

some that the English common law of treason may have a place in American jurisprudence, but however that may be, many will maintain that the spirit of the common law of England in this direction is a right that remains to a free people. There can be no doubt, however, that it is quite competent for Congress to enact such a criminal law as has been indicated. The necessity for this in the present condition of things across the border is quite evident. It might be wise also not to permit the plea of irresponsibility, except upon the condition that invoking it should entail imprisonment for life in a lunatic asylum. One thing is evident, and that is that in view of the murder of three of its Presidents since the election of Lincoln, the great Republic in spite of its national traditions in the past, be they wise or otherwise, must follow the example of European monarchies in encircling its chief magistrate with safeguards against violence similar to those which the countries of the old world have been compelled to adopt. The welfare of the nation, as well as the dictates of humanity, demand it.

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#### *REPRINT OF ENGLISH REPORTS.*

Little more than a year since some of the leading publishing houses in Scotland, England, the United States and Canada undertook to reprint verbatim in full, without omitting any cases or parts of cases, all the decisions of the English Courts from the earliest period (1300) up to the year 1865,\* containing in all over twelve hundred volumes. The scheme seemed so huge that doubt was expressed in some quarters as to the probable success of the work. All doubt, however, has now disappeared, for vol. II. has just been received, and the success of the venture is assured. Although only called a reprint the work has much in addition, and is of more use than the original reports, inasmuch as each case is annotated by giving full notes as to whether, when and where the case has been overruled, distinguished or otherwise. The work is well printed in a uniform series and in modern type, and is in a much more readable shape than the originals. The original paging has been preserved. The undertaking is a large one, but these publishers thought that a reprint

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\*The English Reports, 1300 to 1865. Verbatim reprint of all the cases during that period, 1901. Canada Law Book Company, Toronto.