

Bolton 20; also beer-houses in Great Bolton, 125; Little Bolton, 66; in addition to these, there were in the two townships 11 houses at which beer was sold off the premises: total of licensed houses at which ale and spirits were sold, 318. Now, he had no hesitation in saying, that these ale and beer houses would hold every man, woman, and child in the borough of Bolton; and that, therefore, we had space enough for drinking, whatever else we were short of. There was a drinking-place for every 25 houses, or one for every 200 souls, including men, women, and children, total abstainers, and those who would not, could not, or durst not, drink; and if it was said that persons came to the market who got drunk, it might, on the other hand, be said, that those who did not drink should be taken as a set-off against them. Such were the present resources for selling drink, or poison—some call it by one name, some by the other. Of 12 of the inns of which he had spoken, the occupiers had this year been fined or reprimanded for offences committed on the Sabbath; eight were notorious as places at which gaming was permitted; at twelve (not to speak of the vaults) prostitutes were permitted to assemble. Then, there were five beer-houses at which gaming was permitted, and eight beer-houses where prostitutes were permitted to assemble, some of them being no better than brothels. The total number of prisoners apprehended for the last year (ending August) was 2,541. He had arrived at this aggregate by taking from the police accounts the number apprehended during the first eleven months, and adding the average for another month. 2,541 had been apprehended for all offences, civil and criminal; but he would analyse them. 367 of the number were males, who were found by the police drunk and incapable of taking care of themselves; 62 females were found under similar circumstances; for being drunk and disorderly, 317 males and 60 females; and the disorderly characters, resorting to low ale-houses and beer-houses, who were taken into custody, amounted to 244. The disorderly prostitutes apprehended were 117: making a total of 1,167. Now, let them see now many were apprehended for being disorderly whilst sober, for by that means the cause of disorder, crime and prostitution, might be ascertained. 93 men and 28 women—in all, 121—were the number thus taken into custody; or, in other words, one-tenth of the number that were apprehended for being drunk, or under the influence of drink: so that this, at all events, bore out the impression of judges, magistrates, keepers of prisons, and others, that nine-tenths of the crime of the country was chargeable upon the drinking usages and customs. He had not taken into account the felonies that were committed; and he would leave the magistrates who attended that court and the quarter-sessions, to say whether the same ratio did not shew itself, in respect of these offences. He wished, however, to offer some evidence to prove the influence which increased facilities for drinking had upon the conduct of the people. In order to do this, he would draw a comparison of the offences of this and the last three years, and also of the number of ale-houses in those periods. In 1846, there were 317 ale and beer houses, and 1169 persons of the character previously described, being under the influence of drink, were apprehended. In 1837, the number of

ale and beer houses was 341, or an increase of 25 beer-houses upon 1846; and that increase produced an increase of prisoners, apprehended under the influence of drink, of 193; which showed, beyond all doubt, the relation that existed between the drinking system and crime. In the present year, there were 318 ale and beer houses; and, as he before stated, 1167 persons of the character spoken of had been apprehended; so that the increase of 193 in 1847, had fallen down again to within 2 of the number of 1846, while the ale and beer houses had also diminished till they were merely one over what they were in that year. Now these statements could be proved to be true, on inquiry being made at the source whence they were derived. And, after hearing them, he would ask, could any disinterested mind fail to see the relation to which he had alluded? If not, he presumed the magistrates would consider, before they afforded increased facilities for the procuring of drink. Now he begged to give an account of the inquests held in the borough during the past year. He had no other opportunity of giving an account of his stewardship, and should be very happy in availing himself of the opportunity now afforded, of doing so. There had been 68 inquests in the year ending August. Of the persons on whom these were held, 21 were infants, or under 21 years of age; and it therefore could not be expected that they would be influenced by drinking, though, incidentally, they might have died from the misconduct of their parents in that respect. That number deduct from the whole, 47 remained, the end of twenty-three of which he would give them. He then went through the 23 cases, leaving out names, but briefly stating the following circumstances of death:—

1. Beerseller: fell drunk; died from concussion of the brain.
2. Verdict, "Excessive drinking."
3. Drowned himself; "Excessive drinking."
4. A drunkard for 20 years and upwards; died in workhouse.
5. (female) Drinking at an ale-house until 12 o'clock at night; found in the morning suffocated.
6. Innkeeper: hung himself; had drink supplied in the night time.
7. Drinking at an ale-house until 12 on Sabbath night; found drowned the following morning.
8. (female) A drunkard for twenty years; found drowned.
9. (female) Separated from her husband; maintained at a brothel and beer-house; drinking ale within an hour of death; "Excessive drinking."
10. Boy of 12; son of drunken parents; sent to work young from misconduct of parents; caught by machinery.
11. (female) 22 years; drinking at a beer-house on Sabbath morning; died from taking mercury to cure herself of a loathsome disease.
12. A beerseller; Verdict, "Excessive drinking."
13. (female) Drunkard 25 years; hung herself; verdict, "Excessive drinking."
14. (male) Drinking at a club held at an ale-house until 11 at night; skull fractured by a fall.
15. (male) Self-hanging from "excessive drinking;" son cut his throat a year previous; drunkard, and kept company with prostitutes.