

good and sufficient reasons for his action. There have been in the past, and will be in the future, occasional awkwardnesses and unpleasantnesses, and possibly unkind comments by litigants, owing to the change of position, but these cannot be avoided, and must be endured and lived down.

The general principles covered by the resolution and the views of our correspondent are doubtless sound, but they must be considered in the light of attendant circumstances; and, after all, we are glad to think the discussion is academic rather than practical.

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The sentence pronounced by Mr. Justice Street in the Gtow case, where the prisoner was found guilty of manslaughter "with a strong recommendation to mercy," has been the occasion of much adverse criticism in some of the daily papers; and, to the casual observer, this criticism does not seem altogether out of place. The adequate sentencing of criminals, however, is a much more difficult question than most people are aware of, and has been for centuries the occasion of much doubt and discussion. It not only involves problems complex in themselves, but necessitates a very accurate knowledge of the circumstances of each particular case—such knowledge of all the facts, circumstances, springs of action and the character and environment of the prisoner as can only be possessed, or at least must be best possessed, by the judge who tries the case. We have, therefore, on this occasion no criticism to offer, inasmuch as we are not in a position to do so. At present, we can only say, and feel bound to say, that no judge on the Bench is better fitted to form a fair, calm and dispassionate opinion of what was best under the circumstances of that unhappy event than Mr. Justice Street. He enjoys the confidence of the Bar to a very marked extent, and they will refuse to believe, without much better reason than has been given, that he has not on this occasion acted with the same general judicial soundness that has characterized his rulings up to the present time.