



On the Relation Between Crime, Popular Instruction, Attendance on Religious Worship, and Beer-House

Author(s): John Clay

Source: Journal of the Statistical Society of London, Mar., 1857, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Mar., 1857), pp. 22-32

Published by: Wiley for the Royal Statistical Society

Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/2338159

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at https://about.jstor.org/terms



Royal Statistical Society and Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to Journal of the Statistical Society of London

### On the Relation between Orime, Popular Instruction, Attendance on Religious Worship, and Beer-houses. By THE REV. JOHN CLAY, B.D., Chaplain to the Preston House of Correction.

#### [Read before the Statistical Society, 18th November, 1856.]

IT is obvious that inquiries into the causes and encouragements of crime must lead to considerations touching the state of Popular Education, attention to Religious Observances, and the influence of Ale and Beer-houses in promoting drunkenness, and its consequent evils.

The five years ending with 1853 are well suited to inquiries of this nature, inasmuch as, during that period, there was little to disturb the ordinary course of existence among the labouring class; no political or social excitement; no cessation of the employments by which those classes are supported.

The occurrence of the *Census* in the midst of this period is also a circumstance calculated to assist in obtaining results which depend upon the numbers of the population. The subject of inquiry about to be treated of will have reference, therefore, to the five years terminating with December, 1853, except in cases which will be duly noted.

1. As to the STATE OF CRIME in the different English counties during the period in question, those counties retained, generally speaking, nearly the same relative positions which they had held in former years; the exceptions to this uniformity will be noted further on.

Mr. Redgrave's tables show that the annual average of committals for trial, throughout England, during the five years, ending 1853, was 26,477; and that the committals for 1853 were 442 below the average.

In all attempts to ascertain the real difference in the criminality of the English counties, great (if not insuperable) difficulties present themselves. In crowded towns, and thickly-peopled districts, crime, more or less, outdoes the means of its due depression, while in thinly-peopled counties, where crime is comparatively rare, it receives its full meed of punishment. This consideration will suggest, that if the law were enforced in all counties alike by the same inflexible rules, many of those which already look bad in the criminal tables would be made to look as much worse as, by comparison, the good would be made to appear better. The want of uniformity in administering the law is very apparent to every one who contrasts the proceedings of a Metropolitan Police Court with those (for instance) of a North Lancashire one. The magistrate, in the former case, punishes with a month's imprisonment offences which, in the latter, would be made subjects of indictment, and be followed by six months' imprisonment, or by a still severer sentence.

imprisonment, or by a still severer sentence. The county of Lancaster itself, in dealing with law-breakers, exhibits inconsistencies of no slight magnitude. The strictness with which the law is enforced in the Northern Division, and the lenity with which it is administered in Liverpool, are quite inconsistent with that equal justice which the same law is, theoretically, supposed to deal out in all places alike. Offences committed in Liverpool are disposed of *summarily*, (and, not unfrequently, the cases are dismissed,) which, if committed in Preston, would be followed by indictment at the sessions, and, on conviction of the offender, by penal servitude, or transportation.

In the Northern Division, a man gets hold of a wrong hat in a public-house disturbance, and is committed to the sessions to be tried for stealing it. A woman of fifty, the mother of a family, against whose character no previous imputation had ever rested, is indicted for stealing seven pieces of turf (fourteen or fifteen pieces being retailed for a penny)! Now in contrast to proceedings like these, the borough of Liverpool, according to Major Greig's most valuable Police Report of 1854, was content, or was compelled by circumstances, to deal *summarily*, in the year named, with 65 persons charged with "cutting and maining," with 40 cases involving burglary, house, shop, warehouse, and ship-breaking; with 540 robberies from the person, chiefly by known male and female pickpockets; with 162 "robberies from the person" by prostitutes; with 101 robberies by servants and lodgers; with 177 robberies from vessels in the docks; and with 1,251 larcenies of other kinds!

In the year 1848, 3,440 robberies committed in Liverpool were punished by summary conviction. At the Preston sessions, to which cases for trial are sent by a population of more than 400,000, the conviction of a known pickpocket, or of a previously convicted prostitute, for "robbery from the person," has hitherto been invariably followed by transportation, and would now be followed by penal servitude. That this firm assertion of the law operates well is evinced by the fact that, in 1853, not a single pickpocket appeared at the Preston sessions.

