



#### TROUBLE WITH THE "R."

MISS DE JONES—"Aw you a lovah of hawmony, Mr. Le Dewd?"

MR. LE DEWD—"No—er—cawn't say I am. It don't seem to agwee with me as well as oatmeal for bwakfast."

#### THE MURDERER A LA MODE.

THE scaffold having largely taken the place of the gladiatorial arena in our modern civilization, and the class of tight-rope dancers thereon having rapidly increased in numbers and influence among us, it may be of general interest to point out a few facts deducible from the brilliant career lately closed at a certain western town.

In the first place, it is evident that the high-class criminal should possess a fair education. He may not win scholarships, indeed, and the rewards of pedantry must ever appear mean and trivial to an ambition which soars to the top of the gallows tree. But, though his education may fitly end with an expulsion, it must yet be sufficient to stamp him above the unlettered clown. The boorish murderer is getting out of date. Competition has raised the professional standard. The illiterate *habitant* or laborer can no longer successfully compete with born gentlemen in catering to the taste of a fastidious public. Granted that Great Britain possesses in her feudal laws and social customs as unequalled facilities for the production of first-class criminals as her iron and coal mines give her in the manufacture of steamships, yet patriotism should urge us to do all that we can to overcome our adverse conditions. Indeed, already a noble foundation has been laid by our Government in the protection of monopolies, large land grants to individuals and corporations, and the otherwise fostering of the few at the expense of the many. All this is well so far as it goes, but if some special scheme of education for murderers could be devised it would fill a long-felt want and make us independent of foreign countries for our supply of polished felons.

One of the principal aims of such public training schools should be to give a good social education.

Pleasing manners and a good address are necessary qualifications for those who would fill this high position. The murderer is essentially a public character, and in the prosecution of his calling comes into contact with men of all classes. He should therefore be able on every occasion to comport himself with grace and dignity.

Good birth and breeding are also of great advantage to the criminal. Though the possessor of native talent will seldom fail of having justice done him, yet to his other gifts must be added that of social rank, in order to win the most shining success, such is the toadyism of court circles.

But the chief care of the murderer should be to cultivate the virtues. Let him not suppose that the huge fracture of the moral law which holds him fast like a crack in a glacier, renders its other precepts less binding upon him. Nothing so charms and mystifies the public as a contradictory character. The word of sympathy, the little act of kindness, the cup or cold water from a bloody and manacled hand, how they touch the heart and exalt humanity! Ah, how much better would we all appear if by some act of atrocity we could magnify and throw into bold relief our remaining virtues!

WILLIAM MCGILL.

#### POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE.

MCTAVISH—"The McKinley Bill is a positive disgrace to any country."

BEESWAX—"Ah, that's a new view of it. From the fuss which the papers are making about it in connection with hen-fruit I should have thought it was a negative measure."



#### PAWN MY WORD.

Mr. Jacobs, the eminent pawnbroker, says that what he does like about his daughter is, that she dresses "so stylish, and, above all, with such an eye to bithness, ma tear." [He hadn't seen the new "Toreador" hat before.]-Funny Folks.