

to the age of the boy and the nature of the offence. This course was not adopted in the case of first or trivial offences, but in cases of shoplifting or bad assaults, often persevered in after the first offence that had been detected had been condoned, and the results were excellent. I never recollect a boy who had been properly birched appearing before the magistrates again, whereas boys who had either been discharged with a caution or sent to gaol very often had soon to be dealt with again. I recollect mentioning our practice to a nobleman who had been a member of one of Lord Salisbury's Cabinets, and he told me that it had been in contemplation at one time to introduce a Bill which, among other provisions, would have enabled magistrates to inflict corporal punishment of a mild character in cases such as I have referred to, but that the idea was abandoned because the Ministry learnt that the classes known as the workingmen would resent any such legislation.

"The fact, sir, is that the namby-pamby sentimentalism of the present day is responsible for a great deal of the crime and mischief which we deplore. Young scoundrels must not be punished, and if older criminals are to be sent to gaol the prison must be made so comfortable that some vagabonds choose them for winter quarters."

THE TRUE VALUE OF AMERICAN CASES.

It is not sufficiently borne in mind that all study, and all daily work, has two values, a utilitarian value and a priceless culture value. The student of promise does not accept the statements in his text-book as inspired, or allow points to slip by uncriticised and unverified; the conveyancer does not copy, copy, copy the precedent in the book before him, or wish it was shorter; nor is an advocate content to get together, with the aid of a digest, all the reported cases nearest the point in dispute and cite them one after another, little digested, to the patient Bench. He who has acquired such a distinctive appellation recognises critical excellence too readily to rest content with practical mediocrity, and still less with workaday makeshift.