

criminal, by losing his life, is finally removed from society, and all possibility of his committing any further injuries is withdrawn. The segregation, while thus more perfect than by any other mode, is brought about at low cost, and with little trouble to society. No cell has to be provided for his habitation. no warders told off to watch him, no work created for him. We are frequently told that murderers are often much less truly criminal than the majority of petty thieves and swindlers. Their crime was committed in a fit of passion, possibly with strong provocation; they have previously led blameless lives; and the suggestion is made that their punishment should be lighter, rather than heavier, than that of more vulgar offenders. The argument may have some weight in favour of lenient treatment while in prison; but the demands of segregation for such a man are fully as urgent as in the case of the most brutal ravisher or assassin. For a man who has once been carried away to such an extent by a fit of passion is very likely to be carried away a second time—more likely, indeed, for it is a well-known law of physiology that mental processes which have once occurred render the way easier for a recurrence. The danger to life from such a person is considerable, and he must be altogether removed from society. Capital punishment is the easiest and most certain method by which this can be effected.

I come now to my second canon—Deterrence. I am aware that it is often said that capital punishment does not truly act as a deterrent. I have noted also the coincidence that persons who make this statement are nearly always those who on grounds of humanity demand the abolition of capital punishment. The allegation, which thus bears on its face the appearance of being made to bolster up a case, may, I think, be conclusively refuted. Inductively, we have such facts as the recrudescence of assassination in France accompanying the suspension of the death penalty. A. Lacassagne, in his important book, "*Peine de Mort*," shews that homicides are rarest in those countries where capital punishment is most rigorously enforced. I do not want to press this, however, as the relation of cause and effect is proverbially difficult to trace in social affairs, and the