

A DIGEST
OF THE
CRIMINAL LAW
(CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS)

BY
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

A. & E. . . .	Adolphus & Ellis.
B. & A. . . .	Barnwall & Alderson.
B. & Ad. . . .	Barnwall & Adolphus.
B. & B. . . .	Broderip & Bingham.
B. & C. . . .	Barnwall & Crosswell.
Bell, C. C. . . .	Bell's Crown Cases.
Brooke's Abt. . . .	Brooke's Abridgment.
Burr. . . .	Burrow's Reports.
Cald. . . .	Caldecott's Settlement Cases.
Camp. . . .	Campbell's Reports.
Car. & Mar. . . .	Carrington & Marshman.
Ch. D. . . .	Chancery Division.
C. & K. . . .	Carrington & Kirwan.
Cl. & F. . . .	Clark & Finnelly.
Cox, C. C. . . .	Cox's Criminal Cases.
C. & P. . . .	Carrington & Payne.
C. P. D. . . .	Common Pleas Division.
D. & B. . . .	Dearnly & Bell.
Dear. . . .	Dearnly.
Den. . . .	Dennison's Crown Cases.
Doug. . . .	Douglas.
Ea. . . .	East's Reports.
East, P. C. . . .	East's Pleas of the Crown.
E. & B. . . .	Ellis & Blackburn.
Esp. . . .	Espinassa.
Ex. D. . . .	Exchequer Division.
F. & F. . . .	Foster & Finlason.
Foster	Foster's Crown Cases.
Gen. View Cr. L. . . .	Stephen's General View of the Criminal Law.
Hale, P. C. . . .	Hale's Pleas of the Crown.
Hawk. P. C. . . .	Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown (Curwood's edition).

Kel.	Kelynge.
L. & C.	Leigh & Cave.
Law.	Lewin's Crown Cases.
L. J. (M.C.)	Law Journal, Magistrates' Cases.
L. J. (Q.B.)	Law Journal, Queen's Bench.
L. R. C. C. R.	Law Reports, Crown Cases Reserved.
L. R. H. L.	Law Reports, House of Lords.
L. R. P. C.	Law Reports, Privy Council.
L. T. (N.S.)	Law Times, New Series.
Mod.	Modern Reports.
Moo.	Moody's Crown Cases.
Moo. & R.	Moody & Robinson.
M. & S.	Maule & Selwyn.
P. D.	Probate Division.
Q. B.	Queen's Bench Reports.
Q. B. D.	Queen's Bench Division.
Rep. C. L. C.	Report of the Criminal Law Commission.
W. Rob.	W. Robinson's Admiralty Reports.
R. & M.	Ryan & Moody.
Roscoe, Cr. Ev.	Roscoe's Criminal Evidence.
R. & R.	Russell & Ryan.
Russ. Cr.	Russell on Crimes, 4th edition (where the 5th edition is not referred to).
Salk.	Salkeld's Reports.
S. L. C.	Smith's Leading Cases.
Starkie, N. P.	Starkie's Nisi Prius Reports.
Steph. Com.	Stephen's Commentaries.
St. Tr.	State Trials.
T. R.	Term Reports.
Ves.	Vesey's Reports.
Viner's Abt	Viner's Abridgment.

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A DIGEST
OF
THE CRIMINAL LAW.

PART I.

PRELIMINARY.

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CHAP. II.—CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMES
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THEIR PUNISHMENT.

CHAP. III.—GENERAL EXCEPTIONS.

CHAP. IV.—PARTIES TO THE COMMIS-
SION OF CRIMES—PRINCIPAL AND
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CHAP. V.—DEGREES IN THE COMMIS-
SION OF CRIME—INCITEMENT—CON-
SPIRACY—ATTEMPTS.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS.

MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT.

WHENEVER it is stated that any offender is liable, on conviction of any offence, to a specified term of penal servitude as a maximum punishment, the meaning (unless any qualification is specified) is that he may be sentenced to that or to any shorter term of penal servitude not being less than five years, or, instead of such term of penal servitude, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour.

If the maximum punishment specified is a term of imprisonment with hard labour or a fine, the meaning (unless any qualification is specified) is that the offender may be sentenced to that or to any shorter term of imprisonment, with or without hard labour, or to any smaller fine.

If the maximum punishment specified is a term of hard

labour (as distinguished from imprisonment with hard labour) the meaning is that the offender must be sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, but may be sentenced for any term not exceeding the term specified.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND WHIPPING.

¹ The letter S at the end of a reference to a statute means that an offender against the enactment referred to may be sentenced to solitary confinement. The letter W that such offender may, if a male under sixteen years of age, be sentenced to whipping.

PENAL SERVITUDE AND TRANSPORTATION.

In cases in which the punishment appointed for an offence by statute is transportation, penal servitude has been uniformly substituted. In cases in which the minimum amount of penal servitude is three years, five years has been uniformly substituted, in order to give the effect of 16 & 17 Vict. c. 99; 20 & 21 Vict. c. 3; and 27 & 28 Vict. c. 47, s. 2; which substituted penal servitude for transportation, and a minimum term of five for a minimum term of three years' penal servitude.

MINIMUM PUNISHMENTS.

