

boast of the deed, committed five years ago; that they all perished miserably and violently soon after their victim. But a repetition of the miracle cannot be expected; if we wish to live in peace and safety, if life is to be protected, we must bestir ourselves and see that there is no more trifling with justice.

The first step to be taken is to obtain a change in the constitution of juries—strive to place upon the panel the names of men who, from the integrity of their character, the soundness of their judgment, and the extent of their information, are the most discreet and competent for the performance of the duty. In Upper Canada the selectors are commanded, by statute, so to select jurymen from the assessment rolls, and the selectors of jurors from the jurors' rolls for the counties, select from those first selected, the names of the requisite number of persons to serve as jurors for the year, who, "from the integrity of their characters, the soundness of their judgment, and the extent of their information, are the most discreet and competent for the performance of the duties of the office."

Now, can it be pretended that a provision by which the sheriff is ordered to inscribe on the lists of petit jurors, the names of the tenants paying from thirty dollars per annum to one hundred and sixty, and the names of the proprietors of real property of the annual value of forty dollars, secures the services of those who are the most discreet and competent to perform the duties of jurors? A man may be a rascal, a fool, or an ignoramus, and yet, forsooth, he is perfectly fit to act as a juror. One member of the jury under our system can do incalculable mischief. It is true that he alone cannot acquit the criminal, but he can prevent the rendering of a verdict, thus causing great expense to the country, and, for the time being, paralysing the arm of the law. Is every one who pays over forty dollars a year of rental, fit to be entrusted with such dangerous powers? Is not the country entitled to the services of her most honest, discreet and intelligent citizens in the jury boxes? Is it not for the interest of society at large that justice should be properly administered, the innocent set free, the guilty punished? If juries, as at present constituted, afford facilities for the escape of the criminal, it is time that the system should be remodelled. If the defects pointed out arise from the ignorance and prejudices of the jurymen, weed out those who are so afflicted; if, on the contrary, they take their source in their dishonesty, select, after the fashion of the Upper Canadians, those alone who, from the integrity of their lives, the soundness of their judgment, and the extent of their information, are competent to discharge the high and important functions of a jurymen. Choose, in fact, the first men in the community; and in lieu of committing to those who have nothing to lose if they act dishonorably, the precious task of vindicating the law and protecting society from the violent and wicked, confide it only to those whose social position and mental acquirements forbid the idea that, to gratify a prejudice, or to pander to party feeling, they would break a trust which by oath they had bound themselves faithfully to discharge.

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