

Speaking of what he conceived to be a wise disposition of confirmed criminals, he said :

I would give him a fair trial. I would require proof that he had been a habitual criminal for a long term of years. I would give him an opportunity to make a full defence, and if finally it were established by clear proof that the man was one of those, numbers of whom exist in modern society, whose nature has been degraded by a life of undeviating wickedness into that of a wild beast, incapable of any substantial improvement or alteration, such a man, in my opinion, should be solemnly adjudged to be put to death. But if, in view of the squeamish sentimentality of this age, such a course be deemed impracticable, I should shut him up for life where he could do no more evil to society.'

Emanating from one who is supposed to have some acquaintance with Beccaria's famous treatise, the foregoing is so strangely unscientific that it hardly merits a word in reply. If a common thief or robber is to suffer death, of course theft or robbery will more frequently be accompanied by murder. A rational criminal will know that he may as well slay the witness to his crime. The argument is familiar, unanswerable, and decisive against the infliction of capital punishment for crimes of less enormity than murder.

In the opinion expressed by Judge Holt we think he unconsciously gives substantial support to the assertion by enemies of religion that infidelity is steadily infecting educated people and creeping into high places. Is Judge Holt losing faith in the miraculous efficacy of prayer, and in the divine power to regenerate even the most depraved of men? Only a few years ago there lived in New York city an uneducated man who was well qualified to debate with Judge Holt, and on equal terms, the question whether an habitual thief ought to be executed; his name was Jerry McAuley, and quite likely Isaiah 55: 8 would have been cited by him.

SCORING JUDGES.

The interchange of views promoted by the various Bar Associations of Anglo-Saxon countries and the research required for