It is enacted by 9 & 10 Vict. c. 24, s. 1, that "in all cases where the Court is now (June, 1846) by law empowered or required to award a sentence of transportation exceeding seven years, it shall be lawful for such Court at its discretion to award a sentence of transportation for a term of years not less than seven years, or to award such sentence of imprisonment for any period not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, as shall to the Court in its discretion appear just under all the circumstances."

The effect of this enactment is given when necessary by substituting the expression "shall be liable to a maximum punishment of — years penal servitude," for the expression "shall be liable to be transported for — years."

¹ See Article 5, and note.

To avoid constant repetition of the same references, the Acts mentioned under this and the last heading are not referred to in the notes giving the authorities for the various articles hereinafter contained.

ALTERATIONS IN LANGUAGE OF STATUTES.

The future and the past future are uniformly altered to the present tense. Where "shall" is used as an imperative "must" is substituted. Where the language of a statute appeared needlessly verbose for common purposes, the leading word or an equivalent is preserved in the text, and the words omitted are inserted in a foot note for reference if necessary.

The language of the statutes is in most cases rearranged for the sake of clearness; but the words "redrawn," "condensed," or others of the same sort, indicate the cases in which the greatest alterations have been made.

DRAFT CODE.

The expression "Draft Code" means the Draft Code appended to the Report of the Criminal Code Commission published in 1879, and marked C. 2345.

CHAPTER I.

OF PUNISHMENTS.

ARTICLE 1.

PUNISHMENTS.

THE following punishments are inflicted by the law of England for the crimes hereinafter defined:—Death, penal servitude, imprisonment, detention in a reformatory school, subjection to police supervision, whipping, fines, putting under recognizance.

ARTICLE 2.

PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.

¹The punishment of death is inflicted by hanging the offender by the neck till he is dead.

ARTICLE 3.

PUNISHMENT OF PENAL SERVITUDE.

²The punishment of penal servitude consists in keeping the offender in confinement and compelling him to labour in the manner and under the discipline appointed by the Acts relating to penal servitude.

¹ See 1 Hist. Cr. Law, ch. xiii. p. 457; see Draft Code, Pt. II, ss. 7-18.

² As to treatment of prisoners under sentence of death in prison, see 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126, Sch. 1, 61. As to the history of the punishment of death and benefit of clergy, see 1 Hist. Cr. Law, 457-80.

³ 15 & 17 Vict. c. 99; 20 & 21 Vict. c. 3; 27 & 28 Vict. c. 47; and see 5 Geo. 4, c. 84. The subject of the nature of the punishment of penal servitude is discussed at length in *R. v. Mount*, L. R. 6 P. C. 283. See, too, 1 Hist. Cr. Law, 480-483.

ARTICLE 4.

PUNISHMENT OF IMPRISONMENT.

¹ The punishment of imprisonment consists in the detention of the offender in prison, and in his subjection to the discipline appointed for prisoners during the period expressed in the sentence.

Imprisonment is of three kinds :

- (i) Imprisonment with hard labour.
- (ii) Imprisonment without hard labour.
- (iii) Imprisonment as a misdemeanant of the first division.

Imprisonment of the first and second kinds may, in the cases hereinafter specified, be accompanied or not with solitary confinement.

ARTICLE 5.

IMPRISONMENT TO BE SEPARATE.

² All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour must be prevented from holding any communication with each other, either by every prisoner being kept in a separate cell by day and by night, except when he is at chapel or taking exercise, or by every prisoner being confined to his cell and being subjected to such superintendence during the day as will, consistently with the provisions of the Prisons Act, 1865, prevent his communication with any other prisoner.

ARTICLE 6.

HARD LABOUR.

³ Hard labour is of two classes, consisting—

- (1.) Of work at the tread-wheel, shot-drill, crank, capstan,

¹ See 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126. As to the history of the punishment of imprisonment, see 1 Hist. Cr. Law, 483-7.

² 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126, s. 17. This has practically superseded sentences of solitary confinement.

³ 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126, s. 19.

stone-breaking, or such other like description of hard bodily labour as may be appointed by the justices in sessions assembled with the approval of the Secretary of State.

(2.) Of such other description of bodily labour as may be appointed by ¹ the justices in sessions assembled with the approval of the Secretary of State.

² Every male prisoner of sixteen years of age and upwards sentenced to hard labour must, during the whole of his sentence, be kept at hard labour of the first class for such number of hours, not more than ten or less than six (exclusive of meals), as may be prescribed by the visiting justices, subject to the following provisions:—

(1.) In cases in which the sentence is for more than three months the visiting justices may, after the expiration of the first three months of the sentence, substitute hard labour of the second for hard labour of the first class.

(2.) If the surgeon certifies that any prisoner is unfit to be kept at either class of hard labour during the whole or any part of the prescribed hours, he shall not be kept to such labour during such time.

(3.) If the sentence is for a period not exceeding fourteen days, prisoners may, in pursuance of rules made by the justices in sessions, be kept in separate confinement at hard labour of the second class during the whole period of their sentences.

³ Every male prisoner under the age of sixteen sentenced to hard labour, and every female prisoner sentenced to hard labour, must be kept at hard labour of the second-class during such number of hours—not more than ten or less than six (exclusive of meals)—in each day as may be prescribed by the visiting justices, unless the surgeon certifies that he or she is unfit for hard labour.

¹ For the meaning of this expression see 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126, s. 6.

