

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN JEOPARDY.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The due administration of justice is the very life blood of every civilized community; without it, ordered civilization becomes chaos. The administration of justice means the enforcement of the law of the land by courts and magistrates appointed by the Government of the country for that purpose. This enforcement should be certain, without fear or favour, impartial, prompt, and effective. Rigid attention to these principles has been characteristic of England's rule, at home and abroad, and largely the secret of her pre-eminence among the nations. When she fails to observe them, or any of them, her declension will have begun. Recent events in this country show that there is danger ahead in this regard.

In saying* this we make no reflection on the magistracy, for our courts and magistrates are doing their duty in this respect in a most effective manner, with due regard to the complete and thorough administration of justice. But there is a weakness on the part of the advisers of the Executive in not resisting the influences, political and otherwise, brought to bear for the purpose of obtaining pardon or remission of sentences imposed by those appointed by the Crown and responsible to the public in criminal cases. This occasional, and too frequent, interference with the course of justice and necessary punishment of crime engenders a contempt for the administration of the law, which must produce disastrous results; for this practice leads to the very anarchy now shewing itself, and which the Government desires to repress.

Extreme laxity in the enforcement of criminal law in the United States made lynch law for a time almost a necessity. It will not be necessary for us to adopt some similar means of self preservation. The remedy, on the one hand, is the education of the people in the principles of true democracy—not democracy run mad—and as to the perils and fallacies underlying socialism. On the other hand, there must be prompt and stern dealing with those who transgress the law.