

we are told, will be had from an utterly new treatment. Punishment is to be by hard labour for a period; and then a confinement for life with less rigorous treatment is to follow. The prisoners are to be allowed to earn by their work such luxuries as beer and tobacco. Sir Walter says: "The method would be cheap, efficacious and deterrent; it would rid us in a few months of the greater part of our habitual criminals; they would beget no more children to inherit their vices; we should shut up half our gaols and pension off half our police, not to speak of saving thousands in magistrates." This, of course, has a fine sound to it, and describes a Utopia that the world has long needed. But before we get our lips to this sweet cup what slips there are! If we succeeded in hiving all the light-fingered and badly-disposed within four walls, maybe there would be a few honest people attracted by the opening, who would be treading on one another's heels in their rush to get the vacant job. We are inclined to think that the activity and push that some would display would equal the rush for office in the civil service upon one Government going out of power and a new one coming in. There would be something remarkable in the way the ranks would be filled up, the back line stepping forward and standing where the other had stood. Besides, if one country adopted such

a scheme there would be many from neighbouring countries, who had not been in good luck there, who would see a good thing in it to flit over to the country where things were so promising; and in the result that poor country would soon find a second complete outfit of scoundrels for whom to supply a prison workshop in which they could earn luxuries such as beer and tobacco. This is only one view of it; but certainly the experiment would be too much for a country to swallow at one mouthful. Things might be propelled and gravitated in the direction indicated, and if it should still look feasible in the light of partial experience it could then be extended onwards. However, the subject is one that will not be hurt by discussion, and Sir Walter Besant's views are well worth consideration.

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Law Students and Vested Rights.

In Australia, it seems from the reports of cases recently decided there, the law students and the Board of Examiners have been locking horns in legal contest. In the September number of the *Queensland Law Journal* there are there several cases in which students have had to fight for their rights. In Ontario there has been some friction between the Benchers and the law students, but, as a general thing, the latter have given "a grum-