² Ibid. Sch. I. 34 (redrawn).

³ Ibid. Sch. I. 35.

ARTICLE 7.

EMPLOYMENT OF PRISONERS NOT SENTENCED TO HARD LABOUR.

¹ Provision must be made by the visiting justices for the employment of all prisoners sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour. The visiting justices must make rules as to the nature and amount of such employment; but no prisoner not sentenced to hard labour can be punished for neglect of work, excepting by such alteration in the scale of diet as may be established by the rules of the prison in the case of neglect of work by such prisoners.

ARTICLE 8.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

² In cases in which a Court or judge is authorized to direct that an offender shall be kept in solitary confinement, such solitary confinement may not be for any longer period than one month at a time, or more than three months in the space of one year.

ARTICLE 9.

IMPRISONMENT AS A MISDEMEANANT OF THE FIRST DIVISION.

³ Imprisonment as a misdemeanant of the first division is inflicted by confining the offender within the prison. Such a misdemeanant is not to be deemed to be a criminal prisoner.

He is permitted to maintain himself, and to procure or receive, at proper hours, food, wine, malt liquor, clothing, bedding or other necessaries; but subject to examination and to such rules as may be approved by the visiting justices.

¹ 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126, Sch. I. 38.

² 7 Will. 4 & 1 Vict. c. 90, s. 5.

³ 28 & 29 Vict. c. 126, Sch. I. 16, 31. The rules upon which this article is founded, apply in terms to debtors only; but as a misdemeanant of the first division is not to be regarded as a "criminal prisoner," it would seem to follow that he is to be treated as a debtor.

He may be permitted to work and follow his trade or profession, provided such employment does not interfere with the regulations of the prison.

ARTICLE 10.

DETENTION IN A REFORMATORY.

¹The punishment of detention in a reformatory school is inflicted by detaining the offender in such a school, and subjecting him to the discipline thereof, in the manner provided by the statutes relating to reformatory schools.

ARTICLE 11.

SUBJECTION TO POLICE SUPERVISION.

²The punishment of subjection to police supervision consists in the subjection of every person so punished to the following obligations when at large:—

(a.) He must notify the place of his residence, and every change of his residence, within the same ³ police district, to the ³ chief officer of police of the district in which his residence is situate. ⁴ He must comply with this requirement by personally presenting himself and declaring his place of residence to the constable, or person who at the time when such notification is made is in charge of the police station or office of which notice has been given to such holder or person as the place for receiving such notification, or if no such notice has been given in charge of the chief office of such chief officer of police.

(b.) Whenever he changes his place of residence from one police district to another, he must notify such change of residence to the chief officer of police of the police district which he is leaving, and to the chief officer of police of the

¹ 29 & 30 Vict. c. 117.

² 34 & 35 Vict. c. 112, s. 3 (language slightly altered).

³ For definitions of "police district," and "chief officer of police," see 34 & 35 Vict. c. 112, s. 20.

⁴ 42 & 43 Vict. c. 55, s. 2. The section contains some other very slight additions to the earlier Act.

police district into which he goes to reside. He must make the notifications required to be made in (a.) and (b.) within forty-eight hours after he comes into the place where they are required to be made.

(c.) Once in each month he must—if a male—report himself at such time, and personally, or by letter, as may be prescribed by the chief officer of police of the district, either to such chief officer himself, or to such person as he may direct.

(d.) If he fails to do any one of these things within the proper time he is liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding one year.

ARTICLE 12.

PUNISHMENT OF WHIPPING.

(a.) ¹ When no special provisions are made as to the punishment of whipping the number of strokes and the instrument to be used are left to the discretion of the person by whom the whipping is inflicted.

(b.) ² When the punishment of whipping is awarded by order of one or more justices, in exercise of their power of summary conviction, the order awarding such punishment must specify the number of strokes to be inflicted, and the instrument to be used in the infliction of them. In the case of an offender whose age does not exceed fourteen years the number of strokes inflicted must not exceed twelve, and the instrument used must be a birch rod. No such offender may be whipped more than once for the same offence.

(c.) ³ When the punishment of whipping is awarded by order of a Court for an indictable offence, under the Larceny Act, 1861, the Malicious Injuries to Property Act, 1861, or

¹ Such was the practice when whipping was inflicted as a common law punishment, and such must still be the practice where no statutory directions are given as to the mode of inflicting it. The only limitation is contained in the declaration of the Bill of Rights against "illegal and cruel punishments" (1 W. & M. sess. 2, c. 2, preamble).

² 25 Vict. c. 18, s. 1.

³ 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96, s. 119; c. 97, s. 75; c. 100, s. 70.

the Offences against the Person Act, 1861, the Court may sentence the offender to be once privately whipped, and the number of strokes and the instrument with which they are to be inflicted must be specified by the Court in the sentence.

(d.)¹ When the punishment of whipping is awarded under the Act for the further security of Her Majesty's subjects from personal violence (1863), the Court may direct that the offender—if a male—in addition to the other punishment awarded to him, be once, twice, or thrice privately whipped, subject to the following provisions:—

(i.) In the case of an offender whose age does not exceed sixteen years, the number of strokes at each such whipping must not exceed twenty-five, and the instrument used must be a birch rod.

