

posed on us that would acquit him on evidence merely shewing that he had done good acts, if such were the case, we could never have a conviction, and the consequence would be that life and property would be in constant jeopardy. As to the crimes, the prisoner has not been cognizant of, you will bear in mind that he is only charged with being the cause of three-fourths of the crime which disgraces our country. As to his retaliating on those only who interfere with him, the plea seems to be absurd, as it is the innocent wives and children who never taste strong liquors, that suffer the greatest anguish of body and mind by them—and those who never interfere with him are taxed for the injuries committed by him. Again.—it is contended that it would be monstrous to deprive thousands of people of the highest respectability of their joys and profits and social comforts, because a mass of individuals suffer hardship for abusing those comforts.

It is contrary to the spirit of the age, and to common sense that the great majority of the community should by any means suffer hardship for the benefit of the few,—such slavery should not be tolerated by a free and enlightened people. We should no longer ask why it is that scarcely a Session of Parliament or a public Council passes without acts or amendments to acts for the restriction or regulation of the Prisoner. Were a dangerous maniac at large doing some good acts, and destroying life and property on his march, we would at once place him in solitary confinement.

By 6 and 7 Wm. 4. Cap. 38, Sec. 12: “Any person found under the influence of intoxicating liquors in streets or thoroughfares is liable to fine or imprisonment.”—And at present a Bill is before the House of Commons having for its object the reduction of the number of public Houses in Scotland. And yet we are informed from the most authentic sources, that three-fourths of the crime and degradation of our country are attributable to the agency of the Prisoner. This cannot be said of less enlightened nations, who have swept from their Statute Books all laws relating to the Prisoner, and by one act totally suppressing him, have relieved their respective countries of incalculable expense, crime, and misery.

Gentlemen, if you believe the evidence for the prosecution, that the prisoner has been the curse of the country, the cause of three-fourths of its crime and pauperism, you will find him guilty.

On the other hand, gentlemen, it has been stated that the services of the Prisoner are indispensably necessary,—that great and good men in all ages and of the most enlightened nations, and Ladies of the highest distinction have patronised him,—that he has made warriors brave and caused them to win the battles of their country,—gave eloquence to our most illustrious Statesmen—inspired the poets—increased the trade and commerce of the nation—gave employment to millions—comforted the afflicted—prevented contagion and gladdened the hearts of men—that he is a good creature—a friendly social companion in whom there is no guile, and who has been eminently successful in restoring health and saving life.

Gentlemen, if you believe the evidence for the Prisoner which is