These details are given to show the difficulty of forming a true estimate of the comparative criminality of counties, from the *data* furnished to Mr. Redgrave in the assize and sessions' calendars. As, however, the anomalous proceedings in Lancashire may also exist, more or less, in other counties, which, like Lancashire, have a sparse population in some districts, and a dense one in others, a comparative view of the apparent criminality of the English counties, as derived from Mr. Redgrave's tables, may still be of some value, especially if the inquire bear in mind what is suggested by the state of Lancashire.

The following table gives the amount of criminality assignable to each county as the mean of the five years ending with 1853. The counties are placed in consecutive order, beginning with the worst; and their amendment, or otherwise, is indicated in the columns which show other places in a similar order at former periods. The countries which are provided with a constabulary are distinguished by an asterisk. 24

COUNTIES.	Annual Mean of Criminality	Criminality to Population.	Consecutive order in				
COUNTIES.	1849 to 1853.	One in	1849 to 1853.	1847.	1844.	1841.	
* Monmouth	380	414	1	5	16	2	
* Chester	985	463	2	10	5	6	
* Worrester	591	469	3	1	1	5	
* Hereford	245	471	4	2	11	10	
* Gloucester	970	473	5	3	2	1	
Berkshire	348	489	6	6	14	6	
* Middlesex	3,777	499	7	4	3	7	
* Warwick	869	546	8	7	4	4	
* Hertfordshire	306	547	9	9	24	12	
* South Lancashire	2,831	555	10	12	6	3	
* Hampshire	721	562	11	8	17	15	
Oxford	294	579	12	14	13	13	
* Stafford	1,050	580	13	19	8	11	
* Cambridge	313	592	14	18	26	29	
Somerset	749	593	15	13	10	8	
* Suffolk	554	608	16	21	20	28	
* Essex	602	613	17	17	12	17	
Surrey	1,097	623	18	20	28	27	
* Kent	983	626	19	22	23	21	
* Norfelk	699	633	20	28	18	25	
* Wiltshire	400	636	21	11	22	14	
Buckingham	257	637	22	15	15	18	
Huntingdon	96	669	23	27	36	35	
Rutland	34	676	24	25	21	40	
* Sussex	496	680	25	24	25	19	
* Salop	332	691	26	29	9	22	
* Bedford	179	695	27	30	19	20	
Devon	784	723	28	23	33	31	
* Northampton	280	758	29	26	34	23	
Lincoln	517	788	30	31	27	35	
* Leicester	292	789	31	32	7	9	
* Nottingham	333	812	32	33	32	30	
York	2,052	877	33	34	30	32	
* Dorset	209	881	34	16	31	24	
* North Lancashire	506	909	35	37	29	26	
* Westmoreland	59	988	36	35	40	41	
Northumberland	274	1,108	37	36	37	36	
* Durham	344	1.137	38	40	38	39	
Derby	247	1,199	39	41	35	34	
* Cumberland	150	1,303	40	39	41	38	
Cornwall	232	1,533	41	38	39	37	
	202	1,000	41	30	39	37	

Table of the Comparative Criminality of the English Counties.

However imperfectly the above figures may indicate the truth as to the comparative criminality of the English counties, they may, nevertheless, be useful, (on the supposition that the same mode of dealing with offenders has prevailed in the several counties for a length of time,) to show what improvement or deterioration has taken place in them at different periods.

Gloucester, for example, appears to be steadily, though slowly, improving; the same may be said of Warwick, and a little more

# 1857.] Attendance on Religious Worship, and Beer-houses.

decidedly of Somerset and of North Lancashire. The most striking progress in the right direction has been made by Leicester. Somerset, in the five years ending 1843, committed annually (on an average) 1,015 persons for trial, and in 1853 only 655. Leicester, with 509 committals in 1843, had only 251 in 1853. The downward course of a county, as apparent in the criminal tables, is more rapid than an upward one, the very creditable case of Leicester being the single exception. Thus, comparing the "order" in 1841 or 1844, with that of 1853, improvement seldom exceeds five or six places. But the deterioration of Berkshire is indicated by a loss of ten places; Suffolk has lost twelve places; Surrey ten; Monmouth and Cambridge, by successive plunges, fifteen. The counties which most constantly appear in the van of this criminal array are Worcester, Gloucester, Middlesex, Warwick, Chester, and Monmouth. The northern counties, and the most southerly one, Cornwall, have always occupied the most creditable positions.

