

sive proof that, at the time of committing the act for which he was condemned, he was a proper inmate for an asylum. He most likely entered Mr. Brown's room with a demoniacal impulse in his shattered mind, but without any fixed purpose ; and had Mr. Brown only been aware of the mental state of his visitor, it is possible that by studious calmness and gentleness he might have conjured the fiend for the moment, and his life might have been saved. But insanity, brought on by bad habits, was criminal ; as perhaps is not a little of that which fills our asylums. Bennett went into the dock with the rope round his neck ; for writers, not meaning to do anything wrong, yet, as we think, rather forgetting what is due to a prisoner awaiting his trial, had been all along calling him the murderer and the assassin. Little weight could be attached to any of his maunderings, even when he was speaking in the presence of death ; but there was nothing incredible in his statement that his pistol would have been drawn only in irresolute menace, had not his hand been seized and a scuffle ensued. The wound evidently was not in itself mortal. With regard to this part of his defence, the prisoner seems to have suffered from his destitute condition, which prevented his commanding all the medical evidence that his Counsel would have desired. An application to the Government for pecuniary assistance was refused ; no doubt unavoidably : yet it seems hardly consistent with the interests of justice that any accused person, especially one on trial for his life, should be left without the means of producing all that is requisite in his defence. There was nothing redeeming in Bennett's case ; nor was there anything touching, except, perhaps, that he was so complete a type of the castaway. Nothing linked him to society or society to him. To the question whether life is worth living, he replied, so far as he was concerned, by begging that the day of his execution might be hastened. Not the faintest sign of sympathy attended his tragic exit from the scene. It appears that as a child he was thrown on the world an orphan, and we can easily imagine what the world was to him. Circumstance is not all, but it often makes the difference between the