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## FLOGGING.

Controversy has long existed as to whether the use of the lash as a punishment for, or deterrent from, crimes of a peculiarly brutal character, really answered the purpose for which it was intended. This mode of punishment was supported on the theory that the robber, for instance, who struck down his victim from behind, and beat him into insensibility that he might pick his pockets with impunity, or the brute who criminally assaulted a defenceless child were so thoroughly degraded that nothing but a sound flogging would appeal to their feelings. It is contended on the other hand that the degradation of the lash would only tend still further to degrade the criminal, and take from him whatever of human feeling he might still retain.

This view of the case was strongly and eloquently put by the present Premier of Great Britain, Mr. Asquith, also an eminent member of the English Bar, who speaking in the House of Commons in 1900 in opposition to Mr. Wharton's Corporal Punishment Bill said:—"I believe the majority of the English Bench, at present comprising some of the ablest and most experienced of our judges, have never in their lives awarded the sentence of the lash. As to reformation, has anyone ever yet been reformed by the punishment of the lash? I have never yet been able to discover any such evidence. Is it the wisest course for weaning men from brutality to commence the course of punishment by treatment which involves moral humiliation and physical torture? You may depend upon it with most of them there are latent but still present sparks of self-respect and an element of human dignity which, if carefully watched and tended, might in the course of time burn into a purifying glow, which would be in great danger of extinction by such measures as this Bill proposes. As to the deterrent effect of flogging, it is impossible to look upon a punishment as really deterrent if the question