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# Health, Luxury, or Vice?

— An Objects-Based Exploration of the 1894  
Cambridge Drug Store Crisis —

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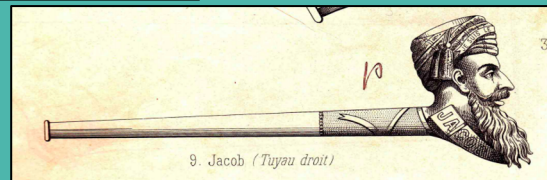


# The Jacob Pipe



The vrow of Mr. Frey of N. Y. once imported some Gambier clay bowls. Some Harvard men happening to buy some of these which colored well, I was immediately importuned for some of the same sort; but scarce a Gambier could I scare up, although I scoured far and wide. So this Frey made quite a *fracas* among French clay customers. No one denied that Gisclons and Fiolet's colored; but I couldn't stop fellows' mouths with them. They called out the more Gambier! Gambier! Gambier! Then I threw myself on J. Gambier, and wrote, "Send me ten gross of the most hideous pipes that it ever entered into your heart to conceive of, and let them be of the kind which hurl color." And he did so; and after the *customary* delays, here they are, heads—Jacobs—shoes—&c. If you are at a distance, send a dollar and I will make selections and forward at once.

"J.H. Hubbard's Column," *Harvard Advocate*,  
December 20, 1867, 96.



Maison Gambier, *Catalogue 1894 Vve Hasslauer de Champeaux & Quentin successeurs*, 1894, 4, 12, 20, 28, 29.

# The Soda Fountain



THE SODA OF WILEY was most noted by fame; and the present administration, having been engrafted into the establishment under the tuition of that distinguished pharmacist, has reason to believe that its efforts to continue that fame have not been in vain. The syrups are made on the premises from the best refined sugar, flavored with juices of choice fruits, and not with artificial compounds. The carbonic-acid water, in tinned fountains, frequently tested for impurities, especially copper, so common where great care is not used, the whole drawn from

*DOWS' ICE-CREAM FOUNTAIN,*

gives occasion for the frequent remark, by returning graduates and others, "You have the best soda in the country."

"J.H. Hubbard's Column," *Harvard Advocate*,  
July 6, 1867, 144.

Before "dropping into poetry," let us mention that the

*GLACIER FOUNTAIN,*

with glass syrup-vessels and coolers, produces pure COLD SODA. That Hubbard's soda has for years been the favorite drink of Cambridge. That it is as good as ever, and many are they who drink it.

"J.H. Hubbard's Column," *Harvard Advocate*,  
June 21, 1872, 160.

**"WHEN pain and anguish wing the brow  
A ministering angel thou"--Bromo-Seltzer.**

*Boston Daily Globe*, September 9, 1893, 4.

# The Patent Medicine



don't mean that, for they are all *here*. Then fellows that have graduated come out here and say, "How are you, Hubbard, old fellow?" and buy pomades and perfumery and brushes and soaps, and get their medicines, for they can't get them so good anywhere else.

"J.H. Hubbard's Column," *Harvard Advocate*,  
November 25, 1867, 80.

**Wiley's Glycerine Lotion for chapped hands. "There are more things in a medicine shop, than have entered into your metaphysics."**

"J.H. Hubbard's Column," *Harvard Advocate*,  
December 20, 1867, 96.

**JOHN H. HUBBARD,  
APOTHECARY,**

**468 HARVARD STREET,**

Harvard Square,

Will be happy to serve those who are so unfortunate as to require the aid of medicine. He undertakes that his preparations shall be correctly made of pure standard materials and intelligently dispensed by careful assistants. All the

### POPULAR PATENT MEDICINES

Of the day will be sold as low as any respectable dealer can afford to handle them.

He would recommend his own **EXTRACT OF JAMAICA GINGER** as being what it pretends to be, without foreign admixture.