(ii.) In the case of any other male offender, the number of strokes must not exceed fifty at each such whipping.

(iii.) In each case the Court in its sentence must specify the number of strokes to be inflicted and the instrument to be used.

(iv.) Such whipping must in no case take place after the expiration of six months from the passing of the sentence.

(v.) Every such whipping to be inflicted on a person sentenced to penal servitude must be inflicted on him before he is removed to a convict prison, with a view to undergoing the sentence of penal servitude.

ARTICLE 13.

FINE.

² The punishment of fining consists in ordering the offender to pay to Her Majesty a sum of money expressed in the sentence. When no particular sum is limited as the maximum amount of a fine, the fine imposed must not be excessive.

¹ 26 & 27 Vict. c. 44, s. 1.

² 1 W. & M. sess. 2, c. 2. See also Magna Charta, 'Salvo contentamento suo.'

ARTICLE 14.

PUTTING UNDER RECOGNIZANCES.

The punishment of putting under recognizances consists in ordering the offender to promise to pay to Her Majesty a sum of money expressed in the recognizance if he breaks the condition thereof, and to find other persons to make a similar promise on his behalf and as his sureties. In cases in which the Court or magistrate is authorized to require such securities, they may direct the offender to be imprisoned till he enters into the recognizance and finds the sureties.

CHAPTER II.

CLASSIFICATION OF CRIMES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO THEIR PUNISHMENT.

ARTICLE 15.

TREASON, FELONY, AND MISDEMEANOR.

EVERY crime is either treason, felony, or misdemeanor. Every crime which amounts to treason or felony is so denominated in the definitions of crimes hereinafter contained. All crimes not so denominated are misdemeanors.

ARTICLE 16.

CONSEQUENCES OF A CONVICTION OF TREASON OR FELONY.

The consequences of a conviction of treason or felony are as follows :—

(a.)² Every person convicted of treason or felony may be condemned to the payment of the whole or any part of the costs and expenses incurred in and about his prosecution and conviction.

(b.)³ Immediately upon the conviction of any person for felony, the Court before which he is convicted may award any sum of money not exceeding £100, by way of satisfaction or compensation for any loss of property suffered by any person through or by means of such felony, upon the application of such person. Such sum is to be deemed to be a judgment debt due to the person entitled to receive the same from the person so convicted.

¹ 2 Hist. Cr. Law, ch. ix. pp. 192-6.

² 33 & 34 Vict. c. 23, s. 3. The section contains various subsidiary provisions as to costs, which do not bear on the punishment of the offence. See 1 Hist. Cr. Law, 487-9.

³ 33 & 34 Vict. c. 23, s. 4.

(c.)¹ Every person sentenced to death, to penal servitude, or to any term of imprisonment with hard labour, or exceeding twelve months :

(i.) Becomes incapable of holding any military or naval office, or any civil office under the Crown, or other public employment, or any ecclesiastical benefice, or of being elected, or sitting, or voting as a member of either House of Parliament, or of exercising any right of suffrage or other parliamentary or municipal franchise whatever in England, Wales, or Ireland.

Such incapacity continues until such person has suffered the punishment to which he has been sentenced, or such other punishment as by competent authority may be substituted for the same, or until he receives a free pardon from Her Majesty,

(ii.) If any such person holds, at the time of his conviction, any military or naval office, or any civil office under the Crown, or other public employment, or any ecclesiastical benefice, or any place, office, or emolument in any university, college, or other corporation, or is entitled to any pension or superannuation allowance, payable by the public or out of any public fund ; such office, benefice, employment, or place, forthwith becomes vacant, and such pension or superannuation allowance, or emolument, forthwith determines and ceases to be payable, unless such person receives a free pardon from Her Majesty within two months after such conviction, or² before the filling up of such office, benefice, employment, or place, if given at a later period.

(d.)³ Every person sentenced to death, or to penal servitude, or against whom sentence of death is recorded, is disabled from suing any person, from alienating or charging any property, and from making any contract.

(e.)⁴ The custody and management of the property of any such person may be committed to an administrator, or in-

¹ 33 & 34 Vict. c. 23, s. 2.

² I suppose this means if the pardon is given more than two months after the conviction.

³ 33 & 34 Vict. c. 23, s. 8.

⁴ See ss. 9-29 inclusive.

terim curator, appointed in the manner and invested with the powers described in the statute, 33 & 34 Vict. c. 23.

(f.)¹ Any person subject to the provisions of clauses (d.) or (e.) ceases to be affected by them when he dies, or is made bankrupt, or has suffered any punishment to which sentence of death has been commuted, or has undergone the full term of penal servitude to which he was sentenced, or such other punishment as may have been substituted for it by lawful authority, or receives Her Majesty's pardon.

ARTICLE 17.

RECORDING SENTENCE OF DEATH.

² When any person is convicted of any felony, except murder, punishable with death, the Court may, if it thinks fit, instead of pronouncing judgment of death on such offender, order the same to be entered of record, and a record of every judgment so entered has the same effect as if the judgment had been duly pronounced and the offender reprieved by the Court.

ARTICLE 18.

PUNISHMENT FOR FELONY IF NO EXPRESS PUNISHMENT PROVIDED —FELONIES UNDER THE CONSOLIDATION ACTS.

