

Anarchy even though it is not always caused by a lax administration of the law is very commonly a result thereof. The tragedy at Wiarton is another illustration of the disastrous results of men taking the law into their own hands, which is a species of anarchy. Four men sought to do that which presumably should have been done by the local police authorities, with the result that one of them was shot dead by the woman whose house was being raided, and the other three have been promptly sentenced to eight months in the common jail for their participation in the attack. Chief Justice Mulock was perfectly right in the course he took. He would have been very lax in his administration of justice had he failed to pronounce a substantial sentence upon men who had thus been partakers in a very serious offence. As has been very frequently said of late, anarchy is in the air, and evidences of this are of daily occurrence. The well-being of the country depends upon the prompt repression of any exhibitions of this growing evil.

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The State of New York has made a new departure by enacting that adultery is indictable as a criminal offence. The statute came into force on 1st September last. A contemporary does not think this a happy inspiration on the part of the legislature and prophesies that it will give rise to prosecution instituted not to vindicate the law and outraged morals, but to gratify private revenge. As the writer wisely says, "There are some wrongs which are best left to be dealt with by the healthy public sentiment of the people. If public morals are so debased as to excuse the wrong, it is not by legislation such as this that a reform can be effected." The statute, however, is an experiment, whose results will be watched with interest.