

of 308. Now the number of occupied houses in the borough was 7793; that number divided by 308, would give 25, which was the number of houses to one alehouse. Was that enough? He should wish to draw the attention of the magistrates to the effects which these alehouses had upon the population up to the present period. He should refer the court to the evidence of Mr. Harris, the superintendent of police, from whose account it appeared that up to November 1845, the number of licensed alehouses in which thieves and prostitutes resorted was 25. That number was of the 117 he had alluded to, where there were licenses to sell ardent spirits, such as were applied for on that occasion. In 29 out of the 117, gambling was permitted. There were in the town 112 prostitutes. He asked the court whether the system of prostitutes was not encouraged by alehouses? Then, without referring to thieves, he would go at once to the number of drunkards actually apprehended in a state of drunkenness. From the 30th July 1845 to the 30th July 1846, 754 persons were apprehended by the police in a state of intoxication. Last month, the number of persons apprehended by the borough police was 260; out of that number, 136, or more than one-half were cases of drunkenness alone. There were 15 police in the borough, and more than four-fifths of their time appeared to him (Mr. Taylor) to be occupied in bringing up drunken persons, and persons implicated in robberies or other offences into which they had been led by drunkenness. Now if such appeared to the justices to be the case, that thieves had been led to commit theft through drunkenness, he thought they would see the necessity of considering before they increased the means and opportunities of obtaining drink. He would now come to another class of case, connected with drunkenness. They were cases of death, traced directly to drinking, and the parties had all, in some manner, been in connexion with a licensed alehouse or beerhouse. At present he would only take seven of the most striking cases; they were cases which had been openly investigated, and statements respecting each had been given on oath, as papers in his possession as coroner would show, were it required. He would show seven inquests at which he had been present, and which were of recent date. In case No. 7, a man fell down stairs in a licensed inn and breaking his neck or fracturing his skull in the fall, he died in consequence. No. 10 was a case in which a man got drunk at a beer-house near the Farmer's Arms, and walked into the canal, where he was afterwards found drowned! Nos. 22, 24, 36, and 39, were each cases in which the deceased persons had hung themselves through excessive drinking. With instances of that nature before them, he would ask the bench, would they not see it necessary to refrain from granting any additional licenses?—The magistrates then retired to consider the applications for new licenses, and after an absence of about twenty minutes, Mr. Darbshire returned into court and stated that the magistrates had unanimously decided to grant no more.

LICENSING SYSTEM.—The adjourned general licensing meeting was held on the 21st of Sept. at Newcastle-on-Tyne, present Alderman Dunn, chairman, and several other Magistrates. Previous to the Bench considering the deferred old licenses, a numerous deputation, headed by the Rev. Messrs. Wight and Paige, and Jonathan Priestman, Esq. presented a memorial passed at a public meeting held on the previous Thursday, to consider the question—"Is the local taxation to be increased by granting additional licences?" After the memorial had been presented the Rev. Wm. Wight, A. M. addressed the Bench:—

"He observed that he thought it would be unnecessary on his part to say that the object the deputation had in view was to benefit their fellow-creatures and the community. As to himself, he spoke to them as a clergyman, and he expressed it to be his firm conviction, that so long as the practice of granting licences or publicans continued and increased, there was not the remotest prospect of benefitting the inhabitants morally, much less religiously. For instance, in every house of distress and sickness he had visited in the parish to which he belonged, nine cases out of ten had been caused by the drunken habits of its inmates, and in consequence he was obliged to relieve them by meat and bread, because if he gave them money it would be expended for intoxicating drinks. Indeed, in some cases, the very meat and bread given had been disposed of for drink. It was therefore of the utmost importance that those places of temptation should not be increased so as to extend the evil of drunkenness. In making these remarks, he would however say, that the deputation were

not actuated against the publicans by any feelings of ill-will, for it was their firm conviction that there was no class of individuals that would be more benefitted if these licensed houses were abolished altogether. For himself, he was sorry to see the keepers of them so frequently drop off the stage of existence like rotten sheep, and afterwards their vacancies filled up by bereaved widows. He had visited many in their dying moments, and he ascertained from a medical statement, that *the average life at a public house was not more than five years.*" After some remarks had been made by other members of the deputation, the bench ultimately granted *three* applications out of twenty.—*Abridged from the Newcastle Advertiser.*

LONDON—MISSIONARY REPORT, No 3.—A drunkard coming out of a gin-shop in Whitechapel was spoken to. In reply, he said, it is the drink which has been my ruin. It has caused me to lie, curse, swear, and commit every vice. It is only three days since I wrote to my father, who is a merchant, residing in Glasgow, an execrable lie, telling him I was in an hospital, and in great distress, when he sent me a post-office order, for £4. A small portion of the money thus obtained, he laid out as follows:—for trousers, one shilling and sixpence, waistcoat, five-pence, shoes, four shillings. The whole of the rest he had spent in drink. The coat he had that morning pawned for more drink, and he had just come out, intending to sell or pawn his shoes. He had not purchased one morsel of food with any part of the £4. His father, he continued, had set him up in business twice, and there was no one who could have done better than he, had it not been for his intemperance. The tears immediately ran down his cheeks, and he said, Oh! I could tell you such a tale, but I dare not. He was exhorted to beg the assistance of God, to enable him to take a different course, and sign the pledge. He then with much difficulty, from the shaking of his hand, signed.

No 5.—A RE-SIGNATURE.—Your missionary on meeting a young man, who, with his wife, signed the pledge; when on enquiring after his wife, he said, Oh! sir, how I do wish she had taken your advice, and kept the pledge, you may remember when she signed it; she then said she would keep it for three months, which she did faithful and true up to the very day, and during that time my house was like a Heaven on earth; everything went on so comfortable, my place was always clean and ready for me; and where I worked, my master raised my wages *six shillings* per week, in consequence of my sobriety; but sir, the very morning the three months were up, she woke me about four o'clock saying, her time was up; and when I came home at night she was the worse for drink, and so she continued for some time, till she again signed, and kept it for a little time; and during the three months we had saved in a box I made, about *forty-five shillings*; but in a very few days after she broke her pledge, I could only find one shilling and six-pence in it, and now she has been upon her drinking games for upwards of a fortnight, and I have not seen her at all since 'Tuesday evening, (this was on Thursday) and I am fearful she has thrown herself into the river, for she was once taken from thence, and rescued by a sailor; I wish you would make some inquiries for me. The missionary went to several police stations; but on the Friday evening he discovered her in the Borough, and got her home, when the missionary called, and after some serious admonition and conversation, she again signed the pledge, *and that for life, by Divine assistance*; and subsequent visits have not only found her firm, but her husband says, he has no doubt now but it is her intention to keep to it.

FINCHBURY.—A meeting of the children attending Cowper street school, was held on the 20th of October. There was a large attendance of the elder boys and girls, and some of their parents. Several of the patronesses of the school were present, and seemed much delighted with the animating sight before them;—*several* hundred boys and girls who were entering upon the dangerous path of life, and open to its temptations. Dr. Campbell took the chair, and after a few excellent remarks, Mr. Beggs and Mr. Gilpin gave short addresses on the evils of drinking intoxicating drinks; and the importance of their becoming convinced of the propriety of abstaining. It was announced to them, that other meetings would be held, and tracts given them. The occasion was interesting and most important; and the females present were exhorted to take up the question, as temperance was a woman's question.