³ Every person convicted of any felony for which no punishment is specially provided by the law in force for the time being, is liable upon conviction thereof to be sentenced to penal servitude for any period not exceeding seven years, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour and solitary confinement for any term not exceeding two years, and if a male, to be once, twice, or thrice publicly or privately whipped, in addition to such imprisonment.

¹ 33 & 34 Vict. c. 23, s. 7.

² 4 Geo. 4, c. 48, ss. 1, 2 (very much abridged). By 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 30, the same power was given to the Court in cases of murder (*R. v. Hogg*, 2 Mo. & R. 380), but this Act was repealed by 24 & 25 Vict. c. 95. As to the history of the subject see 1 Hist. Cr. Law, 472.

³ 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 28, ss. 8, 9, modified by 1 Vict. c. 90, s. 5; 9 & 10 Vict. c. 24, s. 1; 16 & 17 Vict. c. 99; 20 & 21 Vict. c. 3.

¹ Every person convicted of any felony (except murder) punishable under any of the Criminal Law Consolidation Acts, 1861, may, in addition to any punishment thereby authorized, be required to enter into his own recognizances and to find sureties, both or either, for keeping the peace.

ARTICLE 19.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS.

(a) ² If any person is convicted of any felony, not punishable with death on the 1st July, 1827, committed after a previous conviction for felony, he is liable, on such subsequent conviction, to be sentenced to penal servitude for life, or for any term not less than seven years, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour, and with or without solitary confinement, for any term not exceeding four years, and if a male, to be once, twice, or thrice publicly or privately whipped in addition to such imprisonment.

¹ 24 & 25 Vict. c. 98, s. 117; *Ibid.* c. 97, s. 73; *Ibid.* c. 98, s. 51; *Ibid.* c. 99, s. 33; *Ibid.* c. 100, s. 71.

² 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 28, s. 11. By this Act a person convicted of larceny, after a previous conviction, was liable to transportation for life, &c. By 16 & 17 Vict. c. 99, s. 12, it was enacted that no person shall be liable to be transported by reason only of a previous conviction for larceny, but every such person may be sentenced to not more than ten or less than four years penal servitude. This enactment was repealed by 24 & 25 Vict. c. 95, after having been to some extent superseded by 20 & 21 Vict. c. 3, s. 2, which abolished transportation. By 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96, s. 7, it was enacted that a person convicted of simple larceny after a previous conviction for felony should be liable to a maximum punishment of ten years penal servitude (S. W.). Probably this was meant to be a substitute for 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 28, s. 11, so far as that section applies to convictions for simple larceny, but they are not in terms inconsistent. Theoretically, therefore, I suppose, a person might on a second conviction for larceny be sentenced to penal servitude for life, or imprisonment with hard labour for four years, and to be thrice publicly whipped. The question of the legality of such a sentence is not likely to occur in practice; see Article 321, note. By 27 & 28 Vict. c. 47, s. 2, a person sentenced to penal servitude, after a previous conviction for felony, could not be sentenced to less than seven years. But this was repealed by 42 & 43 Vict. c. 54, s. 1. Practically, therefore, the net result of all this legislation is as stated in the text. The "simple" larceny of the 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96, obviously means larceny not subjected to any special punishment by reason of any of the aggravating circumstances provided for in that Act. Hale uses the expression "simple" larceny in contradistinction to larceny with violence, which is robbery: 1 Hale, P. C. 503.

Provided that a person convicted of simple larceny after a previous conviction for felony, cannot be sentenced to a longer term of penal servitude than ten years.

(b) ¹ When any person is convicted of any felony, or of any of the misdemeanors mentioned in the note hereto,² and a previous conviction of any felony, or any such misdemeanor is proved against him, the Court having cognizance of the indictment may, in addition to any other punishment which it may award to him, direct that he is to be subject to the supervision of the police for a period of seven years, or such less period as the Court may direct, commencing immediately after the expiration of the sentence passed on him for the last of such crimes.

ARTICLE 20.

SPECIAL OFFENCES IN THE CASE OF PERSONS TWICE CONVICTED.

³ Every person convicted on indictment of any felony or any such misdemeanor as is mentioned in the note hereto,⁴ and having had a previous conviction of any such offence proved against him, is liable to a maximum punishment of a year's imprisonment and hard labour, if at any time within seven years immediately after the expiration of the sentence passed upon him for the last of such offences,

(a.) on his being charged by a constable with getting his livelihood by dishonest means, and being brought before a Court of summary jurisdiction, it appears to such Court that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is getting his livelihood by dishonest means; or if,

¹ 34 & 35 Vict. c. 112, s. 8, and s. 20, which defines the word "crime" employed in s. 8.

² Viz., 1. Uttering false or counterfeit coin. 2. Possessing counterfeit gold or silver coin. 3. Obtaining goods or money by false pretences. 4. Conspiracy to defraud. 5. Being found by night armed with intent to break into a dwelling-house. 6. Being found by night, without lawful excuse, with housebreaking implements. 7. Being found by night with face blackened, &c., with intent to commit felony. 8. Being found by night in any dwelling-house or building with intent to commit felony.

³ 34 & 35 Vict. c. 112, ss. 7, 20.

⁴ See Note 2, *supra*.

