

From the Liverpool Mercury.

It may perhaps, be regarded as rather a fortunate circumstance, that Mr. Weston did not succeed when he last moved Parliament on the subject, in carrying through the abolition of capital punishment. Sure are, that if such a measure had, twelve months ago received the sanction of the Legislature, a popular tenet in favor of a return to a clemency penal code would have been the inevitable result of that alarming increase of murder in its most aggravated and dangerous character, which the closing Spring and summer of 1837, gave to the public eye.

The question now reveres to the public eye.

"A moral philosopher." That is your work, philosopher of infidelity!

With the disappearance of the gallows blade,

the trumpet, and society has no cause

to seek refuge under the wing of a Dragoon."

As it is, the criminal calendar happens to be especially with that class of crime which, alone, for some years past, it has been usual to visit with death-punishment. This fact, and many others, there are, which give the name of the month in which the "victories of the 'humanization school,'" as penal law reformers nickname it, present those to induce. The "murders" of the season, however, are by some of our ingenious contemporaries discredited upon, in the view

of coining with capital, not only the "philanthropist," but the friends of peace and retribution. "With such examples before us," says the Morning Chronicle, "we may well tell you, according to the suggestions of those who recommended us, in a fit of rage over the anxiety or the folly of the neighbors, to throw away the weapons of

military strength, and, in our transactions

with foreign states, to have recourse to no

other weapons than those of argument and persuasion." So that, on the reasoning of the modish, we are to abandon all hope of arbitration superseding an appeal to arms in case of international differences, because the philanthropic societies are occasionally shocked by the atrocities committed by their "friends like Ruth are guilty. Admirable sentiment!" continues on contumely, "we are even convinced of the reality of such a reformation in the principles of human nature, as would induce us to stand and turn our backs upon pruning hooks, if, *etc.* if, *etc.* but to end the record of civil justice has first fallen into dross."

Financial reforms, according to him, must abolish the Old Bailey before this crisis will entertain the demand for a reduction of the army and navy. It would really seem as if our contemporary believed was to be the greater safety, and hence military armaments the moral influences by which society is to be regenerated.

Our chief objection to capital punishment, and, the latter, being neither more nor less than capital punishment on a national scale, is their tendency to familiarize the public mind with deeds of violence and blood, committed under the sanction of legal authority.

In the superior deterrent efficacy of capital punishment on the passions of the criminally disposed classes we do not believe.

But even that consideration is beyond the question. The opponents, therefore, as far as capital punishment is concerned, are compelled to call it a "trot," and not the only element of punishment, and the more enlarged expedient must regulate the views of the question. The sole difference between us and them is, that we draw the line of separation at the point where the iniquity of the punishment, and the severity of the punishment, become irreconcileable.

We hold morality to be

the standard of all punishment, the only boundary of whose acknowledgement is the neighbouring republic. This segment is most powerful, we estimate, among the French, who have the Anglo-Canadian prefer the subordination of a province, to national independence, and the sympathies of the United States much more pronounced.

This is hardly anything, except the sentiment of patriotism and loyalty.

It estimates the men of every colony,

and every nation, in the European

and American world.

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