

jury. Wysor gave Walker the lie. Walker asked for a knife, and Wysor drew his knife and handed it to him. Walker refused the proffer, and borrowed one from a bystander, and the fight commenced. Several blows were struck and Wysor was stabbed in his shoulder, and his face was slit from his mouth to his ear. Wysor then borrowed a gun and tried to force Walker's room door to shoot him, when both were arrested and put under a bond of \$5,000. Wysor is badly hurt. Both men are among the most prominent lawyers in south-western Virginia."

OFFENCES COMMITTED BY MINORS.—A boy of sixteen has been sentenced to death at Leeds, in England, for the murder of his infant brother. Commenting on this sentence, the *St. James Gazette* observes that, "of course" the young convict will not be hanged, but that equally of course, he will be kept in penal servitude for life. In some countries, *e. g.*, in Prussia, Spain, and parts of Switzerland, capital punishment is not inflicted on young persons, the ages of liability being sixteen, eighteen, and twenty respectively, and even in England, where any boy or girl above the age of seven can be capitally convicted and executed, if only *malitia supplet aetatem*, it is doubted whether any person under the age of seventeen has been hanged for the last fifty years. However this may be, the *London Law Times* says that the life sentence in cases of commutation is merely a nominal one, and that the culprit usually regains his liberty after a period of some twenty years, though the practice of the home office in this matter is wisely not expressed in any general rules such as those which followed the passing of the Penal Servitude Act 1891, and apply to sentences of penal servitude for fixed periods, which are invariably less than the nominal periods if only the convict's behavior is good.

HYPNOTISM.—Hypnotism has been brought to the notice of a court in the State of Washington, where, at Tacoma, the complainant in a suit for damages is accused of hypnotizing a witness in court. The plaintiff is said to have given evidence of mesmeric power on many previous occasions. The court at first declined to receive the complaint, but seems to have taken it under advisement and the case was adjourned. The witness showed a deficient memory, which was said to improve when some one stood between him and the alleged hypnotizer.