

human nature who have any doubt about the proper answer to these questions. Numberless facts prove that there is nothing so much dreaded by the murderer, as the infliction of the death penalty for his crime. The effect of doing away with the punishment has been in every instance a terrible increase in the number of murders committed. A pseudo philanthropy has more than once induced society to abolish capital punishment, but the result of this attempt to improve upon divine law has been such as to already lead to its re-enactment in most cases, the common sense of mankind will in the end make this the universal decision of the civilized world, which will assume that the divine law-giver has enacted nothing contrary to the best interests of society, and will ask, what is best for man in relation to the punishment of murder. In arriving at its final conclusion, it will be largely influenced by what has occurred in California and other States of the Union in which the death penalty has been legally or practically abolished. Some of the best christian men I ever have known, were members of the celebrated vigilance committee of San Francisco, and personally assisted in hanging the murderers whom the state authorities would not send to the gallows. On one occasion I visited the "Tombs" in New York. There were then in the cells twenty-one men arrested for murder. Three of these cases I can recall. One of them was that of Stokes, who having quarrelled with the notorious Jim Fisk about some dissolute woman, waylaid him on the stairs of the Fifth Avenue hotel and then murdered him in broad daylight. Stokes was imprisoned for a term of years, and is now keeping one of the worst "dives" in the city where his deed of blood was done. Another was that of an Irishman who had an altercation with a person with whom he was walking at a funeral and shot him dead in the street. A third is that of a trackman who, having become enraged at his detention by a jam that had occurred not a hundred yards from the city hall, shot through the heart a man who could not and would not drive on out of his way. Not long after this a Mr. Putnam, a respected member of one of the New York Baptist churches, was going home after attending service on Sunday evening, and was seated with his wife and her sister in a Third Avenue street car, when a low ruffian entered the car and addressed indecent language to these ladies. Mr. Putnam remonstrated and eventually appealed to the car conductor for protection