

W.G.T. Master Sheriff Dickson, I would that I
Knew how: The art of tying a rope
For that intent, hath been neglected
In my early education, and since which
Time, I have not made improvement.
But sir, if you would but adjust the knot,
And pull the cap, I think I could spring
The trap, and "shuffle off his mortal coil."

S. D. Oh! has it come to this, when I myself
Must turn hangman, and do this dreadful deed?
Oh! Why do they not invent some newer method
To put to death, these malefactors, in manner
Less repugnant to a tender hearted man?
For instance, a battery charged with electricity
Of such force and power, that when applied,
Would instantaneously kill the victim.
And would not death in some milder form
Have as great an effect as hanging
To cause sufficient terror to deter
People, from commission of heinous crimes?

J. McM. No my friend, I see you are far astray
In your idea, concerning the dread of death
By those, who usually do commit great crimes.
Death by electricity in the manner named,
Would not be sufficient, to strike with terror,
Those who are inclined to commit such crimes.
For those who attempt to take their lives,