

linkering, no matter how well educated and profound the jugglers and tinkers may be.

The subject of death, especially when it is to be practically applied to others, should be approached not as the means of exercising tentative skill, but with a reasonable degree of awe and solemn consideration. It has been made the king of terrors in order that by our natural instinct we may keep as far from it as we can and assist others in doing so. The slightest perversion of that quality is so much of a concession to that influence among man, which is ever leading him into forbidden paths, and unchecked it promotes carelessness, indifference and callousness, and at last those who are so led look without sorrow upon suffering and unmoved upon death itself, no matter how inflicted.

It is recorded of Robespierre—than whom no more stolid or remorseless tyrant ever wielded power—that when he became one of the bloody triumvirate whose deeds of darkness even yet thrill the world with horror—he was so much affected by the sight of blood that the spectacle even of a bleeding nose caused him to faint, and to talk of an execution was as near as he cared to come to one. But the "monster of hideous mien" once beheld, was "first endured, then pitted, then embraced," and Robespierre could soon behold with as much equanimity as the most hardened of his headsmen, the decapitation of a fellow being; more, he even enjoyed it and looked forward with undisguised zest to those frequent and revolting spectacles.

If the McIlvaine execution was not a revolting spectacle, it was not as hard to look at as the details are to read and this would seem an utterly absurd proposition. The "civilizing results" promised and claimed must exist in minds differently constructed from ours.

THE POLICEMANSHIP OF BUSINESS

THE Bradstreet Company has just issued a little brochure dealing with business failures in the United States and Canada. It might properly be entitled the philosophy of commerce, from the manner in which statistics are handled.

The total number of failures in the United States and Canada in 1891 was 14,240, nearly 16 per cent. more than in 1890, but not quite 7 per cent. more than in 1889. When compared with the number (1,100,000) of individuals, firms or corporations rated as to credit or capital, or both, the failures are only 1.3 per cent. of the total number engaged in business and rated as in trade directories.

What is most striking in relation to this police espionage, as it may be called, over trade, is the fact that 91.2 per cent. of the 14,240 failures were reported as doubtful by trade agencies. So nearly perfect has this system become, that merchants by taking proper precautions may be almost absolutely guarded against losses.

Statistics of credit rating and business failures are gathered from 3,800,000 square miles of territory in the United States and Canada by more than 100,000 correspondents. A wholesale firm in Chicago, if applied to for credit by a business man, either from Provo, Utah, or from Toronto, Canada, has only to telephone to Bradstreet or Dun and ascertain the financial standing of the prospective buyer.

Of these 14,240 failures the greatest number, nearly 6000, are attributed to lack of capital, the next to incompetence, then come disaster, speculation, inexperience, unwise credits, extravagance, fraud, failure of others and so on. The perfection of the system is shown by the fact that 91.2 per cent. of these failures was foreshadowed in January, 1891, being then rated as doubtful.

THE UNITED STATES AND CIVILIZATION.

MR. WILLIAM ROBERTS, an Englishman who resided for several years in the United States, has an article in the January *Fortnightly* entitled: "The Administration of Justice in America." He dwells largely on the miscarriage of justice in murder cases and comes to the conclusion that the United States cannot lay any reasonable claim to be considered on a level with the civilized nations of Europe." This is rather an emphatic assertion, and one which no doubt will be resented even in England by the majority of the people.

But what is giving the average American patriot a left-handed sort of solace in this case is the fact that Mathilda M. Blake has an article in the January *Westminster* on "The Protection of Women." The article relates to the women of Great Britain, and she obtained her data from public records. According to her showing the condition of women is no better now in that country than it was seven centuries back. Miss Blake cites instances from police courts where women have been outraged, and wives kicked or driven to suicide, and only terms of six or nine months' imprisonment imposed for these offenses. On the other hand, she cites cases of pocket-picking which have been punished with five years'

penal servitude. She says that a husband is rarely executed for wife-murder, and that more generally acquittal rather than conviction follows outrages and brutality on women in England.

The administration of justice in England and in the United States can not be viewed as correctly represented in these articles. However, there is some of truth perhaps in both. It is generally admitted that domestic strife in England sometimes assumes a savage aspect, but unfortunately it can be traced to the inordinate use of intoxicating liquors. Whether pocket-picking is made almost a capital offense in that country and wife-killing only a venial sin is another question; and one not likely to be credited even in America.

With regard to the statement made by Mr. Roberts, that justice is not administered in murder cases, there is certainly some correctness in the charge. During 1891 there were in the United States 5906 murders, and only 123 legal executions. There were, however, 195 lynchings, and among these victims were several women. The figures as given for 1890 are 4290 murders, 1889 3567, 1888 2184, 1887 2335, and in 1886 the number was 1499. The vast increase in these figures may be traced to some degree to the later more effective methods of statistic gathering. It is possible that in 1891 the figures are more correct than those for 1886. But the fact can not be questioned that murder is on the increase in this country, and that punishment thereof is not commensurately meted out.

The murders for last year averaged 500 a month, or very nearly seventeen per day throughout this land, while the legal executions will average but little over two a week. In this particular, perhaps, Mr. Roberts does not exaggerate when he says that we can not properly lay claim to be classed with civilized nations.

AN "EXHIBITION OF MENDACITY."

THE advocates of the "Home Rule" bill before Congress had a hearing on Thursday before the Senate Committee on Territories. Mr. H. W. Smith of Ogden was again the speaker, and much interest was shown by the chairman and members of the committee, who asked questions and were evidently desirous of getting at the facts. On Saturday Hon. C. C. Richards of Ogden is to be heard, and the advocates of the Teller bill for Utah's statehood will next be given a hearing.

We alluded yesterday to some errors into which Mr. Smith appeared to