2. The advocates and promoters of POPULAR EDUCATION have always hoped to see its good effects in diminishing crime; and it is certain such good effects are visible, though not to an extent commensurate with the means supposed to be employed. I say "supposed to be employed," because we have not been sufficiently alive to the fact that the mere mechanical ability to read is of no value unless accompanied by corresponding intelligence. Instruction, even education, has been credited to many thousands, who, in fact, have had no more of either than a boy would have of the Greek language, who had only been taught to read the Greek character.

For more than twenty years it has been my duty to call attention to these truths; to make known the widely-spread "ignorance of common things," and the equally pervading ignorance of sacred things. Thousands of boys, and even of men, able to read fluently the printed characters in the New Testament, are totally unable to comprehend the sense of what they read. That Holy Book, desecrated by being made a lesson-book, is associated in the minds of children with wearisome and difficult labour, with confinement and blows. No wonder, then, that it is not understood; no wonder that in after life it is neglected and disliked.

The Sunday School, as an educational power, and as an instrument for the promotion of Christian Knowledge is, no doubt, of great value, yet it might be made of much greater value.

The boys in our Sunday Schools do not possess the same advantages as the girls in the number and intelligence of their honorary teachers. The ladies, indeed, who devote themselves with so much perseverance, tact, judgment, and right feeling, to the work of Sunday School teaching, are amongst the most efficient benefactors of the time. In the girls' school mutual sympathy and good-will are established between the teacher and the taught, producing the happiest results upon both parties, and lasting long after school days are past. In the manufacturing districts of the north there are thousands of young women who, entering the school at an early age, have continued their attendance until (or even after) marriage. These young women are the civilizers and MELIORATORS of their families and their class; and if Sunday Schools have done no more 26

than thus to bring the educated and refined of the softer sex into kindly intercourse with their humbler sisters, they would have accomplished an immense good. If a time should ever arrive when young men of education and comparative rank shall become Sunday School instructors to the same extent, the effect upon our brethren of the industrial classes would be seen in such a social and religious advance as has never yet been made. Were such teachers forthcoming, we should soon have less of dry book-work in the schools, less cramming of the memory with a catechism seldom explained and soon forgotten. The Holy Scriptures would not be degraded into repulsive taskbooks; poor children would not be dragged to church or chapel to hear what is to them perfectly unintelligible; and weary, cold, and restless, to be a source of annovance and distress to the rest of the congregation. In place of proceedings like these, efforts would be made in our Sunday Schools to give to the growing faculties of children healthy and agreeable exercise; Moral and Christian principles would be inculcated by interesting narratives, exemplary histories, and an occasional reference to Him who loved children, and specially taught the poor;--the Book in which this love and teaching are set forth being reserved to gratify the desires of those who long for a more perfect knowledge.\*

3. The RELIGIOUS STATE of the great body of the people (if it be judged by their attendance on Divine Worship,) cannot be thought of without sorrow.

For many years it has been incumbent on me to speak of the prevalent disregard of the Lord's Day by our labouring population. "Their irreligious state," it was said, "arises from neglect of the means of grace, rather than from any active dissemination among them of bad principles. . . . . It is not infidelity with which they are chargeable, but ignorant indifference. They do not believe, because they never hear the preacher; places of worship have been before their eyes from infancy, and the Lord's Day has been (even to them) a day distinguished from others, yet scarcely is their curiosity excited to inquire into the purpose for which either the one or the other is set apart. They suppose that people go to church 'to hear goodness,' but they appear to consider that they, as poor people, are not required to hear it."—*Chaplain's Report on the Preston Jail for* 1839. What was thus represented seventeen years ago, as the real

