to the temporary inconvenience of the affliction, in order the assurance that ample atonement will be exacted for the outrage upon their property and rights. Speaking of sumptuary laws, it is a fact that even in monarchical England they were abolished in 1663. Here, then, after the lapse of two centuries one of the family is established in a number of the States of the Union. It is true that our State will appear side by side with the deep stain of its shame in company with the bigoted and intolerant link of a sisterhood whose history has been but a march from one act of infamous intolerance to the next during the whole career of their existence. The people are, however, becoming sensible of the odium of such a connection, and this meeting is but the precursor to a separation which will disconnect us until such time as may lead them to the full knowledge of the injuries which they have inflicted upon the great principles of republican freedom. In ancient States, such as Rome, this system of confining men to what they should eat and wear originated in the despotism of its oligarchy to make its citizens feel that their rights and existence were to be measured out and extended in relation to the position they might occupy in obtaining the elements of wealth. I believe that there is no existing evidence that the people of any ancient or modern nation were prohibited from the use of wines, &c. This act of folly appears to have been reserved to distinguish the nativity and existence of the profound authors and expounders of the Maine law. The innovators of the present, through this law, hold fast to the obnoxious feature of tyranny which actuated their ancient prototypes—that is, in the creation of it they have embodied that class of men which says you shall be permitted to drink and enjoy, as you are elevated to a given standard of society. Montesquieu has well observed: "That sumptuary laws are of all laws the most indiscretions and the most consultants violated." It is as he has told with the addition that the frequency of the violation has at all times made them inoperative, and therefore it is that this knowledge of their utter inefficacy and inability has led to their repeal. Where is the man who is verdant enough to believe that the law in the State of Maine prevents the use of the social glass? When men become so changed that they will relinquish their rights, and forego the intercharges and endearments of friendship through the passage of a law that was begotten to freeze up all access to the avenue of the affections, we may then suppose that a cold mandatee will be observed and complied with. I have heard men say that our opposition is wrong at times, or that those who are opposed to this law should have exercised their right to prevent its being placed on the statute book. I will answer by saying that I for one could not bring myself to believe that a sufficient number of representatives could be found who would so far transcend the power delegated to vote for the reinstitution of a class of laws that have been abolished and discarded wherever they have been instituted. Neither should I have been satisfied with the law, had three-fourths of each branch of our Legislature been expressly elected to pass it. This is not the kind of democracy in which I believe. Is it not the weight of legislative numbers, nor the high position of an executive officer that gives the vitality of republican justice to the edicts which may be passed. I look up for a bulwark or stope in the wide sphere of constitutional equality which has been guaranteed to the citizen, in which he may apply the test and analysis to see how far and how deep he is subjected to the injury or curtailment of his privileges. In my opinion the true intention of the governing power, whether it involve a municipal, State, or the more potent collection of the General Government, in their respective spheres of action at all times should look well to the caution, does not that majorities do not trample on the known rights of the minority. It is a long established axiom of the beneficent purposes of a truly democratic government that its principles are set at defiance and its dignity insulted when by its apathy the rights of its humblest citizen are invaded and that a State that permits this is unworthy to reclaim its position until it energetically adopts measures for the atonement of the injury inflicted.

We have no doubt that KNOX, the great HATTER, will become, in due course of time, world-renowned, for both his stores are constantly filled with eager and delighted customers. There are certainly no HATS to surpass and very few to equal those of KNOX's manufacture. They are the quintessence of beauty; the embodiment of elegance, and the ultra perfection of workmanship, and withal they are sold at the lowest rates known in the trade. One of KNOX's stores is at the corner of Broadway and Fulton-st., the other is under the Prescott House, corner of Broadway and Spring-st.

HATS! CAPS! FURS!—The proprietor of the West End Emporium, No. 128 Chatham-st., calls attention to his beautiful Fall Fashion for HATS, light, elegant and commodious. A great variety of Ladies' and Children's Fur and Felt BONNETS, fancy CAPS, &c. J. W. KELLOGG.

MEALIO'S FALL STYLE OF HATS is superior to any in the city. LIGHT, DURABLE, AND OF A SUPERIOR FINISH. Corner of Broadway and Canal-st.

GREAT FIRE AT BROOKLYN.—New-York, Oct. 15, 1855.—Messrs. S. C. Herring & Co., No. 135 Water-st. Gentlemen: We take pleasure in stating that the "HERRING'S PATENT SAFE" which we purchased from you about a year since, has been the means of preserving our books, papers, &c., from fire, at the destruction of our Flour Mill in Brooklyn, early on the morning of the 13th inst. The Safe was exposed to a severe heat about eight hours; and when cooled off and opened the contents were found entirely uninjured. We cheerfully recommend your Safes to the public. HACKER & BROTHER.

GREAT FIRE IN BROOKLYN—PROOF OF THE INTEGRITY OF HERRING'S SAFES:

"The undersigned is the person referred to in Messrs. B. G. Wilder & Co.'s advertisement of this morning as Messrs. Hacker & Brother's clerk, and would say that one of the firm of B. G. Wilder & Co. questioned me in relation to the Safe therein mentioned, but I never told him the Safe was Wilder's Patent, or that any of Herring & Co.'s employees or any other person ever broke off any plates (the Safe was Herring's Patent) and all the statements in said B. G. Wilder & Co.'s advertisement, so far as relates to their conversation with me respecting said Safe, are destitute of truth.

"E. T. REANEY, Supt. Island Mills, Brooklyn."

