

them. A party may be well informed beforehand, who will be summoned on his jury. An opportunity thus offers for the exertion of improper influence.

“A large proportion of those who have appeared and served are publicans, as many in some cases as eight out of twenty-nine, three having been convicted persons; in other cases, ten out of thirty-one, five having been also convicted persons; and again, eleven out of thirty-five, four of them convicted persons.

“Respecting the large proportion of this class of persons on the jury panels, and the state of crime, and the causes of it, I addressed a letter to his Excellency the Governor, and I now repeat, that the evils arising from the very great number of licensed houses for the sale of ardent spirits, are not restricted to the stimulus which they give to the commission of crime, and concealment of it which they afford, but I have found a very great proportion out of the panel of jurymen before the Supreme Court (who actually attend), to be holders of licensed public houses, frequently very low in respectability, to whose houses, prosecutors, and parties accused, on bail, and their witnesses, bond and free, resort for the purpose of drinking, during the period of time they are in attendance on court; and a reasonable fear is thus excited for the purity of the administration of justice, which I have had occasion as a judge to see realized.

“Upon reference to the jury-list of 1835, I have found that the number to be summoned from criminal issues before the Supreme Court is nine hundred and fifty-three, of whom two hundred and three are publicans and innkeepers. The proportion of those who actually serve, far exceeds that number; and in June, 1835, no less a number than two hundred and twenty-four licenses were granted for public houses in the town of Sydney alone. Few of them do not possess the necessary qualifications, and many are highly respectable persons; but the proportion which they bear to the whole is small.”

The keepers of the low public houses in Sydney, are chiefly persons who have been transported to this colony, or are married to convicts, and many of them are notorious drunkards, obscure persons, fighters, gamblers, receivers of stolen goods, harbourers of thieves, and the most depraved of both sexes; they exist upon the vices of the lower orders, and inasmuch as there are no licensed pawnbrokers in Sydney, they act as such, but not as occurs in other countries, upon occasion of some temporary pressure on the poor, for some necessary of life, but for intoxicating liquor.

There is a great unwillingness on the part of respectable persons to appear and serve on juries, arising from a natural repugnance to asso-