**WILEY'S ORANGE FLOWER GLYCERINE LOTION** for chapped hands.

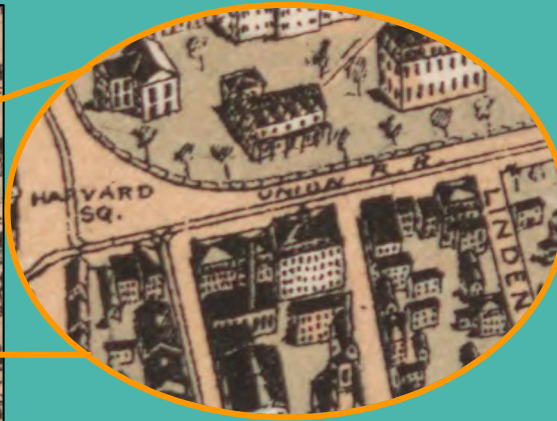
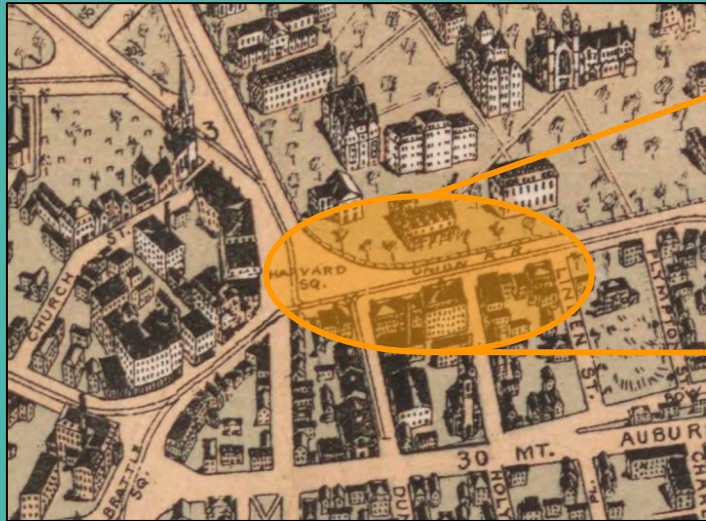
**ELIXIR OF CHINA** as a tonic.

**SPONGES** at all prices.

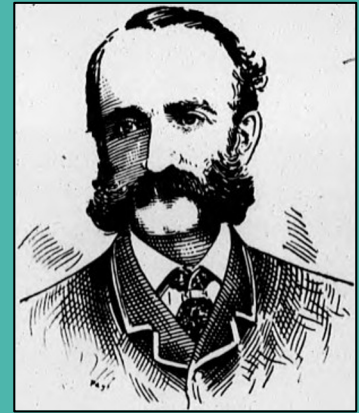
**FINE BRUSHES** for hair and tooth brushes.

*Cambridge Tribune*, April 16, 1887, 2.

# The Drug Store Connection



"City of Cambridge, Mass.,"  
1877, Harvard University Library.



John H. Hubbard,  
*Cambridge Tribune*, May 14, 1887, 9.



Health...



...Luxury...



...or Vice?

These divergent purposes sparked conflict in July 1894 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### THE SUNDAY LAW.

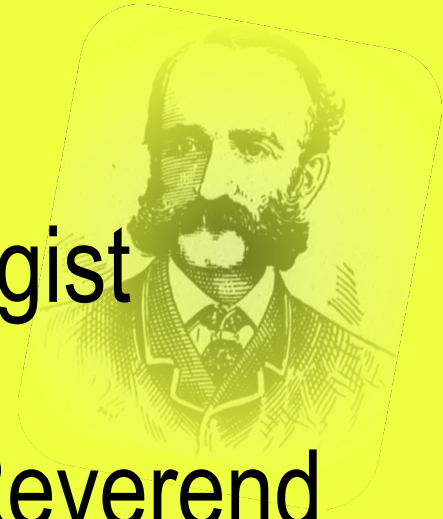
To His Honor Wm. A. Bancroft, Mayor.

Resolved, that his honor the mayor be respectfully requested to execute all laws which are designed to secure the keeping and sanctity of the christian Sabbath; such as prohibiting the sprinkling of the streets, the sale of tobacco and confectionery by druggists, and any other statutes which aim at practices that are known and acknowledged to be violations of the law.

