

At the Guildhall, Nottingham, Henry Carlin, of the White Lion Inn, Bulwell, was summoned for suffering gaming, by means of puff and dart, dominoes, and skittles, for beer, on January 17th last. On January 17th, P.s. Cant and P.c. Cole visited the White Lion Inn. There was a number of youths in the taproom playing puff and dart, dominoes, and skittles. One of the youths said, in the presence of the landlord, "We are playing for a quart," and the landlord said, "I shall put the chopper through the skittle-board in the morning." Mr Botterill, for the defence, said no one regretted more than the defendant that gambling should have taken place on his premises. It was obviously impossible for the landlord to be all over the place at the same time. The games were innocent enough in themselves, and the men who went there had been silly enough to play for beer without the landlord knowing anything about it. The magistrates inflicted a fine of 40s.

The adoption of the Gothenburg system of outrolling the sale of liquor, has been urged upon the Premier of New South Wales by a deputation of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Mr Reid, in replying, said the Gothenburg system was one which put the whole question on a footing more favourable to reform than any proposal made by the Prohibitionists. The prospect of getting a majority of Parliament to legislate for Prohibition was so remote that he heartily welcomed the action of the deputation, as it brought the matter within the reach of practical politics. Personally, he was opposed to local option, for he did not think any member of the community had a right to prevent anyone else from drinking moderately; but the proposal of the deputation with modification was quite feasible. He thought this was a matter which the Government should take up. He intended to introduce a Bill next session dealing with adulteration, including intoxicating liquor, but he thought it impossible to promise any general measure of temperance reform next session.

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Christchurch, January 6th, 1896.

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