\* A more practical and exemplary kind of instruction in Sunday Schools might be made available for the removal of a great opprobrium which attaches to our national character. Care and kindness for the brute creation might be taught. Children would be (many are,) deeply interested in learning God's goodness to dumb animals, from suitable instructions in Natural History. Again—and this applies to our schools generally—it should be remembered that children like to do something. Providence did not confer the wonderful powers of the human hand to be unemployed during childhood. If those powers were exercised by the children in our schools intelligence would be roused and stimulated ten times more than by the present, system, which ignores the physical capabilities altogether. Among the great mass of our handicraftsmen there is a want of intelligence with regard to their own employments. Popular schools might remedy this, by developing the children's peculiar aptitudes, so that they might be placed in trades and situations for which they are well suited, instead of (as at present,) letting such things be decided by the arbitrary will of a parent, or the thoughtless choice of the child. state of this so-called Christian country, has now been confirmed by one who speaks with authority.

Mr. Horace Mann, in his "Report on Religious Worship," (Census, 1851,) writes, "While the labouring myriads of our country have been multiplying with our multiplied material prosperity, it cannot, it is feared, be stated that a corresponding increase has occurred in the attendance of this class in our religious edifices. More especially in cities and large towns, it is observable how absolutely insignificant a portion of the congregation is composed of artizans. They fill, perhaps, in youth, our National, British, and Sunday Schools, and there receive the elements of a religious education; but no sooner do they mingle in the active world of labour than, subject to the constant action of opposing influences, they soon become as utter strangers to religious ordinances as the people of a heathen country. It is sadly certain that this vast, intelligent, and growingly important section of our countrymen is thoroughly estranged from our religious institutions in their present aspect. Probably, indeed, the prevalence of infidelity has been exaggerated, if the word be taken in its popular meaning, as implying some degree of intellectual effort and decision; but, no doubt, a great extent of negative inert indifference prevails, the practical effects of which are much the same."

4. It is a mere truism to say that the progress of popular education, and the formation of religious habits, are fatally opposed by the temptations to animal pleasures, which abound wherever BEER-HOUSES and low ALE-HOUSES abound. To point to these places, and the excesses which they encourage, as the chief direct causes of crime, is only to assert the existence of a great and fully confessed evil. But confession of the evil is not attended by any corresponding determination to suppress it. Warning and remonstrance about it are heard from the bench, and from the pulpit; from the workhouse, and from the madhouse, and from the condemned cell—in vain. For a powerful INTEREST insists upon its right to profit by the degradation and misery of the people; and against that interest the interests of morality and of the Christian religion, of mental and material progress, of social and domestic happiness—plead in vain !

After these preliminary observations, it may be hoped that if Popular Instruction, attendance on Religious Worship, and the influence of Ale and Beer-houses, could be shown in their relation to each other, and to crime, some not unimportant conclusions may be indicated, if not established; and that, consequently, more strenuous efforts may be made to promote what appears to repress, and to repress what appears to promote, the debasement and crime which are so utterly inconsistent with our pretensions to civilization and piety.

The diagram\* which accompanies this paper is intended to show, at a glance, the degrees to which *Education*, *Religious habits*, *Drunkenness*, and *Orime* are concurrent. The numbers which are given in the several columns A, B, C, and D, of the table *represent*—

\* This diagram is in the possession of the Society; but, as the figures are given in the table at page 28, it has not been deemed necessary to insert it.

A.	The number of	Criminals	fo	or each	100,000	of the population.
В.	,,	Ale and Beer	-houses	,,	100,000	,,
C.	,,	Attendants at	School	,,	10,000	,,
D.	"		Public }	,,	2,000	**

28

For convenience sake, the numbers referred to are given below. The figures under A are for "counties proper," under B, C, and D, for "registration counties."