Alexander Blackburn, "Petition to Mayor Blackburn,"  
quoted in *Cambridge Chronicle*, July 7, 1894, 1.

# Panelists

**J.H. Hubbard, Druggist**

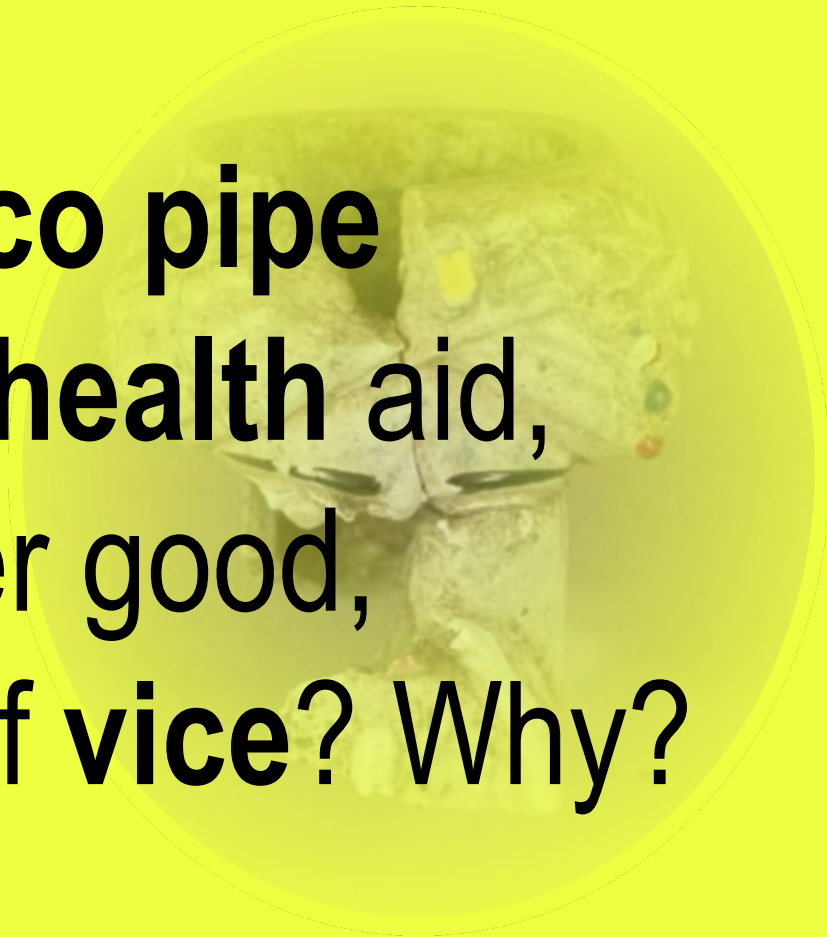


**Alexander Blackburn, Reverend**

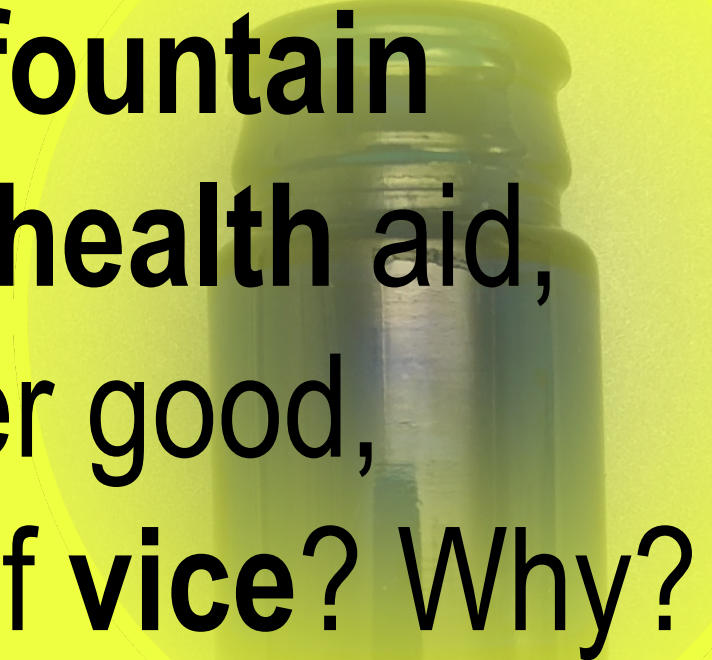
**Aleck Quest, Social Critic**

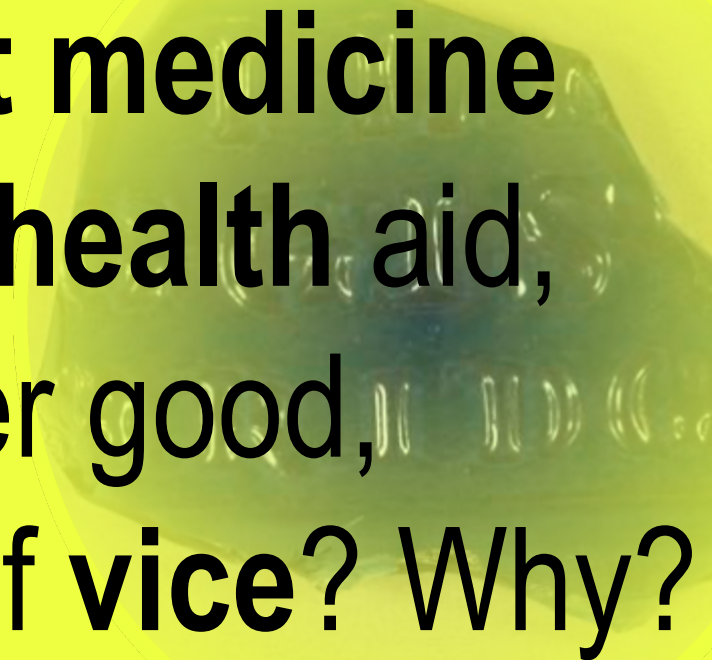
THE FAST SET AT HARVARD

