

Hobart Town 16/6<sup>mo</sup>. 1854

To Philip Smith

Esteemed Friend

It was not until last evening that I had the opportunity of bringing thy letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> under the notice of the Committee of the Temperance Society. I found as I had anticipated, that they as well as myself are prepared generally to admit, that the measure prohibiting the importation of intoxicating <sup>Dunks</sup> would be <sup>the</sup> more complete and satisfactory one they take, however the view which I also further expressed on the subject. That having taken up a position already in advance of public opinion as far as a large & influential portion of the community is concerned, it would be unsafe to abandon it for another and more dubious one as respects success. The advocacy <sup>ter</sup> of the Maine Liquor Law, be it observed by no means commit themselves to it as the only and final measure necessary, and as long as we do not commute principle by asking for something short of what we admit is desirable, & at a future period might be <sup>afforded</sup> which we do not see that we shall do, it is deemed safer under present circumstances to urge on the Legislature a measure that has been tried with abundant success, and which is consequently fortified against the imputation of being either Chimerical or impracticable. We are by so doing, in no wise pledged not to attempt the introduction of the ultra measure when the public mind becomes more fully enlightened on the whole subject, a result which the agitation of the question in its present form is highly calculated to hasten. Twenty years ago my Friend James Backhouse and myself directed the attention of Col (now Sir George) Arthur in a



written Memorial, to the frightful evils resulting from the importation  
and sale of Intoxicating liquors and expressed our decided opinion  
that instead of Licensing Houses for their sale a fine should be imposed  
and gradually augmented until it should amount to prohibition.  
Unless indeed the Government had been prepared to have adopted what  
we described as the sounder and more righteous course still viz to  
fix a period, & that at no distant day, when the importation as well  
<sup>as sale of all</sup>  
of spirituous Liquors should have been visited with a heavy penalty  
as contrary to the Law of the land. These were our views, those which  
the Lt Governor was not prepared to adopt; but no one could with  
propriety charge us with inconsistency, or as unwise in cooperating with  
others who advocated modified measures for the correction of the evils  
we would thus have cut off by the root. on the contrary had we  
and others stuck pertinaciously to our own views of what was the  
best course, we should at this day, in all probability, have been further  
from its ultimate adoption than we are as a community; nor would  
the public be so much in favour of even the inferior measure, viz the  
Maine Liquor Law, as they obviously are at this moment. We adopted a  
resolution last night which I trust will be productive of much good  
to the cause when carried. <sup>out</sup> It was to invite the agent of the League in  
Victoria to pay us a visit here, in conjunction with Launceston, in order  
to interest and inform the public mind still further on the rational  
and practicable working of the Maine Liquor Law. He is reputed to  
be a very talented speaker and advocate, his name is Blair.

Trusting thou wilt throw the weight of thy influence into  
our proposed measures and thus hasten the consummation of thy  
own wishes in the adoption of the more excellent way.

I remain  
Thy true truly  
Signed Geo. W. Walker