The above-mentioned Safe can be seen with all the original plates and marks (as it came from the ruins) at the subscribers' store, who are sole proprietors of HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION SAFE. S. C. HERRING & Co., No. 135, 137 and 139 Water-st.

GREAT FIRE IN BROOKLYN.—In answer to the statement of Mr. E. T. REANY, Superintendent of Hacker & Brother's Mills, which appeared on Thursday morning we annex the affidavit of Mr. A. J. HARRINGTON. The point at issue before the public, who are the more interested in this matter, is, was the safe that preserved the books and papers of Hacker & Brother, "WILDER'S PATENT SAFE," or "HERRING'S PATENT SAFE?" We claim it was "WILDER'S PATENT," as proved to be the case with the Safe that preserved the books, papers and money of Messrs. Carrington & Dougherty of Vesey-st., New-York; Messrs. J. M. Fairchild & Co. of Fulton-st., New-York; Messrs. Falconer, Plummer & Co. of Petersburg, Va.; and Messrs. Bacon & Stoughton, Albany, Co., all of which were claimed by S. C. Herring as Herring's Patent Safe and proved on investigation to be WILDER'S PATENT SALAMANDER.

B. G. WILDER & Co., Patentees and Manufacturers of Wilder's Patent Salamander Safe, Depot No. 122 Water-st., near Wallst., New-York.

NEW-YORK, Oct. 18, 1855.—I hereby certify that on the afternoon of the 15th inst. I called at the place where the recent fire took place in Brooklyn, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the Safe that saved the books and papers of Messrs. Hacker & Brother. I there met a person in charge who gave me his name as Reany, to whom I made known my business. He repeatedly and clearly stated, that the plate on the Safe was marked "WILDER'S PATENT."

A. J. HARRINGTON. Sworn to before me, this 18th day of October, 1855. N. C. EVERETT, Commissioner of Deeds.

FIRE-PROOF SAFES. The subscriber, having voluntarily abandoned the making of Wilder's Patent Salamander Safes, and having resumed the right (exclusively secured to him for the State of New-York) of the Patentee, now offers the original WILDER'S PATENT SALAMANDER SAFE, made by me previous to said resignation, at reduced prices—having purchased the right for the United States to make and sell the Champion safe known as HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION; warranted to resist more heat than any other safe known and guaranteed to be free from dampness a great objection to most other Safes. SILAS C. HERRING. Old established depot, Green Rock, Nos. 135, 137 and 139 Water-st., cor. Pine, N. Y.

WILDER'S PATENT SALAMANDER SAFES, with the best Patent Powder and Burglar Proof Locks. THE BEST FIRE PROOF SAFE IN THE WORLD. The same that was awarded the Prize Medal in 1851, at the World's Fair in London. Depot, No. 122 Water-st., near Wallst., New-York. B. G. WILDER & Co., Patentees and Manufacturers.

STEARNS & MARVIN'S WILDER PATENT SALAMANDER SAFES. THIRTEEN YEARS in use and have *never failed to preserve their contents* from the ravages of fire. These Safes, secured by BRAMAH'S LA BELLE LOCK, which is proof against powder and burglars, for sale by STEARNS & MARVIN, No. 146 Water-st., New-York.

SHAWLS.—S. & M. E. TOWLE & CO. will offer this morning:
50 rich STELLA SHAWLS for.....$5 each.
300 rich Stella Shawls for.....$6 each.
400 extra rich Stella Shawls for.....$8 each.
1,000 printed Cashmere Shawls for.....$5 each.
2,000 plaid wool Long Shawls from.....$2 to $8 each.
2,000 broche Long and Square Shawls, from.....$5 to $30.
COLUMBIAN HALL, No. 281 Grand-st.

EVANS'S CLOTHING WAREHOUSE, Nos. 66 and 68 Fulton-st.—Fashionable Dress and Frock Coats, $8; fine Dress Coats, $9; splendid Black Cloth Sharkings Cloaks, $12; ribbed Beaver Overcoats, $8; Cassimere Pants, $2, upward, &c.

MERINO PLAIDS.—Ten cases Merino and Valencia PLAIDS, new styles and choice colorings from 3/ to 6/ per yard. S. & M. E. TOWLE & CO., Columbian Hall, No. 281 Grand-st.

JAMES LITTLE & CO., No. 412 Broadway, MERCHANT TAILORS, where can be found the best stock of READY-MADE CLOTHING in the city. Goods made to order in the shortest notice.

LEARY & CO.'S SHAWL DEPARTMENT.—We have imported for our Fall and Winter sales the finest and best class of GENTS TRAVELING SHAWLS (from patterns furnished by ourselves) ever offered. No such assortment can be found in the country as that displayed at our store, Astor House, Broadway. LEARY & CO.

FRENCH MERINOS.—Ten cases LUPIN'S SUPERFINE MERINOS, just received from auction, which we will offer at $1 per yard, worth $1 25. S. & M. E. TOWLE, & CO., Columbian Hall, No. 281 Grand-st.

The price of WINTER CLOTHING at OAK HALL, Nos. 64 and 66 Fulton-st., and 47 and 49 Gold-st.: OVERCOATS, $5 to $25, BUSINESS, FROCK, and DRESS COATS, $3 to $12; VESTS, a large assortment $2 to $10; PANTS, of Cassimere and Doeskin, $2 to $9; BOYS' CLOTHING of all kinds; FURNISHING GOODS, &c. DE GROOT & SONS.

CARPETS! CARPETS!! CARPETS!!! Superb MEDALLION VELVET CARPETS, from the Paris Exhibition. ENGLISH BRUSSELS, 3/ per yard. INGRA