

SELECTIONS.

have a right to be, beating them after aggression has ceased—these are contrary to public order, and therefore do not come within the right of the public."

To which Lord Bramwell made the following reply: "Mr. Deane says I completely misconceive the law and am hopelessly astray as to the 'rights and powers' of the police. This is pretty strong, and, I hope, incorrect for both our sakes—his and mine. For I entirely agree with his sensible letter, and think it would do (not for a definition, Mr. D.), but for an instruction to the police."

MR. CHRISTOPHER PAGE DEANE rashly accused Lord Bramwell of misconceiving the law, when it was Mr. Deane who had misconceived Lord Bramwell. Lord Bramwell might have returned Dr. Johnson's rude answer in a similar case, but he contented himself with kindly endorsing Mr. Deane's law. Lord Bramwell's and Mr. Deane's law that a policeman in the wrong can only be resisted by force reasonably sufficient for the purpose is only giving a policeman no less rights than a private person. If policemen in trying to get a front place for a reporter in a crowd are in the wrong, and the crowd resist them by stone throwing and charging them with horses, then the crowd is in the wrong, and if the violence becomes dangerous to life the policemen are entitled to shoot.—*Law Journal* (Eng.).

THE question of "Old Ceylon" whether it is usual for the Queen to grant a free pardon to a criminal without referring to the judge who tried the case must be answered in the negative. In the first place, the Queen never grants a free pardon of her own motion at all. If she were to do so, and the Secretary of State disagreed with the act, it would be his duty to resign. That protest is all the sanction provided by the Constitution, and no doubt the criminal would legally be pardoned. The circumstances in Ceylon no doubt are different; but we assume in favour of the Governor that he is his own Secretary of State. The practice of consulting the judges is very much older than the present constitutional relation of the sovereign to the Secretary of State in

regard to the prerogative of mercy. When questions of law were involved the judges were from early times consulted, and the convicted person pardoned or executed according to their decision, a practice which was the origin of the court for the consideration of Crown cases reserved. We believe it to be the practice in England that the Secretary of State never interferes with a conviction without receiving the report of the convicting tribunal, whether judge of the High Court or justice at petty sessions. The practice arises not only in the interests of justice to the convicted person, but in order that the tribunal may vindicate its action, and that there may be no weakening of the judicial authority by any apparent slight being cast on its decision. The Secretary of State is responsible for the maintenance of this practice to Parliament, but in Ceylon the duty exists although there is no mode of enforcing it except by complaint at the Colonial Office.—*Law Journal* (Eng.).

REWARDS FOR APPREHENDING CRIMINALS.

REWARDS offered for the discovery of crime have long been part of the procedure resorted to in this country, for however public-spirited may be the majority of citizens, there are so many ramifications in the occasions and consequences of criminal acts, that no organization is equal to the speedy administration of this class of remedies. The older acts of parliament abound in inducements to public informers, and though these are seldom introduced in modern acts, the disposition to trace out and punish delinquencies is fortunately a very common attendant upon every species of wrong. Yet, as everybody knows, it is no uncommon occurrence for the government or for individuals to offer rewards for the discovery of offenders, and this quickens the diligence not only of constables, but of that large class of persons who are always looking out for employment. In working out this practice some interesting and useful decisions have been from time to time come to in the courts, for, as may be supposed, the offer of a reward brings forth