

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1835.

AUGUSTA:
WILLIAM J. CONDON,.....PRINTER.

1835.

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 4.

SENATE.

PETITION of Female Citizens of Brunswick.

To the Senators and Representatives of Maine, in Legislature assembled :

The undersigned, female citizens of Brunswick, respectfully represent:—That having at least, as deep an interest as any others, in the moral condition of society, they conceive themselves entitled to remonstrate and petition against evils, which threaten peculiarly their social happiness.

We remonstrate against the sale of ardent spirits by comparatively rich men, for the purpose of adding to their riches.

We remonstrate against this method of making rich men richer, and poor men poorer—of making distressed families more distressed—of making a portion of the human family utterly and hopelessly

miserable, debasing their moral natures, and thus clouding with despair their temporal and future prospects. Human misery, intense human misery, without a single incidental benefit, is the result of the legalized iniquity, against which we remonstrate.— We appeal to our constitutional guardians to defend us against this outrage. We appeal to the moral courage of the good to come to our rescue against the mercenary and hard hearted abettors of intemperance.

We represent to your honorable body, that in consequence of the practice, against which we remonstrate, there is in our town and vicinity, a large class of our sex, who, with their infant families, are enduring physical and moral distress at which the heart of sympathy recoils; that many of those, who are more than widowed by this worse than cholera or death, would be able to support themselves, were they relieved from the rapacity and injustice of intemperate husbands. Your petitioners can also, from observation and good evidence, assert that many of such husbands would probably become useful and respectable, were they protected against the temptations offered by the sale of ardent spirits in their immediate neighborhood. We pray your honors to afford them such protection.

Disclaiming all intentions of dictating to our civil fathers, we would respectfully inquire, if the pernicious traffic in ardent spirits cannot be prohibited, or confined within such limits, if any, as medical

purposes may require—whether some legislative provision cannot be made in favor of the wives of the habitually intemperate, by which the wives may be entitled to their earnings and be legally protected against the society and intrusion of their husbands, during such time and subject to such limitations as your wisdom may provide.

We would further state that we have been ready, according to our ability, to aid the suffering victims of this vice; but our sympathies have been paralyzed by the consideration that we should be indirectly ministering to the vicious appetite, by relieving the intemperate from the care of their families and enabling them to spend *all* their wages in rum.—We are compelled to state that in this course of remark, we reason, not from theory, but from fact.

We further represent, as a peculiar and aggravated injustice to our sex, that, in consequence of this nefarious traffic, the wives of the intemperate are, in frequent instances, driven by the force of mere despair to the same utterly destructive practice of intemperance; brutalizing themselves and entailing on society a race of vicious and brutified children.

In conclusion, we pray your honors, that however you may think fit to treat our suggestions, you would devise ways and means to cripple and destroy the trade in alcoholic liquors—a trade which, however its immorality may once have been mitigated as a sin of ignorance, must now be regarded as

highly criminal in all the parties to it; a trade, hurtful to society, and peculiarly hostile to free institutions, by sapping the foundations of virtue and piety on which they are built—a trade, detestable to all good men, and especially to a holy God.

Mrs. Sarah J. Allen,	Sophia Morse,
Mary Dunning,	Dorathy Giddings,
Rachel Owen,	Rebecca H. Emerson,
Mrs. Thirza G. Parshley,	Nancy Harmon,
Nancy McK. Dunlap,	Sally Stout,
Elizabeth F. McKeen,	Martha Crosby,
Mary Ann Fales,	Ruth B. O'Brien,
Ann Toppan,	Hannah Perkins,
Eliza Chapman,	Harriet W. Cushman,
Isabelle Johnson,	Jane Blake,
Elizabeth Gould,	Susan Towns,
Mary Varney,	Susan Dunning,
H. H. Titcomb,	Marcia S. D. Melcher,
M. Titcomb,	Lois D. Melcher,
S. C. Titcomb,	E. A. D. Melcher,
H. Powers,	Rebecca P. Packard,
P. Mitchell,	Rachel Owen,
Ann Maria Brown,	Jane McLellan,
Mary Marsh,	Nancy Swift,
Hannah O'Brien,	K. Durgan,
Elizabeth D. Dunning,	Hannah Dunning,
Elizabeth Orr,	Elizabeth Bridge,
Harriet M. Titcomb,	Elizabeth Roberts,
Mary Dunlap,	Hannah Fairbanks,
Jane McKeen,	Lucinda Snow,
Susanna Owen,	Betsey Snow,
Abigail Tibbets,	Ruth Snow,
Jane Heberd,	Caroline Moody,
Hannah Barry,	Mary Dunlap,

Mariah Jones,
 Elizabeth Brown,
 Joann M. Farrin,
 Elizabeth Hall,
 Isabella Haines,
 Deborah Haskall,
 Sarah H. Hail,
 Mary J. Melcher,
 Eliza Fogg,
 Mrs. Judith Estabrook,
 Mary Estabrook,
 Delia Estabrook,
 Mrs. Harriet Weld,
 Arria Estabrook,
 Frances A. Estabrook,
 C. K. Newman,
 F. E. Packard,
 H. P. Smyth,
 D. G. Folsom,
 S. A. Adams,
 Martha Pennell,
 Rebecca Pennell,
 Charlotte R. Lupkin,
 Nancy Stanwood,
 Elizabeth Scolfield,
 Sophia L. Greenleaf,
 Mrs. Dennison,
 Almira Dennison,
 Mrs. Donnell,
 Jane Lewis,
 Eunice K. McLellan,
 Margaretta March,
 Phebe Jacobs,
 Frances T. McKeen,
 Mary Mosely,

Eleanor Baily,
 Mary Noble,
 Julia Owen,
 Sarah L. Stanwood,
 Katharine M. Parker,
 Katharine Williston,
 Frances M. Bowker,
 Harriet Lee,
 Rebecca Gatchell,
 Elizabeth Card,
 Jane House,
 Rebecca House,
 Elizabeth K. Card,
 Rebecca Crawford,
 Susan House,
 Cordelia McKenney,
 Jeanette Cobbett,
 Elizabeth Millar,
 Sarah Leavitt,
 Joanna Stanwood,
 Sarah Maxwell,
 Mary M. Curtis,
 Maria T. Curtis,
 Mary Smith,
 Susan D. Swift,
 Elizabeth D. Ringin,
 Elmira Seeley,
 Juliet Walker,
 Mrs. A. M. Page,
 Mrs. J. Everett,
 Eliza Cornish,
 Sarah Swift,
 Sarah Lunt,
 Maria Walker,
 Mrs. Marilla Roberts,

Sally Hugin,
Eliza Forsaith,
Charlotte Denison,
Mary C. Wing,
Hannah Knox,
L. F. Wing,
Lucy S. Knox,

Mrs. Springer,
Rebecca Godard,
Lydia B. Shaw,
Catherine Toothaker,
Esther Douglas,
Mary Pennell.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 24th, 1835.

Ordered, that five hundred copies of the foregoing Petition be printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from Journal.]

Attest, WILLIAM TRAFTON, Secretary.