

is an axiom of the law that every man is to be considered innocent until he is proven guilty. It is an outrage upon the personal and constitutional right of the citizen to keep him locked up for an hour beyond the utmost exigencies of the occasion. And here is a wrong that might be remedied. Our present judges are faithful, and I believe are worked harder than any other judges in the world, but there is no reason why there should not be more of them. I can myself think of several excellent lawyers who could be persuaded to accept the office if the people insisted upon their doing so.

But if under our present dilatory administration of justice John Doe must be kept in the county jail for three months, the fact of his constructive innocence, no less than the unwritten law of social ethics, should have given him protection from contamination, and sent him before the court no worse in soul or mind or body because of his imprisonment. Gross absurdity of our civilization, when we protect our youth from the contamination of uncleanness by most rigid laws—save those who are most subject to contamination—the incipient criminal class! These we take by force, as opportunity offers, and lock them up, under conditions that are sure to develop all the uncleanness, all the latent vice that the devil has sown in their hearts. Our county jails are schools of crime, which we pay roundly to support—devil's kinder-gartens! Out upon our boast of philanthropic enterprise, when nearly every county in the land has its moral plague-spot, its pest-house of iniquity, under the very eaves of the churches, where men are perishing while we are at our prayers! My blood boils with indignation when I think of this spot of vantage that we yield to Satan, with hardly a word of protest. It is high time that all who are battling for right against wrong, for heaven against hell, should realize that there is no duty lying nearer them than to rise up, in the power of a combined protest, and destroy this well-fortified outpost of hell! *Let us ring it on a thousand changes, in the name of public economy, in the name of humanity, in the name of Christian charity and duty, in the name of God—DOWN—DOWN WITH THE OLD-FASHIONED COUNTY JAIL!*

Let us review John Doe's case. Having had three months of schooling in the jail he is brought up for trial. The Judge has never seen John Doe before—has, in fact, never heard of him. The indictment is read, ingeniously framed by a young and ambitious district attorney. Witnesses are summoned. There is no very positive evidence in his favor. The law is plain enough; he is technically guilty of the offence charged. Stand up, John Doe, and *be branded as a felon!* You have had a fair trial, lasting just one hour, and under the law you are found guilty. The jury, to be sure, was not a very intelligent one; but they knew enough about evidence to find you guilty. The Judge has done his duty; an example is needed; you shall be