

whom a client confessed his guilt before his trial for murder, Mr. Phillips, in doubt as to what his course should be, consulted the judge, by whom he was advised that the duty of counsel is simply to see that his client has a fair trial upon the evidence adduced, which is his right; that it was the duty of counsel to comment as to its validity from a legal point of view; but, if he, knowing the guilt of the prisoner, should go beyond that and appeal to the jury as believing himself in the innocence of the prisoner he would be guilty of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Phillips, it will be remembered, was severely criticized and cruelly dealt with, but the judge who knew all the facts upheld him, especially noting that in conducting the defence he was careful to avoid saying anything to indicate any personal opinion in favour of his client.

In the case before us the prisoners' counsel took a very peculiar course. Knowing long before the trial the guilt of the prisoners, and that the evidence against them could not be withstood, he made a bargain with the prosecuting attorney that if the prisoners would confess their guilt, their lives would be spared.

The judge appears to have had nothing to do with this amicable arrangement, but sat complacently by until the counsel for the prosecution and for the defence had settled their plan, and then carried it into effect. And so the curtain fell upon one of the strangest of modern tragedy-comedies. The result was, apparently, considered very satisfactory for (to use a phrase common with a certain class of sporting men) the arrangement was a "square deal" all round—the lawyers get their fees, the ends of justice are (said to be) served by the conviction, and much mitigated punishment of the guilty; the prisoners go jauntily off to prison, relying upon the pretty certain hope of their speedy release, and every one is happy, except, comically enough, the trade unionists, who put up their money on the faith of the innocence of their ill-used comrades; but who now see that they have been "fooled" and their cause discredited.

That the administration of justice is brought into contempt, and that ruffians who deserved more than mere painless electro-