(b) on being charged with any offence punishable on indictment or summary conviction, and on being required by a Court of summary jurisdiction to give his name and address, he refuses to do so, or gives a false name or false address; or if

(c) he is found in any place, whether public or private, under such circumstances as to satisfy the Court before whom he is brought that he was about to commit or to aid in the commission of any offence punishable on indictment or summary conviction, or was waiting for an opportunity to commit or aid in the commission of any offence punishable on indictment or summary conviction; or if

(d) he is found in or upon any dwelling-house, or any building, yard, or premises, being parcel of or attached to such dwelling-house, or in or upon any shop, warehouse, counting-house, or other place of business, or in any garden, orchard, pleasure-ground, or nursery-ground, or in any building, or erection in any garden, orchard, pleasure-ground, or nursery-ground, without being able to account to the satisfaction of the Court before whom he is brought for his being found on such premises.

ARTICLE 21.

PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

Whenever any offender who, in the judgment of the Court, justices, or magistrate before whom he is charged is under the age of sixteen years, is convicted, on indictment or in a summary manner, of an offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment, and is sentenced to be imprisoned for the term of ten days or a longer term, the Court, justices, or magistrate may also sentence him to be sent at the expiration of his period of imprisonment to a certified reformatory school, and to be there detained for a period of not less than two years and not more than five years.

A youthful offender under ten is not to be so directed to be

¹ 29 & 30 Vict. c. 117, s. 14.

sent to a reformatory school unless he has been previously charged with some crime or offence punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment, or is sentenced by a judge of assize or court of general quarter or quarter sessions.

ARTICLE 22.

PUNISHMENT OF MISDEMEANORS.

¹ Every person convicted of a misdemeanor for which no special punishment is provided by law is liable to fine and imprisonment without hard labour (both or either), and to be put under recognizances to keep the peace and be of good behaviour at the discretion of the Court.

² Whenever any person convicted of misdemeanor is sentenced to imprisonment without hard labour, the Court or judge before whom such person has been tried may order, if such Court or judge thinks fit, that such person shall be treated as a misdemeanant of the first division.

³ Any person convicted of any indictable misdemeanor punishable under any one of the Criminal Law Consolidation Acts, 1861, may, in addition to or in lieu of the punishment by such Act provided, be fined and required to enter into his own recognizances, and to find sureties (both or either) for keeping the peace and being of good behaviour, but no person may be imprisoned for more than one year for not finding such sureties.

ARTICLE 23.

CUMULATIVE PUNISHMENTS.

⁴ Wherever sentence is passed for felony on a person already imprisoned under sentence for another crime, the Court may award imprisonment for the subsequent offence

¹ 1 Russ. Cr. 92; *R. v. Dunn*, 12 Q. B. 1041.

² 28 & 29 Vict. c. 129, s. 67.

³ 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96, s. 117; *Ibid.* c. 97, s. 73; *Ibid.* c. 98, s. 51; *Ibid.* c. 99, s. 33; *Ibid.* c. 100, s. 71. The provisions of these Acts will be found in Parts V and VI. of the Digest.

⁴ 7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 28, s. 10. When felonies as a rule were capital, there could be no cumulative sentences in regard of them, whether they were charged in different indictments or in different counts of the same indictment. If they were

to commence at the expiration of the imprisonment to which such person was previously sentenced. When such a person is already under sentence either of imprisonment or transportation, the Court, if empowered to pass sentence of penal servitude, may award such sentence for the subsequent offence, to commence at the expiration of the imprisonment or penal servitude to which such person was previously sentenced, although the aggregate term of imprisonment or penal servitude respectively may exceed the term for which either of those punishments could be otherwise awarded.

¹ When an offender is convicted of more misdemeanors than one, he may be sentenced to a separate punishment for each offence, and the Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that the one punishment shall not begin until the other has been undergone.

charged in separate indictments, the prisoner having been convicted and sentenced on one, might plead "autrefois attainé" to any subsequent charge. There was no use in passing two sentences of death upon him (see Chitty's Criminal Law, 493). If two felonies were charged in one indictment, the prosecutor was put to his election—as indeed he still is. When death ceased to be the punishment for felonies as such (7 & 8 Geo. 4, c. 28, s. 7) it was necessary to make provision for the punishment of persons already under sentence. Hence the provision in the text. Cumulative punishment in cases of misdemeanor depends on the common law principles.

¹ Opinion of the judges in *Wilkes's Case*, 19 St. Tr. 1132-3, and see *E. v. Castro*, L. R. 5 Q. B. D. 490. In the case of *Rowick Williams* (1 Leach, 526, A.D. 1790) cumulative sentences, amounting in all to six years' imprisonment, were passed upon three indictments for similar offences.

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL EXCEPTIONS.

ARTICLE 24.

DEFINITIONS SUBJECT TO EXCEPTIONS.

EVERY definition hereinafter contained of any crime is subject to the following general exceptions, except in the cases in which the contrary is expressed :—

ARTICLE 25.

CHILDREN UNDER SEVEN.

² No act done by any person under seven years of age is a crime.

ARTICLE 26.

CHILDREN BETWEEN SEVEN AND FOURTEEN.

³ No act done by any person over seven and under fourteen years of age is a crime, unless it be shewn affirmatively that such person had sufficient capacity to know that the act was wrong.

ARTICLE 27.

INSANITY.

