

humanity, could, under any stress of violence, have acted as this woman did, it is hard to conceive. So far as the woman was concerned the jury did their duty, but that the man, the instigator of the crime of murder, and the perpetrator of the other two criminal actions, should escape with his life does seem to shock our sense of justice. In fact the sympathy aroused for the woman in this case has had the effect of diverting public opinion from the horrible condition of things prevailing in this lonely backwoods family.

We thus find jurors in one case, and a portion of the public, chiefly women, in the other, declaring that women, as women, shall not be liable for the legal penalties of their crimes, and therefore shall not be on the same legal plane with men. We have found from another quarter a demand that women shall, as regards the rights and privileges of citizenship, be at least equal with men, and share their duties and responsibilities. Let the suffragists reconcile these conflicting principles if they can.

In the case of Walter Blythe, the man convicted of beating his wife to death with a poker, but whom the jury only found guilty of manslaughter, a very important legal question is involved. When the case was first tried the jury found the accused guilty of murder; the judge accepted the finding, and awarded the penalty of death. But as it appeared that the man had been drinking (though to what extent was not clear) when he committed the crime, though the fact was not discussed at the trial, his counsel contended that, on that account, he was not in his proper senses, and so far not accountable for his actions, and there being no proof of intent to take the life of his victim, the verdict of murder should not be sustained, but should be reduced to manslaughter.

It is not necessary to follow the series of reprieves, and legal contentions which followed, resulting, after long delay, in a new trial being granted, and a verdict of manslaughter recorded against the prisoner, who was sentenced to eighteen years in the penitentiary. It may, however, not be amiss to say a word as to the effect upon the public mind of the law that intoxication may