······		А.	B.	C.	D.
			D.		
South Bastern Counties.	Middlesex	200	541	560	434
uth Easte Counties.	Surrey	160	504	630	482
Ea	Kent	160	552	790	680
4 2	Sussex	147	295	820	678
ŭ t	Hants	178	409	990	798
So	Berks	205	568	930	698
q	Herts	183	708	1,020	888
an .	Bucks	156	624	1,130	970
id	Oxford	178	463	950	848
South Midland Counties.	Northampton	132	408	1,090	976
200 Jon	Huntingdon	149	646	1,110	1,104
no	Beds	143	588	1,250	1,136
<i>S</i> (	Cambridge	170	555	960	926
Eastern Jounties.	Essex	163	418	890	852
st {	Suffolk	164	200	880	988
Eastern Counties	Norfolk	158	321	890	816
	Wilts	157	178	1,170	1,018
South Western Counties.	Dorset	113	186	1,150	938
ste	Devon	138	192	760	804
$S_{e}$	Cornwall	66	87	1,050	876
-01	Somerset	168	212	980	874
re	Gloucester	211	406	960	816
West Midland Countres.	Monmouth	241	350	1,040	910
st Midla Countres.	Hereford	212	152	630	646
M	Salop	145	314	810	784
on st	Stafford	172	488	1,080	642
4e	Worcester	213	459	890	650
<u>۲</u>	Warwick	183	499	770	594
ا نہ جہ	Leicester	127	427	1,090	918
North Midland Counties.	Rutland	148	354	970	938
all of	Lincoln	127	268	960	834
SGKE	Notts	122	485	1,070	764
, i	Derby	83	449	1,210	778
North Western Sounties.	Cheshire	216	455	1,090	656
n est o	Lancashire	164	400	1,080	536
· •	·			-,	
York.	Yorkshire	114	238	1,050	682
		00	100	000	
Northern Counties.	Durham	88	180	880	546
nt.	Northumberland	90 70	152	1,090	558
ou	Cumberland	76	114	750	508
40	Westmoreland	101	149	890	662
					l

This content downloaded from 188.60.10.64 on Mon, 04 Mar 2024 14:54:51 +00:00 All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms

#### 1857.] Attendance on Religious Worship, and Beer-houses.

The coloured lines of the diagram will show the mutual relation of the subject facts to each other, and their absolute and relative extent in different localities, more readily than any array of figures, however full. The results shown on the diagram are, in some respect, less exact than could be desired, owing to the difficulty of obtaining *data* of precisely the same character and value in regard to each county. Thus, in respect to crime, we have already seen that a great want of uniformity exists in the mode of dealing with it, and that violations of the law, which, in one place, would inevitably go to swell Mr. Redgrave's Criminal Tables, would, in a place like Liverpool, not be treated as criminal at all. The influence of drink, as a cause of crime, is represented on the diagram with some approach to accuracy—the given measurements being the results of an appeal to the same standard, viz., "the number of victuallers and beer-shop keepers" in each county, according to the "occupation" returns of the *Census.*\*

The educational column represents the union between attendance at Sunday Schools and attendance at schools "supported by religious bodies," (Class 3 in the Education Tables of the *Census*,) which, I think, indicates the amount of popular instruction now carried on, better than Sunday Schools or Day Schools alone.

The figures and columns which indicate attendance on public worship are founded on the table given at page ccc. of the *Census* volume, relating to "Religious Worship."

The blank columns of crime represent the annual mean of the five years ending with 1853. It will be perceived that the counties are exhibited in groups, in conformity with the plan adopted in the *Census*, though Monmouth has been removed from its isolated position, and associated with the West Midland counties.

The general facts apparent on the diagram are presented in another form by the following tabulated results of the diagram :—

\* The information given in the "Occupation" tables, relating to "Inn-keepers," "Licensed Victuallers," and "Beer-shop keepers," is, however, rather perplexing. Desiring to obtain the numbers in each county of those low drinking-houses, (including, of course, all the beer shops,) which are generally supposed to foster crime, I found that, according to the Census, the entire number of persons, males and females, enumerated as "licensed victuallers," and beer-shop keepers in England, was 40,895. But, according to the official returns laid before the Parliamentary Committee on "Ale-house Licenses," (1852,) the beer-shop licenses alone were 42,726. Among the females, however, included in the "occupation" tables were wives of publicans and beer-house keepers; and it would seem that nearly the whole of them should be taken into the account; for when that is done, the aggregate of inn-keepers, victuallers, and beer-shop keepers, is only 104,204, according to the Census, while the returns from the Board of Inland Revenue give nearly the same number, viz., 103,291. That the wives should be regarded as representing so many ale-houses, &c., is warranted by what is common at Preston, where an "operative" takes out a license for a beer-shop, which his wife "manages." In such a case the husband is enumerated among the operatives, and his helpmate among the "wives of beer-shop keepers." The entire number of victuallers and beer-shop keepers represented on the diagram, as distributed among the whole of the English counties, is only 64,150, which, including as it does, all the beer-houses, may be supposed also to include that lowest class of public houses which, equally with beer-houses, act as encouragers to crime.

