

to deal with legal matters. It would be easy to give a long list of important decisions by which the House of Lords has affected and supported the commercial life and customs of the country. It is sufficient for our purpose to refer—merely as examples—to the recent ‘one-man company’ case, and to *Simmons v. The London Joint-Stock Bank*.”

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Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, in a message to the Legislature, has recommended a return to the old system of public executions. He writes:—“After a trial of some years, I am, after careful consideration, led to the conclusion that the law passed several years since, which abolished public hangings in this State, of which I approved at the time, was a mistake. I am still of the opinion that the impulse which leads people to eagerly seek to see one of their fellow-beings hanged upon the gallows is not a noble one. But we must deal with people as they are, and not as they should be. I believe that ten private hangings are not so effective in deterring evil doers and in commanding fear and respect for the law as one in public. To return to the old law, which left it to the discretion of the circuit judge to provide for either private or public hangings, would, I think, be a proper course. This can safely be left to the discretion of our judges. In my opinion, public hanging will aid in the suppression of crime and have some effect in discouraging mob law.” The experience of Gov. Atkinson is not corroborated by that of England or Canada. No one has contended, so far as we are aware, that the privacy of executions in these countries has failed to inspire a proper respect for the law, or has tended to increase the number of capital offences. The reform which seems to be really needed, in several of the American States, is the enforcement of a little more privacy after the prisoner has been sentenced, and the placing of a wholesale restraint upon the sympathetic gifts and messages of silly people outside the jail.