

## HOUSE...No. 76.

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### MEMORIAL TO THE LEGISLATURE.

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*To the Honorable, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled :—*

The undersigned, legal voters, and other male and female inhabitants of Worcester, in the county of Worcester, and Commonwealth aforesaid, all over 16 years of age, would hereby respectfully represent :—that the sale of *alcoholic liquors* as a *beverage*, is not only dangerous to the peace, injurious to the morals, and detrimental to the social and domestic welfare of the community, but is also, even according to those pauper and criminal statistics, which your honorable predecessors have caused to be annually collected and published, one of the most copious, oppressive and alarming sources of *pauperism*, *taxation* and *crime* :—that the enforcement of the present license laws is so often, not only greatly impeded, but entirely prevented by the bold and appalling *perjury* of the *drinkers*, when sworn as witnesses against the *venders* of “intoxicating liquors,” that the law should allow the apparatus of the traffic to be seized and “*used as evidence*,” as it has long authorized stolen goods, lottery tickets, obscene prints, spurious coin, and implements of counterfeiting, and of gaming, to be seized, and thus used in other criminal cases :—that very few, (probably not one tenth,) of the unlicensed retailers of “intoxicating beverages” in this State, are *owners of the buildings* in which they carry on their traffic, so that nine tenths of them are enabled to violate the law by the coadjutant *capital*, and permission of others :—and that this demoralizing traffic requires for its suppression, more facili-

ties of obtaining proof, and some more restraining penalties, than those that are now provided by the laws of the Commonwealth, and therefore,—

We ask your honorable bodies so to modify the present license laws as to establish one or more of the following provisions, viz. :—1. To make the said liquors, and the apparatus of their sale, as the law now makes stolen goods, lottery tickets, obscene books, gunpowder, counterfeiting tools, gambling implements, and even the dead bodies of certain birds, *seizable* on search warrant, and *prima facie* evidence of guilt in their *possessors*:—2. To make the owners, or lessors of buildings in which “intoxicating beverages” are lawlessly sold, equally liable to the penalties of the law, with the *lessees*, or *occupants*, who personally sell them:—3. To impose in express terms, uncontrolled by the discretiouary power of any judge, or district attorney, some *certain* and *definite penalty of imprisonment* upon those, who may have been *twice* before convicted of selling “intoxicating liquors,” contrary to law:—4. And to render the lawless venders of such *alcoholic drinks* liable to such other, additional, pecuniary, and restraining penalties, as to your honorable bodies may seem expedient, and most promotive of the welfare of the whole community.

JESSE W. GOODRICH,

*And four hundred others.*

PETITION FROM PLYMPTON.  

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts, assembled:—*

We, your Petitioners, humbly ask your Honorable Body, so to amend the License Law of Massachusetts, that the penalty for selling intoxicating or alcoholic liquors may be made the same for *furnishing* without pay, as for *selling* the same.

LEMUEL STURTEVANT,

*And sixty-eight others.*

PLYMPTON, Feb. 24, 1851.

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