

portant part. Scotland, it is seen, needs a representative in the Administration, who shall be able and willing to see that, on the one hand, she has due attention to her requirements, and, on the other, that her rights are not trampled upon. The action of the Court of Session will give a powerful impulse to this demand. That action raises, in legal form, a direct conflict between England and Scotland, and in this way shows that Scotsmen have institutions of their own which they prize, and which cannot be set aside by the will or by the neglect of Englishmen."

#### THE CINCINNATI RIOTS.

Everybody has been horrified this week at the sacrifice of innocent blood in Cincinnati; yet, upon the whole, we are not sure that this is not one of those outbursts of which the permanent effect is wholesome. If *Messieurs les meurtriers* would only cease killing, capital punishment with all its disgusting concomitants would speedily die out, and just as truly, if justice were speedily and fearlessly executed by the regular machinery, lynch law would soon be a thing of the past. The outbreak in Cincinnati resulted from what appears to be a serious miscarriage of justice. Our contemporary, the *Weekly Law Bulletin* (Cincinnati, O.), March 31st, referred to the case (before the riot), in those terms:

"The result of the Berner murder trial last week in Cincinnati has caused the deepest feeling among all classes. Six times the prisoner had confessed to his participation in the most brutal and cold-blooded butchery, giving all the details of the horrid affair, and only a few days before his trial had offered to plead guilty to murder in the second degree, the prosecutor refusing on behalf of the public, as the evidence was absolute and unquestioned. Yet the jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter only. The finding is condemned in the severest terms everywhere, by the people and by the papers. The changes in the jury law just made by the present legislature come none too early, and, it is to be hoped, will give us better and more competent juries."

The subject is not overlooked by the class who think, and as an evidence of this we may quote from the writer of the article,

"Mob or Magistrate," in the *Century* for April. It appears that in 1883 there were about 1,500 murders reported in the United States, and only 93 executions. When we reflect what this means it is not surprising to hear that the lynchings were more numerous than the lawful hangings, there being 118 cases of lynching during the year. Lynch law among other defects is, of course, open to the very evident objection that grievous mistakes may be made. The self-constituted executioners may hang the wrong man. But the remedy is to make the ordinary modes of dealing out justice swift and certain. The writer in the *Century* puts the case strongly but truly when he says:—"The fact that thirteen out of fourteen murderers escape the gallows is the one damning fact that blackens the record of our criminal jurisprudence. No American ought to indulge in any boasting about his native land, while the evidence remains that the laws made for the protection of human life are thus shamelessly trampled under foot. No occupant of the bench, and no member of the bar ought to rest until those monstrous abuses which result in the utter defeat of justice are thoroughly corrected." We might be pardoned if we added with some pride, that in Canada, where we follow the English practice of hanging every murderer, and of hanging him promptly, a case of lynching has hardly ever been known.

#### THE SEDUCTION BILL.

On the 31st ultimo, the Seduction Bill, in its amended form, came before the Senate, when it appeared that a majority of the House were opposed to the measure, and the three months' hoist was carried on division. Mr. Dickey remarked that the bill had been objected to by "the highest judicial authority in Ontario." It is also well known that the disapprobation of the most experienced judges in Quebec is equally emphatic. There was one portion of the bill, however, which seems to be called for, and which, alone, would not have met with any opposition; we refer to the clause with regard to inveigling young women into houses of ill-fame. This is an offence of a serious character, and the Government have promised to introduce a measure next session which shall provide for its punishment.