

ders of alcohol, &c.?' They control absolutely the selling price, for the restriction upon them is practically ineffectual, and enforce the producer of the raw material, or the domestic manufacturer, to submit to their terms or face the contingencies, and expense of reaching a foreign market. This feature of the bill trenches sharply on sacred ground, and if the Legislature have a right to prescribe the number of individuals who may sell alcohol, and to limit the price of the commodity; they can as well determine who shall sell flour and tobacco, and at what rate of profit.

The special election provided for by the bill the committee regard as objectionable, and as inoperative to develop the true sense of the voters of the State. Experience justifies the assertion, that it could not elicit an expression of the opinion of the actual majority. With a full vote in Baltimore city, and a limited one in the counties, as would probably be the case, the representative adjustment of the State would be defied and disconcerted.

The power given to the Governor to suspend the operation of the law, in other words effectually to repeal it, by pronouncing it inoperative, is of extremely doubtful constitutional propriety. If the Legislature cannot transfer its functions to the mass of the people, how can it delegate it to an individual agent, and as such for this occasion the Executive must be considered. The repeal or suspension of a law would seem to be as purely a legislative function as its enactment; the one declaring that it shall, the other that it shall not be.

The right to invade the sanctity of private dwellings under the mandate of a search warrant, heretofore marking crimes of high degree, is dangerously applied to the suppression of at worst a statutory sin.

The distinction between citizens in the requirement of oaths from a small class of licensed traders, branding themselves and their vocation as suspicious, is unnecessarily invidious, and simply a wanton outrage.

There are defects and omissions in the bill to which the committee do not deem it necessary to advert, as they could readily be amended if it were otherwise acceptable; but condemning as we do the fundamental principle, which cannot be eradicated, and leave any trace of vitality in the measure, and having endeavored to develop this, however imperfectly—yet sufficiently to indicate our views, and awaken the attention of the Senate to the true character of the proposition; we forbear any more elaborate examination, which the limited time at their disposal, and the pressure of important subjects entrusted to them necessarily forbid.

Whilst frankly expressing the conclusion at which we have arrived, we fully appreciate the sincerity and philanthropic intentions of the advocates of this bill. Endeavoring to banish from our midst an evil, whose baneful influence all lament, and looking earnestly and only to the benign reform they would accomplish, they may have overlooked, as we think they have, rather than disregarded the ill consequences of the means adopted, and in the anx-