

THE
WOODSTOCK COLLEGE MONTHLY.

VOL. I.—JANUARY, 1891.—No. 9.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The subject of capital punishment is at the present time attracting unusual attention in Canada. The cause is one too well known. A miserable scoundrel who seems to have been, in spite of all his advantages of birth and education, one of the meanest and most despicable of human beings, and who for the purpose of succeeding in a stupid, blundering swindle, coolly and deliberately murdered a youth entrusted to his care and whom he should have protected unto death, has been exalted into a hero by the nauseous pandering of the newspapers to a vitiated taste of a portion of their readers. These who have fed with delight upon the garbage raked up for them in Woodstock gaol, have manifested their gratitude to those who thus catered for them by sending to their columns in literary form hysterical shrieks against capital punishment. The infliction of the death penalty for murder might have been silently tolerated in other cases, but if such a fine fellow as the hero of the death swamp, shooting in the back his unsuspecting victim—and then dressing himself so neatly for his appearance in court, is to be hanged, then the death penalty must be abolished. Ministers must preach against it and petitions to supersede it in this special instance must be circulated and signed. All this many of us have endured in silence. We have read the letters with weariness and the sermons with amusement, but both with patience because we have had faith in the common sense of the great public whom the noisy, fussy persons shouting for the abolition of the death penalty no more represent than the three tailors on Tooley street did the people of England.