

The article continues as follows:—

“This rule is very ancient and most likely antedated the time when the Bible had any very great influence in shaping the law, but Lord Coke, followed by Blackstone, grounds it expressly upon the law of God as stated in Exodus 21:28: ‘If an ox gore a man or a woman that they die, then the ox shall be surely stoned and his flesh shall not be eaten.’ It is a strange example of the persistence of ancient law that deodands were not abolished in England by statute until 1846. (9 & 10 Vict. c. 62.) It is, however, worthy of consideration whether modern conditions do not call for a revival of the law. If every automobile or trolley car, for instance, which causes the death of a man, woman or child, were forfeited by the owner, it is very likely that the number of accidents would suddenly decrease.

“A curious parallel with the law of deodands was drawn from the covenant with Noah in Genesis 9:5: ‘And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man’; and from the requirement that a homicidal animal should be put to death. These texts were considered by the mediæval Church as authority for the prosecution and punishment of delinquent animals. In France, Germany and other continental countries many curious indictments were preferred against rats, mice and other destructive vermin, as well as vicious animals who killed or injured men.”

GENERALLY.

On the general subject which introduces the foregoing, the articles concludes as follows:—

“The Bible as a law book has not received the careful study to which it is entitled. Its theological importance, and, in later times especially, its literary interest have absorbed the attention of its readers, but there are other aspects from which it should be studied. I have confined myself to a small part of its influence in specific cases upon the development of our own law; but the student of comparative law can find in this most accessible place a rich store of material, comparable only with those systems