Should **the tobacco pipe** be classified as a **health aid**, a **luxury** consumer good, or an instrument of **vice**? Why?



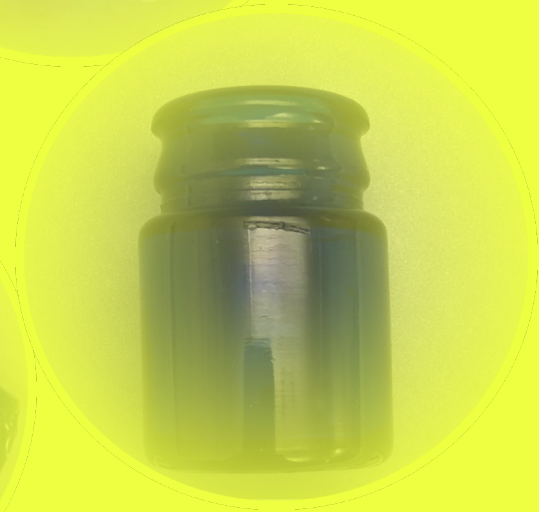
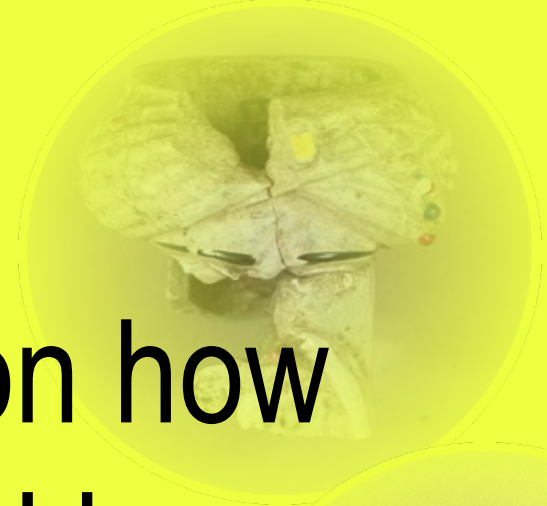
Should **the soda fountain** be classified as a **health aid**, a **luxury** consumer good, or an instrument of **vice**? Why?



