

or class, all whom I saw in a state of drunkenness ; at times convicting 5 or 6 in a day, so prevalent, formerly, was open drunkenness. In this discharge of public duty, I persevered for 7 or 8 years, during which time, I convicted and fined *several hundreds* in all, and on two or three occasions, ordered old and incorrigible offenders to the *stocks*. If all the convictions and warrants, and other processes which I wrote, or filled up, in the course of these proceedings, were gathered together, and shaken open, I verily believe they would fill a *bushel measure*, or more. But some may be ready to ask, did not all this *strictness* of proceeding, prevent the exhibition of drunkenness in *public* ? I answer *no* ; probably, not in the least degree. The only benefit I can to a certainty, say was done, was that of increasing the funds for the relief of the poor ; as the fines for drunkenness are legally appropriated for that purpose. The same law and penalties against drunkenness, are still in force among us, but, I believe scarcely a magistrate *now*, ever thinks of carrying them into effect. In former times, a very few magistrates, in the parent lands, as well as in other parts, being rather more *conscientious* and *zealous*, than the rest of their brethren, did occasionally, convict and punish such offenders, but I will venture to say, that if the statement of every one of them could be had, it would be about to the same effect, as that just given, of my own acts and doings on the subject. In short, the experience of ages has clearly shown, that neither penalties nor punishments for drunkenness, nor any legal regulations or restrictions whatever, have been available, in any, even, supposed degree, to prevent or restrain drunkenness, or any of the other crimes or evils of the pernicious and inveterate drinking system.