

ciety that is really required to carry out these enactments, to render them of any use or virtue, we would have just such a state of society that would render any such enactments quite unnecessary and uncalled for. In support of this my position, allow me to present briefly, the law, as existing now for some years, as regards tavern licenses. First—it is enacted—“*That no licenses shall be granted for an inn or public house, unless the person applying shall first have a certificate of his being a proper person, from the Magistrates in his division.*” And no such certificate shall be given “*without a testimonial of good character from the hands of the Parson and Town Wardens, or from reputable and substantial householders.*” This certificate certifies—“*That A. B. is a person of sober habits, good fame and conversation, and that he is a proper person to be entrusted with a license to keep an inn, which we further certify is much required in the neighborhood of the house, &c.*” The law requires, too, that he “*Be possessed of a dwelling house, containing, at least, three rooms beyond those required for the family, and three beds over and above wanted for the use of the family, and to be possessed of a good stable for at least two pair of horses.*” If he hath such a house and such a certificate, he is to petition the Magistrates for a license, in which he says—“*That his house is well adapted for the accommodation of travellers, and in a neighborhood where an inn is much wanted.*” To the Magistrates to whom this comes, it is enacted that “*They shall have power to limit the number of inns, and the said Justices shall enquire into the character of the applicant, and the expediency of increasing the number of inns;*” and so guarded is the law, that it is further enacted—“*That no Magistrate, being a brewer or distiller, or retailer of any spirituous liquors, or a partner with any such, shall act or be present at any licensing meeting, or at any meeting for the transferring of licenses; nor in case he shall be the owner of any house licensed or about to be licensed.*” It is further enacted—“*That at the time of granting such licenses, the Justices shall frame rules and regulations for innkeepers—a copy of which, for the information of the travellers, shall be fixed in some conspicuous place in every house licensed.*” The law is thus particular, with respect to the person to whom, the places where, and the parties by whom licenses are granted; but not content with all this, the person obtaining a license must enter into bonds, himself in the sum of £10, and two sureties in the sum of £5 each, “*to be levied on their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements, to the use of our said lady the Queen;*” if he does not “*keep good order and rule in the said house, and in any out-house, yard or garden, or other place thereunto belonging;*” and the license he then procures is only “*during the continuance of good order in the said inn, and duly observe all rules, regulations, matters and things, respecting inns.*” Notwithstanding all this caution on the part of the Parliament—indeed the greatest possible caution—their enactments do not stop here, but provide that “*Any innkeeper suffering persons to continue drinking and tipping, shall forfeit 10s. upon conviction before one Justice.*” What can be more strict? for “*tipping,*” not getting drunk, to “*forfeit 10s.*” (and the cost would be about 15s. more,) and that before only one Justice? and any of the persons so found “*tipping or drinking, on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, on view or oath of one witness, shall forfeit 3s. 4d. (and costs bear in mind), to be collected by distress and sale of goods, if not paid in one week,*” and if the innkeeper himself shall be found “*tipping*” he is to be fined as above, “*and shall, moreover, for the space of three years be disabled from keeping such house,*” and every person who “*shall be drunk and convicted thereof before one Justice, on view or oath of one wit-*

ness, shall forfeit for the first offence 5s, and if not immediately paid and no goods found, he shall be put in the stocks 6 hours;” and on a second conviction the offender shall be bound with two sureties, in the sum of £10, with condition to be from henceforth of good behaviour.”

I have, I think, successfully proven that if Parliamentary enactments could have stopped the progress of intemperance, it would have been stopped long ere this. But still you cry “*Petition Parliament,*” and advise societies to frame their petition only to this effect:—That in every locality, in which it is proposed to open a tavern, the people who reside there should have an opportunity of expressing their mind upon it, by remonstrance or otherwise, and if they, by a majority are unfavorable to the proposed tavern, it then should be prohibited by the Legislature,” and you then ask “*Why should the magistrates and the tavern-keepers have it in their power to thrust the fire-water upon a reluctant community?*” To this I beg to make two remarks—1st. That the people in every locality in which it has been proposed to open a tavern, have always had an “*opportunity of expressing their mind on it,*” and that if a “*majority*” had at any time, “*remonstrated*” against “*the proposed tavern,*” it would, in no case, have been granted. Licenses are always granted in open court, and before granting one, the chairman asks aloud, “*Is there any objection to A. B. getting a license to keep an inn.*” Several attempts have been made to hinder such being granted; but in no case have the parties been enabled to get a “*majority*” against it. The innkeeper’s petition would often have 3 to 1 against the one against him. 2ndly. The very thing you propose to petition for, I think you now already have; for by the late Municipal Act, 12 Victoria, chap. 81. sect. 31,—It is enacted that the Township councils may make by-laws, “*For regulating inns, taverns and ale-houses, and all houses where spirituous liquors or any other manufactured beverage may be sold or drank therein, and to limit the number of them, &c.*” Then if the “*majority*” you speak of can be found, they must be attended to. But, Mr. Editor, I much regret to say, that these “*majorities,*” against such houses, cannot be found. Let us stop petitioning, but remain circulating the *Advocate*, lecturing, distributing teetotal tracts, &c., &c., and by these means produce such a state of society that there will be no customers. Then there will be no inns, and consequently no Parliamentary enactments.

A. J. P.

Oxford County, March 14th, 1850.

P. S. I may add, that of the twenty cases tried before me within the last six months, eighteen have been occasioned by drink.

J. P.

[We shall offer some remarks on this letter in our next.—Ed C. T. A.]

A NEW “DIVISION.”

A short time since I intimated through your columns that it was in contemplation to open a Division of the Sons of Temperance in this city, and have now to ask you to record the fact, that a Division was opened on the evening of the 23rd March, and the necessary officers appointed. There have been two meetings since, at each of which several new candidates have been proposed for admission. This order is likely to spread very rapidly, everything connected with its operations being so simple and yet so complete as to serve all the purposes of the most complicated machinery of such societies, for the purpose of abating the members, and at the same time preventing imposition. Let me recommend you to insert as an advertisement on your last