

ment of communism that appears to slumber in the bosom of the ordinary jurymen, comes powerfully to the plaintiff's aid.

In making these general comments we must not be understood as having any special reference to the case in question. We are more concerned with the general principles involved, than with the merits of this particular action. The verdict in this instance may have been warranted by the facts, although the circumstances are such as would lead one to suppose that the court may yet have occasion to review or modify the finding. There can, however, be no doubt that the difficulties placed by the law in the way of the prosecution of commercial offenders, and the facilities afforded to persons unsuccessfully charged with criminal offences, to recover damages, are a positive injury to commercial morality, and a palpable injustice to the creditor class.

No doubt the man, who, without reasonable and probable cause, sets the machinery of the criminal law in motion against his neighbor ought to be adequately punished. But in this, as in other respects, the scales of justice should be held with an even hand, and it must be plain to all observers that under the present state of our law there is too often a palpable failure of justice in reference to such matters as those we have been discussing.

#### EXTRADITION.

At the quarterly meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, a letter was read from the Minister of Justice, in reply to a request that steps be taken to revise the extradition treaty between Great Britain and the United States, for the purpose of including in the schedule, crimes which are now excluded. The increasing number of defaulters who seek refuge across the line had moved the Board to make this request. The Minister of Justice replied in effect that any alteration of the treaty could be effected only by the two principals, Great Britain and the United States; that much correspondence had taken place on the subject; that many difficulties stood in the way of the revision of the treaty, and that the United States government refuses to agree to extend the schedule unless Great Britain will agree that an extradited person shall be tried for any crime other than that for which he was surrendered. Such a request England is not likely to grant; to do so would be to act in opposition to her whole traditional policy. England is the asylum for the political refugees of all nations, and she has never been willing to do anything that would violate the right of hospitality. Lord Palmerston was speedily hurled from power when he departed from the settled policy of the country and entered into a negotiation for the surrender of political refugees, one of whom had made an attempt on the life of the French Emperor. There has recently come into existence a class of criminals, dynamiters, whose deeds of horror no political shield is large enough to cover; but still there has always been, and is always liable to be, another class of political refugees whose surrender, upon some petty charge, would destroy that right of asylum of which England is so justly

proud. It is difficult to see why the United States should be willing to permit refugees surrendered on one charge to be tried on another; but it can only be on the distinct understanding that political offences should be excluded. The difficulty with extradition treaties always arises on the political side. If there were no political refugees to whom the nations owe a right of asylum, there would be no difficulty in extending the list of crimes for which extradition should take place as far as any one could desire. People who forget the political aspect of the question, argue as if the revision of the treaty presented no possible difficulty. Of such reasoning the following from a correspondent is a fair sample:—

"If people could only look at this subject apart from its historical connections, it would strike them as one of the most extraordinary things, in connection with international relations, that it should be regarded as wise to place any barriers or restrictions in the way of the surrender of criminals by one country to another. Common sense and national self-preservation, if no higher motives, ought to dictate, to all civilized communities the absolute necessity of purging themselves, as fully as possible, of all classes of criminals seeking an asylum on their shores. No man who has offended against the laws of his own country is a desirable citizen for another, and yet all over the world all sorts of difficulties, technical and otherwise, are placed in the way of the surrender of alleged criminals. Nowhere are the evils of this state of things more painfully felt than in Canada and the neighboring Republic. Defaulters, swindlers and rogues of every sort and description from the United States, find protection and shelter on Canadian soil, and except with reference to a few of the grosser offences, our law provides no machinery for their surrender. Even in the case of those offences which are recognized as extraditable, there is an excessive amount of technicality and red tape in the proceedings necessary to secure a return of felons to the American courts of justice. In the same way our own defaulters and criminals of all classes find a similar asylum under the fostering shelter of American liberty. Their forms of justice in this regard are little, if any, better than ours, and the classes of offences covered are of course the same. If our neighbors do not suffer from this state of things as much as we do, it is only because we have fewer criminals to transfer. Our country is comparatively small, and with reference at least to embezzlement and kindred offences, our national morality has fortunately not yet sunk quite to the American level.

Bad as it is to have thrust upon us criminals of the baser and more vulgar kind, that which really does us, as a country, the most injury, is the presence of offenders of the more respectable class. When bank cashiers and presidents, and other officials and trusted employees, come to this country, not merely that they may escape the punishment due them for their wrong doing, but that they may enjoy their ill-gotten gains and live in luxury and ostentation, their evil influence upon our people is at once dangerous and insidious. The late frequency of this class of emigration, should direct immediate and pointed attention to the whole subject. There is no conceivable reason that will appeal to any man's common sense, why every possible facility should not be afforded, as between ourselves and the United States of America, for the surrender of, all and sundry, the offenders against laws enacted for the public weal. Why should not this matter receive the immediate attention of our own and the American authorities? It is

one of the greatest practical importance to both parties. Not only is each community injured by harboring confessed criminals, but the immunity which is afforded, emboldens other offenders, and lessens the salutary effect that punishment for criminal offences is designed to have.

Until a proper international extradition treaty is consummated, it ought not to be necessary to impress upon our people the absolute necessity of treating refugees from American justice, as they deserve. The fact that a man has occupied a position of trust and importance, that he is still able to wear good clothes, and be lavish with his money, is no reason why, if he has betrayed that trust, every one should not regard him as more culpable in the eyes of every honest man, than the necessitous thief, whom all abhor."

#### HOW IS THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PRODUCED?

##### SECOND ARTICLE.

The current of electricity being set flowing as described in our last article, it is now in order to show how the light is produced. Although this mysterious fluid will pass through a wire of almost any length, its flow is stopped at once if that wire is cut in two, for the current will not jump over a vacant space. Any other conductor, however, placed between two ends of a broken wire, will complete the circuit and enable the current to continue its flow. Heated air is a conductor, and so the points of two carbons may be separated after the current is "turned on," and the light will not go out.

Now, the electric light is produced by the action of the electric current upon the particles of a certain substance. If the broken ends of wires forming a circuit be connected *in vacuo* inside a glass jar or tube, the electric spark can easily be seen jumping over the break. Electricity exists everywhere throughout the universe. A modification of the electric phenomenon termed lightning, may be seen in close observation of a flower garden, for the daughter of Linnaeus has observed luminous radiations emitted by nasturtiums; while others, Haggern the naturalist among them, "has noticed faint flashes of light dart from a marigold." To obtain control of this agent and to concentrate it, has been for years the endeavor of experimenters. But they have got it into workable shape at last.

An electric current strong enough to produce a light by which one can read, requires at the point of breakage, some material which will not be disintegrated by the high temperature to which the current will raise it. Platinum and iridium, expensive substances, have been used, but carbon, pure, is found to be the best, and carbon has accordingly been and is used by Swan, Edison, Lowe-Fox and Maxim, in their different applications of the incandescent light as well as in the arc light, which form of illumination is the most common in the open air.

In scientific language "a filament has at last been perfected which will not easily fuse, but will bear the passage through it of a current intense enough to raise it to white heat, thereby enabling it to give out light without breaking or crumbling as a copper wire would do, at the moment the