	Religious Worship.		Popular Schooling.		Ale and Beer Houses.		Crime.	
GROUPS of Counties.	Per Centage.		Per Centage.		Per Centage.		Per Centage.	
	Above the Mean.	Below the Mean.	Above the Mean.	Below the Mean.	Below the Mean.	Above the Mean.	Below the Mean.	Above the Mean.
1. Six South Eastern Counties		19		18		28		15
2. Seven South Mid- land Counties	25		11			52		4
3. Three Eastern Counties	13			7	16			6
4. Five South West- ern Counties}	13		7		54		15	
5. Seven West Mid- land Counties		8		8		2		23
6. Five North Mid- land Counties	8		10			6	25	
7. Two North West- ern Counties		23	13			14		25
8. Yorkshire		12	9		36		25	
9. Four Northern Counties		27		6	60		41	

The first conclusion deducible from the above table is, that ale and beer-houses are more associated with excess of crime than attendance at religious worship and at school is with the absence of it. In two instances, (groups 2 and 3,) larger attendance at Sunday duties is concurrent with more than average criminality; and in two instances also, (groups 2 and 7,) better attendance at school is marked by the same anomaly.

On the other hand, of the five groups in which religious worship is more than usually neglected, three are chargeable with excessive crime. A similar observation applies to the schooling. Of four groups deficient in that, three are marked by more than average crime. But with respect to ale and beer-houses, excess in their number is accompanied by excess in crime, in every case, but that of the North Midland Group, (in which a small overplus of drinking-houses is outweighed by a greater of religious worship and schooling); as, on the contrary, (with the remarkable exception of the three Eastern counties,) their paucity is accompanied by a striking absence of crime.

Looking at the counties *singly*, twenty-two of them have to bear an excess of the drinking-house evil, and eighteen a diminished amount of it. Sixteen of the former are, consequently, oppressed with excessive crime, but only six of the latter.

Taking another view of the facts, in the thirteen counties of the first and second groups, the drinking-house mean rises to 527, and the criminal mean to 166; for the twelve Northern Counties from Leicester to Westmoreland, the public house mean falls to 306, and is attended by a corresponding fall in the criminal mean to 120.

Once more; the mean criminality of the eighteen counties below the public house mean (although including the very criminal counties of Monmouth and Hereford,) is 136; and the mean criminality of the twenty-two counties *above* the public house mean is 167.

## 1857.] Attendance on Religious Worship, and Beer-houses.

The absence of drinking places, and the consequent absence of crime, are decidedly marked in Yorkshire; and a yet greater absence of such places in the four Northern Counties would seem to compensate for a deficiency in schooling, and a very great deficiency in regard to religious worship. In the case of York it is seen that 36 per cent. minus of drinking houses is accompanied by 25 per cent. minus of crime; and in the four Northern Counties, where drinkinghouses are fewer than they are in any other group, (60 per cent. below the mean,) crime appears in its smallest amount,—41 per cent.

With all these forcible illustrations of the connexion between drinking-houses and crime in England, we shall find in Wales a still stronger proof of that connexion.

The county of Glamorgan contains 36 per cent. of all the low drinking-houses scattered through the twelve counties of the principality, and in 1853 it was chargeable with 42 per cent. of all the crime in it.

In respect to English counties, considered singly, Cornwall presents the happiest example of the infrequency of crime, in a district where spiritual and educational influence are not counteracted by beer-shop temptations. The general truth to which I point is also shown by Sussex : the only county in the South-East Group which is not over-provided with drinking-houses, it is, also, the only county in that group which has less than the common amount of crime.

