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## MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE.

The results of certain recent criminal trials deserve very careful consideration, not so much on the part of the judiciary as of the public at large. Juries, governed apparently by sentiment rather than by any sense of public duty, have given verdicts neither in accordance with the facts as disclosed by the evidence, nor according to the law as laid down by the judge before whom the trials were held.

In one case a verdict of manslaughter was rendered where, if the evidence was to be taken into account, a deliberate cold-blooded murder had been committed. The verdict itself shewed that the jury were convinced of the fact that the accused had put to death an infant of which she had taken charge, and yet from a sentimental dislike to the idea of a woman being hanged, they accepted a theory of the possible cause of death so absurd on the face of it, as only to be mentioned to be rejected. It would be difficult to conceive a case in which there was less scope for sentimental considerations, or less justification for allowing pity to usurp the place of justice. We have the spectacle of a mother handing over her new-born child to a woman of whom she knew nothing, in order to avoid the cares of maternity, preferring to pay in lieu thereof the sum of \$100; and we have the woman who accepted this charge deliberately putting the child to death in order that she might keep this paltry sum without having the trouble of earning it.

In the revolting case of the Robinson family, in which repeated acts of murder, rape, and incest were proved to have been committed, the principal actor finds a large body of sympathizers chiefly of her own sex, who demand the exercise of mercy on the ground that her share in the criminal acts was due to the compulsion of her brute of a husband. How any woman—a wife and a mother—unless utterly depraved or lost to every feeling of