

three years before, and produced a sealed certificate of the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol to that effect. This evidence was rejected because not given *viva voce*. The widow then promptly produced two witnesses who swore that her husband had died at Ipswich—a *tour de force* which demonstrates that the medieval practitioner was not unresourceful when the exigencies of his case became strenuous.

* * * We have frequently heard it stated that the education of the masses has a tendency to promote crime by making the poor dissatisfied with their narrow surroundings, and creating in them a craving for amenities of life unattainable to them by lawful means. We are glad to be put in possession of satisfactory evidence that such a postulate is untrue, so far, at least, as Great Britain is concerned. In the Home Office Report for 1898, Mr. C. E. Troup furnishes us with statistics showing that since the inauguration in England of a national system of education the volume of crime has steadily ebbed. This answer to the croaking of the reactionary is the more complete in that Mr. Troup is able to show that the diminution of crime is chiefly notable in the departments which have to do with the covetous and furtive instincts in human nature.

* * * Lord Selborne's love and veneration for literature is manifested in his letter of thanks to Tennyson for the latter's dedication to him of the drama "Becket." He declared that this courtesy on the part of the poet was "the greatest real honour" that had ever been done him; and that the fact that he had won the laureate's friendship and esteem was "more than he could have hoped for." What a contrast, this, to the relations existing between Lord Eldon and Shelley, perhaps the greatest poet of that day! And what a tribute, too, to the graciousness and goodness of the later period!