

apparent connection may possibly be due to other conditions which remain obscure. I prefer to rely on syllogistic reasoning and the deductive method, which Mill represents in his *Logic* as the instrument of chief value in the study of social affairs. I have pointed out that the punishments inflicted by society are such as to afford adequate gratification to the vindictive sentiments against the criminal. The degree of punishment is proportionate to the strength of the resentment. Now, there is no question that capital punishment is more potent to gratify the public revenge than any other form of punishment now in use. It is (in full harmony with public opinion) confined to the most callous and cold-blooded murders, in which public animosity is roused to its fullest extent. It is *not* employed for minor crimes, in which vindictive feelings are less powerful; though even then, in such cases as the wholesale ruin of poor people by some fraudulent company-promoter exciting our high indignation, we often hear it said that the offender deserves to be hanged. The fact that capital punishment is only invoked to meet the highest flights of public resentment is an unequivocal proof that popular sentiment regards it as the most terrible of all punishments. Whether popular sentiment on this matter is well grounded or not, is another question. I shall shortly endeavour to shew that it is not; but in the meanwhile I am only concerned to note the attitude of popular sentiment, and to draw the obvious corollary that the punishment which popular sentiment regards as the most terrible is necessarily that which the public are most desirous to avoid, and therefore that which has the greatest deterrent effect.

The same conclusion may be drawn from the propaganda of the abolitionists themselves. Do they regard capital punishment as the most terrible of all penalties? If not, is it the case that they wish to abolish it for the purpose of instituting another punishment, such as prolonged imprisonment, which appears to them more terrible? They will hardly admit it. If, then, they advocate abolition, simply because capital punishment appears to them too horrible for our modern civilization, we may surely