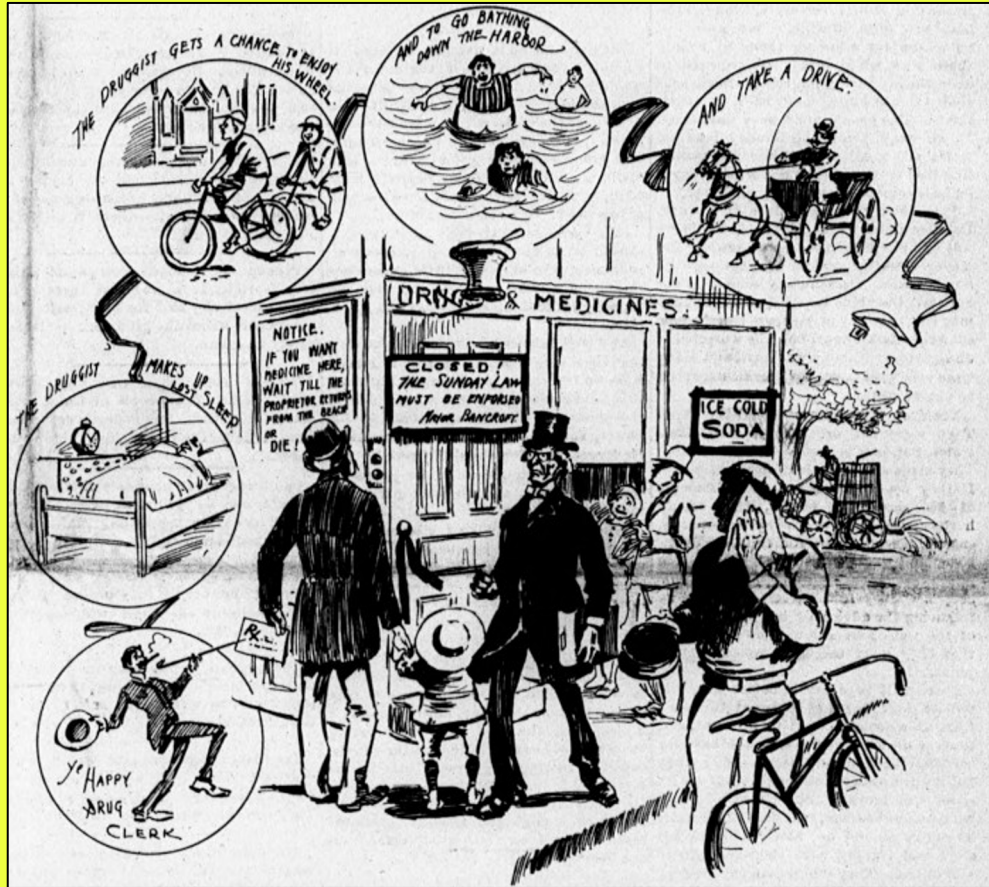


Should **the patent medicine** be classified as a **health aid**, a **luxury** consumer good, or an instrument of **vice**? Why?

Any closing words on how these objects should be classified and why?



# “THE CAMBRIDGE IDEA.”



Cambridge Chronicle, July 14, 1894, 1.

## LAST SUNDAY'S WINDOW SIGNS.

The druggists hit out right and left in the signs on their stores last Sunday. Among others the following were displayed:

"This store will not be open on Sunday, till further notice. Buy your Sunday papers at the car station in Bowdoin square. Cigars, soda and candy in Somerville. Per order of the Mayor."

"Closed for all sales whatsoever, by order of the chief of police."

"Wonders will never cease, dear friends,  
Even if you have the money;  
For our drug stores will be closed today,  
Now doesn't that seem funny?  
During six days thou shall do thy work;  
That's what we hear them say,  
And on this seventh—we'll have a rest,  
For to us it's a holiday."