⁴ No act is a crime if the person who does it is at the time when it is done prevented [⁵either by defective mental power or] by any disease affecting his mind
(a.) from knowing the nature and quality of his act; or,

¹ See 2 Hist. Cr. Law, chaps. xviii., xix. pp. 94-186. See Draft Code, Pt. III. ss. 19-70.

² 1 Hale, P. C. 27-8; 1 Russ. Cr. 7; Draft Code, s. 20.

³ *R. v. Owen*, 4 C. & P. 236; and see cases collected 1 Russ. Cr. 7-10; Draft Code, s. 20.

⁴ The whole subject is discussed at full length in 2 Hist. Cr. Law, ch. xix. pp. 124-196. Cf. Draft Code, s. 22.

⁵ The parts of the article bracketed are doubtful.

(b.) from knowing that the act is ¹wrong; [² or, "
 (c.) from controlling his own conduct, unless the absence
 of the power of control has been produced by his own
 default.]

But an act may be a crime although the mind of a person
 who does it is affected by disease, if such disease does not in
 fact produce upon his mind one or other of the effects above
 mentioned in reference to that act.

Illustrations.

(1.) A kills B under an insane delusion that he is breaking a jar. A's
 act is not a crime.

(2.) A kills B knowing that he is killing B, and knowing that it is
 wrong to kill B; but his mind is so imbecile that he is unable to form
 such an estimate of the nature and consequences of his act as a person of
 ordinary intelligence would form. A's act is not a crime if the words
 within the first set of brackets are law. If they are not it is.

(3.) A kills B knowing that he is killing B, and knowing that it is
 illegal to kill B; but under an insane delusion that the salvation of the
 human race will be obtained by his execution for the murder of B, and
 that God has commanded him (A) to produce that result by those means.
 A's act is a crime if the word "wrong" has the second of the two mean-
 ings ascribed to it in the note.³ It is not a crime if the word "wrong" has
 the first of those two meanings.

(4.) A suddenly stabs B under the influence of an impulse caused by
 disease, and of such a nature that nothing short of the mechanical restraint
 of A's hand would have prevented the stab. A's act is a crime if (c.) is
 not law. It is not a crime if (c.) is law.

(5.) A suddenly stabs B under the influence of an impulse caused by
 disease, and of such a nature that a strong motive, as, for instance, the fear
 of his own immediate death, would have prevented the act. A's act is
 a crime whether (c.) is or is not law.

(6.) A permits his mind to dwell upon and desire B's death; under the
 influence of mental disease this desire becomes uncontrollable, and A kills
 B. A's act is a crime whether (c.) is or is not law.

¹ The word "wrong" is variously interpreted as meaning:—1. Morally wrong.
² Illegal. The practical effect of these differences is shewn in Illustrations (4),
 (5), and (6).

³ The parts of the article bracketed are doubtful.

⁴ In extreme strictness this ought to be, "If the word 'wrong' has the first
 of these two meanings the criminality of the act would depend upon the
 question whether the jury thought that God's command under the circumstances
 altered the moral character of the act."

(7.) A, a patient in a lunatic asylum, who is under a delusion that his finger is made of glass, poisons one of his attendants out of revenge for his treatment, and it is proved that the delusion had no connection whatever with the act. A's act is a crime.

ARTICLE 28.

PRESUMPTION OF SANITY.

¹ Every person is presumed to be sane, and to be responsible for his acts. The burden of proving that he is irresponsible is upon the accused person; but the jury may have regard to his appearance and behaviour in court.

ARTICLE 29.

DRUNKENNESS.

² Voluntary drunkenness is not regarded as a disease affecting the mind within the meaning of Article 27; but involuntary drunkenness, and diseases caused by voluntary drunkenness, fall, so far as they affect the mind, within that Article.

If the existence of a specific intention is essential to the commission of a crime, the fact that an offender was drunk when he did the act which, if coupled with that intention, would constitute such crime, should be taken into account by the jury in deciding whether he had that intention.

Illustrations.

(1.) ² A, in a fit of voluntary drunkenness, shoots B dead, not knowing what he does. A's act is a crime.

(2.) ² A, under the influence of a drug fraudulently administered to him, shoots B dead, not knowing what he does. A's act is not a crime.

(3.) ² A, in a fit of delirium tremens caused by voluntary drunkenness, kills B, mistaking him for a wild animal, attacking A. A's act is not a crime.

¹ *R. v. Oxford*, 9 C. & P. 525; *R. v. Stokes*, 3 C. & K. 185; Draft Code, s. 22.

² 1 Hale, P. C. 32-3. Illustrations (1), (2), and (3) are founded on this passage.

(4.)¹ A is indicted for inflicting on B an injury dangerous to life with intent to murder B. The fact that A was drunk when he inflicted the injury ought to be taken into account by the jury in deciding whether A intended to murder B or not.

ARTICLE 30.

MARRIED WOMEN.

² If a married woman commits a theft or receives stolen goods knowing them to be stolen in the presence of her husband she is presumed to have acted under his coercion, and such coercion excuses her act; but this presumption may be rebutted if the circumstances of the case shew that in point of fact she was not coerced.

It is uncertain how far this principle applies to felonies in general.

It does not apply to high treason or murder.

It probably does not apply to robbery.

It applies to uttering counterfeit coin.

It seems to apply to misdemeanors generally.