Suffolk, Wilts, and Somerset present remarkable contradictions. Holding very creditable places in respect to their apparent educational and religious condition, and with drinking-houses very much below the usual proportion, they are, nevertheless, chargeable with excessive criminality. Hereford, again, the most criminal county except three, would offer perplexing features, did it not show that the absence of ale and beer-houses does not obviate criminal tendencies, when there is also wanting the ameliorating power of education and religion.

Many of the inconsistencies noticeable on the diagram might receive more or less of explanation, if careful inquiry were made into the nature of the chief sources of employment in the several counties.

Such inquiry here would carry me too far beyond the limits which I have, I fear, already transgressed. I will only suggest that the liability to fall into crime in a working population depends very much upon the *regularity* required in their occupations. The man with whom work or idleness is entirely optional, is more exposed to temptation than the man who (if employed at all,) must pursue his work uninterruptedly.

Twenty-eight years ago I pointed out what has been confirmed by every succeeding year's experience, "that the ceaseless activity which must be exercised in a cotton mill affords a wholesome preventive to crime; but the case is far different with regard to weavers, who, working at their own homes, can quit their employment at any moment." And, again, "if one trade demands more regular attention than another, leaving the workman less exposed to the temptations of idleness; and if, on the contrary, an uneducated man's occupation be such as to allow a visit to the ale-house whenever he may be inclined to it, the probability is greater that in the latter case bad habits will be formed, and criminal acts committed."

## 32 On the Relation between Crime, Popular Instruction, &c. [Mar.

How far the *optional*, and, consequently, *irregular* occupations connected with the lace, straw-plait, glove, woollen, and iron manufactures of Berks, Herts, Oxford, Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, and Warwick, may account for the overplus of crime in those counties, is a subject not undeserving of inquiry.

The contrast in criminality between Cornwall and Monmouth, apparently the best and worst of the English counties, has subsisted for many years. Almost neighbouring counties, their inhabitants are chiefly occupied in the same pursuit,—mining; their means of education appear to be about equal; and places of worship are more numerously attended in Monmouth than in Cornwall: but so, unfortunately, are places of drinking. Compared with those of Cornwall, they are as four to one; and, therefore, the crime of Monmouth, as compared to that of Cornwall, rises to nearly the same proportion.

In conclusion.—After making due allowance for imperfect *data*, and discrepancies of more or less moment, a consideration of the facts shown on the diagram enables us to approach, if not absolutely to reach, certain truths well deserving attention.

It is manifest that the amount of crime in a county mainly depends on the number of low drinking-houses which are suffered to infest it; that our present system of popular education is of little or no efficacy in saving the industrial classes from the moral dangers created by those drinking houses; and that the diffusion of religious principles, (as tested by attendance on public worship, which seems most deficient in densely peopled counties,) has not been promoted by the Sunday School system, or other popular systems, to any extent which the friends of those systems can consider satisfactory.

Note.—The following analysis of the table at p. 30 has been received from the Editor, and as it throws additional light on the influence of the three causes, both singly and in conjunction, the author has much pleasure in inserting it. The initial letters will be easily understood.

#### Analysis of the Coincidences in the Table at p. 30.

SINGLE COINCIDENCES.

Religious Worship ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	below ,, above ,, below ,,	,, ab ,, be ,, ab	bove . elow . bove .	2 in 4 3 in 5 3 in 5 3 in 5 3 in 4 4 in 5		
·› ››	below "	,, be				
				Total 18 in 27		
	DOUBLE CO	DINCIDENC	CES.			
R. W. and P. S. "R. W. above; A. an R. W. below; A. an P. S. above; A. an P. S. below; A. an	above the below nd B. H. below nd B. H. above nd B. H. below		Crime	below 2 in 3   above 2 in 3   below 1 in 2   above 3 in 3   below 2 in 2   Total 12 in 15		
	TRIPLE CO	INCIDENC	ES.			
R. W. and P. S. above, and A. and B. H. below the average; Crime below 1 in 1 ,, ,, below, and A. and B. H. above ,, ,, above 2 in 2 Total						

This content downloaded from 188.60.10.64 on Mon, 04 Mar 2024 14:54:51 +00:00 All use subject to https://about.jstor.org/terms