

stated above that a prisoner who has means to carry on the proceedings may be sure of the lapse of a year at least between sentence and execution.

If a new trial is granted the whole business is gone over again, and another twelve months may pass before anything is decided, and during that period many things may happen.

The paper from which we have quoted gives a number of cases to shew how this system of procrastination has worked out in practice. One of which we give as a specimen of how the law can delay the carrying out of its own behests.

"The revolting crime of Albert Wolter was expiated in 676 days. He was arrested at once, indicted in 6 days, tried in 28 days, sentenced in 33 days. The Court of Appeals took but 8 days to deny his final plea and he was then executed in little more than a month. But between came 588 days of delay, which was clearly against public policy. Six months were gained on a plea of 'destitution.' In seeking a retrial the counsel employed dilatory tactics which Judge Bartlett scored as inexcusable."

In contrast to the above, and many similar cases, reference is made to the trial in London of the poisoner, Dr. Crippen, who, including the time spent in pursuing him to New York, and in the proceedings for extradition, etc., was tried and executed four months and five days after the discovery of his crime, his trial having lasted only four days.

As the result of this slow and easy way of dealing with murderers statistics of a very startling character are given, shewing how much greater is the prevalence of the crime of murder where this system prevails, as compared with England, where the crime is as quickly followed by punishment as the claims of justice will permit. Greater London had in 1909 nineteen murders and 27 cases of manslaughter. New York in 1911 could boast of 198 murders and only 13 executions. In many of the large cities of the Union the disproportion was still greater, and the number of executions in inverse ratio to the number of convictions. This prevalence of legal delays is now the subject