"Take notice: No soda cocktail for me today. What shall I do?"

"For the first time in eighteen years this store will be closed all day. At rest."

"Bancroft closed us up. In November we'll close him up."

"Bancroft did not dare to stop the West End road."

"We would gladly furnish our customers with a glass of soda, a cigar, a pill, or a dose of rhubarb, but the law says no. If you will kindly wait until tomorrow, we will try to serve you better than even before. Give us a rest."

"Blue laws. No medicine sold on Sunday. Sick people hold over until Monday."

## FIZZLED OUT.

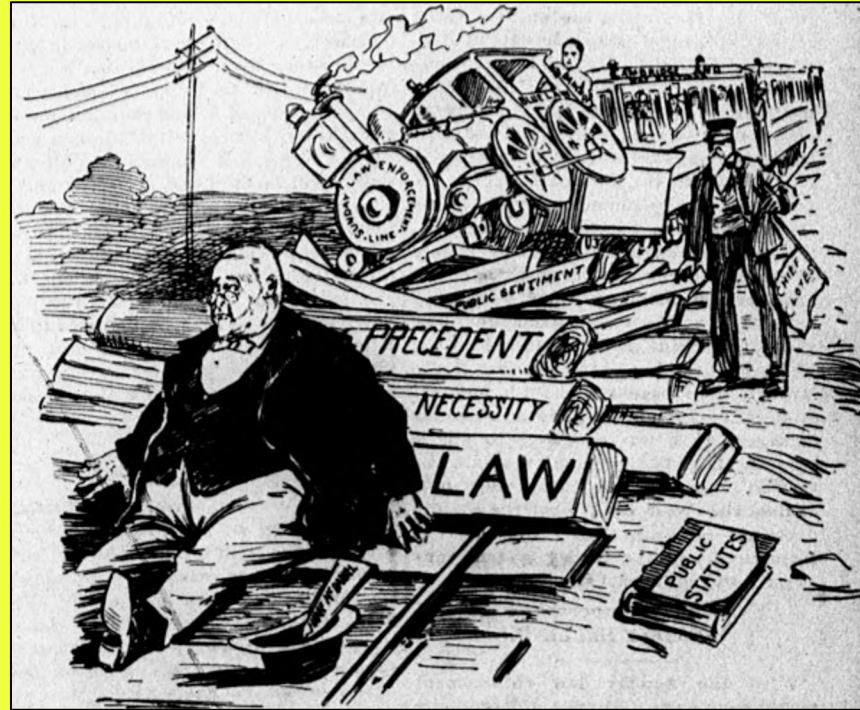
"My position in regard to this matter of enforcing the laws relating to the Lord's day has been an entire willingness to enforce the law whatever it might be.

As to what was law, I took the advice of the city solicitor. It was assumed by the druggists, as I understood, that it was my intention to complain of them for selling tobacco as well as soda water and other drinks of like character; but I have always regarded these articles as drugs and medicines.

Indeed, in many cases they are used as drugs and medicines. It is for the court to decide what they are.

Intending, however, to act in good faith, I notified the druggists and other people that I should enforce the law, whatever it might be, for it was said that the druggists were selling toilet articles and articles not ordered by the prescription of a physician, and which were not mechanical appliances for the use of physicians and surgeons; that is, articles not excepted by the law of 1887.

# "DITCHED."



A train on the "Sunday Law Enforcement Movement Line" drawn by the engine "Blue Law," Bancroft engineer and Cloyes conductor, runs into an obstruction near District Court station and is "Ditched." An investigation of the accident reveals the fact that the obstruction was caused by Judge McDonald, who had thrown a sign of law, precedent, necessity, and public sentiment on the track and was found boldly backing them up when the collision came. The train was filled with Cambridge ministers and was running at good speed. The engineer and conductor escaped with only a few scratches. Except a slight shattering of the nerves of a few clergymen on board and the temporary loss of breath of a few druggists and ice cream dealers who were picnicking near by, no one else was hurt.



Health?



Luxury?



Vice?