

sonable presumption that an imputation of misconduct in business causes damage, and it is on this ground that, when the defamatory statement is verbal, an exception is made to the general rule that in actions of slander, as distinguished from actions of libel, it is necessary to prove damage.—*Law Journal (London)*.

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#### PRISONS AND CRIMINAL TREATMENT.

In a lecture at the London Institute, Mr. William Tallack, Secretary of the Howard Association, said the history of criminal treatment resembled a very long track, continued for most of its course through dense fogs and clouds, but with some bright rays shining upon it in the far away ages of the ancient Jews and the early Welsh and British, and again emerging into comparative light in our own times. In England, of all countries, an injured person had to incur much expense and trouble in order to prosecute those who had robbed or wronged him; and even when he had secured their imprisonment or fine, there was no thought of compensating him. At the very least, the law ought to undertake the trouble and all the cost of prosecutions, by some such arrangement as the appointment in every district of officers like the Scotch Procurators Fiscal. It was a national scandal that, for example, Mr. Labouchere's public-spirited endeavours to expose most mischievous villanies should cost him thousands of pounds as a private individual, instead of such matters being promptly taken up and carried through at the national cost. In the last century a boy named John Scott was charged with trespassing and stealing apples. The magistrates, instead of punishing him, ordered his father to make restitution to the injured party. This was done, but Mr. Scott took much better care of his son in future, and the lad ultimately became Lord Chancellor Eldon. Mr. Tallack thought that a vast amount of juvenile crime would be effectually and cheaply prevented if the responsibilities of many of the parents of the twenty thousand youths in Reformatory and Industrial Schools were more strictly enforced by compelling their payment, to a far great extent than at present, towards the support of these children, and as some compensation to the now injured taxpayer. After speaking of the terrible state of British prisons long after Howard's days, the lecturer said about the year 1830 several countries, more particularly the United States, had sought a remedy for these evils by the rigid solitary system.