

VARNISHING CRIMINALS.—An English custom of not very ancient date was to hang smugglers on gibbets arranged along the coast, and then tar the bodies that they might be preserved a long while, as a warning to other culprits. As late as 1822 three men thus varnished might have been seen hanging before Dover Castle. Sometimes the process was extended to robbers, assassins, incendiaries and other criminals. John Painter, who fired the dockyard at Portsmouth, was first hanged and then tarred in 1776. From time to time he was given a fresh coat of varnish, and thus was made to last nearly fourteen years. The weird custom did not stop smuggling or other crime, but no doubt it had some influence as a preventive.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.—Twice as many widowers marry again as widows. Is this a proof of woman's superior constancy? The return moved for by Mr. Henniker Heaton as to the number of divorce suits tried during 1894 shows that out of a total of 443 suits, 205 were instituted by wives, 238 by husbands. Is this any criterion of the relative fidelity of the spouses? Surely not. One reason that the wife's suits are fewer is that the wife has, rightly or wrongly, more to prove, adultery *plus* cruelty, or adultery *plus* desertion; the husband only adultery. But the main reason is that the wife has a great deal more to lose by the breaking-up of the home, and to save that and for the sake of the children she condones many offences which she might drag before the Court. There are more patient Griseldas in these days than is generally supposed, though Chaucer thought it would be hard to find one. When a wife does bring her suit she more often succeeds—so the statistics show—than the husband does, which is some evidence that she only invokes the Court in gross cases. These considerations are necessary because the return on the face of it would seem to suggest that the husband is more often the injured party than the wife, a conclusion quite at variance with common experience. There is nothing, it has been well said, so fallacious as facts—except figures.—*Law Journal*.

LARCENY.—Two of the most unique cases of thieving on record are being investigated in Haverhill. One is the stealing of 15,000 live fish, and the other the theft of a big stone wall surrounding the cemetery of the Hebrew Burial Association. This is believed to be the first instance ever chronicled of the larceny of a stone wall from a graveyard.—*Albany Law Journal*.