

PUNISHMENTS OF SEVENTY YEARS AGO.

A brief sketch of the modes of punishment for small thefts and misdemeanors in vogue in the early years of the century may be interesting, as showing the manner in which our forefathers dealt with rogues and vagabonds. In addition to imprisonment for theft, it was generally the rule to add so many lashes with the cat o'nine tails, as the whip used in the punishment was usually termed. A common mode of dealing with minor offenders, and also often an accompaniment of more serious cases was "standing in the Pillory;" in some cases mutilation, such as branding, and cutting off the ears was added. The whippings generally took place in the vicinity of the jail, and the law to inflict them must have been continued down to quite a modern period. A hale and hearty citizen still with us, in relating his reminiscences tells how, when a boy, he was often attracted to the neighborhood of the jail by the lusty howls of the unfortunates who were having their backs scored by the vigorous arm of the jailer. The pillory was usually erected in some public place, like the foot of King street, where all could get a look at the unfortunate creature undergoing this, to say the least, most uncomfortable mode of punishment and also, I am sorry to say, to get a shot at him with any garbage or decayed vegetables that came to hand. The pillory as we see it pictured in old prints was composed of two upright posts, with a cross piece attached, about the height of a man's shoulders, this cross piece was divided into two parts, upper and lower, in each of which were three semi-circular indentations,—the centre