

**THE MORALITY OF
PROHIBITORY LIQUOR
LAWS: AN ESSAY**

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The morality of prohibitory liquor laws: an essay by William B. Weeden

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WILLIAM B. WEEDEN

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An Essay.

BY
WILLIAM B. WEEDEN.



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"The justest laws are the truest." — ERICCTERUS.

"Civil liberty is the not being restrained by any law, but which conduces in a greater degree to the public welfare." — PALRY.

"Good and stable government is simply or nearly impossible, unless the fundamentals of political science be known by the bulk of the people." — HOBBS.

P R E F A C E.

THE matter of these pages was suggested in a paper read to the Unitarian National Conference at Saratoga. A prominent politician, a sincere and eminent advocate of prohibition, said to the writer directly, "This is an old story of yours; it is worn threadbare." Inasmuch as several able members of that capable association, men versed in the literature of law and social science, had said that the argument, whatever its merits, was novel and original, the remark of the politician set the writer into a train of thinking. The able men knew more of the philosophy of law, but the politician represented more people. It is perhaps this stolid indifference among persons holding high public trusts to the causes, the underlying principles, and the results of their own action, which has led the writer to develop his theme and bring it before the whole public. The

subject is so important in all its bearings, that any sincere study of it can do no harm, and must be welcomed by all thoughtful persons.

The writer believes that the whole fabric of our legal and political action has been strained and injured by the institution and administration of these liquor laws. He believes that one of the first and most important steps in the much talked about reform of civil government must be, to turn the humane temperance impulse away from its abnormal action in law and in the state, and to give it natural play in the ethical improvement of the individual man and of society. If these pages contain any facts, or show any reasons which may help to forward this issue, his labor has not been in vain.

W. B. W.

PROVIDENCE, R.I., January, 1875.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY	9
TEMPERANCE AND ABSTINENCE	31
THE WORKING OF PROHIBITION	56
THE GROUNDS OF PROHIBITION	99
PROHIBITION AND REGULATION	121
ANOTHER SYSTEM	153
IMMORAL LAW-MAKING	179