

Thus for a population of a little over two millions we have for the two years mentioned an average of thirty-one homicides while London with more than double the population had only twenty-four!

That we are not so bad in this respect as the New England States with, in proportion to population, twelve times as many cases of homicide as London, is not any matter for congratulation. Our case is bad enough to call for careful consideration and enquiry into the cause of such a serious state of things. We cannot, as the Americans to some extent may, lay the blame upon our foreign population, for the foreigners who come to our shores are not largely of the criminal class. Some other reason must be sought.

Asking this question with regard to themselves the American writer says: "Probably the chief cause of our extraordinary multiplication of crimes is in the insufficiency of our criminal procedure, coupled with the widespread lack of respect for law and its enforcement." The administration of justice in America is contrasted with the certainty and swiftness of justice in England, very much to the advantage of the latter. The administration of justice in this country has, so far, been both swift and sure as compared with that in the United States, but, as regards respect for law, and a determination that it shall be enforced, we cannot speak with the same complacency. That there is growing up in this country a generation unused to restraint, and unwilling to submit to it, to whom law and order are terms without meaning, allowed from childhood to do as they like, and even taught to shew their independence by disregard of social obligations, we have too much reason to know. Disobedience to parents, disrespect for elders, rudeness to strangers, rowdiness, especially in country districts where there are no police to restrain it, may not bring the offenders within the grasp of the law, but they all tend to create a disrespect for it. Familiarity with disorder causes contempt for order, and prepares the mind for the conception and, in due time, for the execution of crime.