

capacity of a market to supply every article of necessity or luxury be diminished the value of all that is to be found in its depots is lessened; where the supply is most ample, there the trader will resort, and will desert the limited, for the unrestricted mart, where every demand can be gratified at once.

In the almost desperate rivalry now in progress amongst the more extensive commercial emporiums of the country, it would be suicidal to paralyse the energies, and retard the advance of the city we should most cherish, and whose interests it is our duty to protect. Her grocery market is her peculiar boast, and upon this the blow would immediately and most heavily fall. The opinion of her intelligent capitalists and traders is sufficiently indicated by their memorials, and in that opinion the committee fully concur.

We are aware that speculative calculations are exhibited, designed to enforce the idea that this bill would prove advantageous as a revenue measure. It is urged that our almshouses and prisons are filled with drunkards, and that the necessity for and expense of such institutions is attributable to the use of intoxicating liquors. Degrading and deplorable as the vice of drunkenness is, and ruinous as it may be to the health, fortune and happiness of individuals, we are persuaded that its productiveness of crime amenable to the law, is greatly exaggerated; sometimes the cause, it is oftener the concomitant of crime—as often the child as the parent—and although paupers and felons may be drunkards, the inference is as illogical as untrue, that if temperate they would have been prosperous and honest.

We reiterate the deliberate and unanimous opinion of the committee that to the revenues of the State the operation of this bill would be prejudicial, and more to be deprecated, as impairing that branch which alone it is in the power of the Legislature to appropriate for those salutary or charitable objects that may invoke the benevolence or the justice of the Government.

But even divested of its injurious consequences to the State finances, the committee are compelled to express the opinion that as a police regulation, it is unwarranted and as a sumptuary law, odious. Its inspiring principle is fallacious, and its details militate against the spirit, if they do not invade the letter of the constitution.

The desire for, and use of stimulants or narcotics has been found in every nation, savage or civilized; an instinct so universal and the co-extensive means of its gratification proclaim both as gifts of a benevolent Providence, bestowed for the rational service and enjoyment of humanity. As with every passion and every source of pleasure it may be used as a blessing or abused into a curse. The exceptions in this bill makes an admission which reason must extend beyond their narrow limitation. We feel justified in the assumption that the use as a beverage of distilled fermented or malt liquors is not in itself immoral or criminal, and to deny this is to disclaim the parity of christianity and the sanction of human nature. If true, the manufacture or sale of such com-