ARTICLE 31.

COMPULSION.

³ An act which if done willingly would make a person a principal in the second degree and an aider and abettor in a crime, may be innocent if the crime is committed by a number of offenders, and if the act is done only because during

¹ *E. v. Cruise*, 8 C. & P. 546.

² 1 Hale, P. C. 45; 1 Hawk. P. C. 4; *R. v. Hughes*, 1 Russ. Cr. 41; *R. v. Atkinson*, 1 Russ. Cr. 47; *R. v. Smith*, D. & B. 553; *R. v. Archer*, R. & M. 143; *R. v. Brooks*, Dear. 184; *R. v. Wardroper*, Bell, C. C. 249. As to felonies in general, see 1 Russ. Cr. 32-4. As to high treason, murder, and robbery, see 1 Hale, P. C. 45; Dalton, c. 157; 1 Hawk. P. C. 4; *R. v. Buncombe*, 1 Cox, C. C. 183; but as to robbery, see Mr. Carrington's argument in *R. v. Cruise*, 8 C. & P. 556. In *R. v. Torpey*, Mr. Russell Gurney, Recorder of London, held that the doctrine applied to robbery, 12 Cox, C. C. 48-8; cf. Draft Code, s. 23. As to misdemeanors in general, see note to *R. v. Price*, 8 C. & P. 20; and 1 Russ. Cr. p. 145, note (b), 5th ed.; see too *R. v. Torpey*, 12 Cox, C. C. 48-9. As to uttering, see *R. v. Price*, 8 C. & P. 19. As to false swearing, *R. v. Dicks*, 1 Russ. Cr. 16. As to the general doctrine, see Note I. The principle is not affected by the Married Women's Property Act, 45 & 46 Vict. c. 75.

³ Draft Code, s. 23.

the whole of the time in which it is being done, the person who does it is compelled to do it by threats on the part of the ¹ offenders instantly to kill him or do him grievous bodily harm if he refuses; but threats of future injury, or the command of any one not the husband of the offender, do not excuse any offence.

Illustrations.

(1.) ² A, B, and C, engaged in a rebellion, force D to join the rebel army and to do duty as a soldier by threats of death continuing during the whole of his service. D's act is not a crime.

(2.) ³ A mob employed in breaking threshing machines force several persons to go with them, and force each person to give each threshing machine a blow with a sledge hammer; A, one of the persons so forced, runs away as soon as he can. A's act is not a crime.

ARTICLE 32.

NECESSITY.

An act which would otherwise be a crime may in some cases be excused if the person accused can shew that it was done only in order to avoid consequences which could not otherwise be avoided, and which, if they had followed, would have inflicted upon him or upon others whom he was bound to protect inevitable and irreparable evil, that no more was done than was reasonably necessary for that purpose, and that the evil inflicted by it was not disproportionate to the evil avoided.

⁴ The extent of this principle is unascertained. It does not extend to the case of shipwrecked sailors who kill a boy, one of their number, in order to eat his body.

¹ 1 Hale, P. C. 43-4, 49, and see Illustrations.

² *R. v. M'Growther*, 18 St. Tr. 894 (A. D. 1746).

³ *R. v. Crutchley*, 5 C. & P. 133. The report says nothing as to the nature of the force. Probably it was by threats of personal violence. It is singular that the law upon this subject should be so very meagre. The subject is treated at some length in 1 Hale, cc. vii., viii., and ix., pp. 43-52, but in a very unsatisfactory way. It would seem that in all common cases the fact that a crime is done unwillingly and in order to avoid injury, ought to affect rather the punishment than the guilt.

⁴ *R. v. Dudley & Stephens*, L. R. 14 Q. B. D. 273. In this case the Court commented on the passage in the text, and Lord Coleridge in delivering judgment said (p. 286), "We have the best authority for saying that" my "language was not meant to cover the case then under consideration." I authorized this statement,

Illustrations.

(1.)¹ A, the Governor of Madras, acts towards his council in an arbitrary and illegal manner. The council depose and put him under arrest, and assume the powers of government themselves. This is not an offence if the

and on consideration I feel that my language was not vague enough—vague as it was—to represent fully the vagueness of the law. I have slightly altered it, so as to make it more vague. I should have agreed with the rest of the Court had I been a member of it in *R. v. Dudley*, though not in all the reasoning of the judgment. I should have based my judgment on the fact that the special verdict found only that if the boy had not been killed and eaten the survivors “would probably not have survived”; and on the principle that in this particular class of cases an error on the side of severity is an error on the safe side. Great danger would be involved in admitting a principle which might be easily abused. I could not go so far as to say, as the judgment delivered by Lord Coleridge says, that any case can impose on a man “a duty” (if the word means a legal duty) “not to live but to die.” Nor do I agree with what is said on p. 287, which appears to me to base a legal conclusion upon a questionable moral and theological foundation, and to be rhetorically expressed. “It would be a very easy and cheap display of commonplace learning” (it is said with obvious truth) to “quote from” four specified “Greek and Latin authors passage after passage in which the duty of dying for others has been laid down in glowing and emphatic language as resulting from the principles of heathen ethics. It is enough in a Christian country to remind ourselves of the Great Example whom we profess to follow.” Whatever estimate may be formed of self-sacrifice, it seems to me to be a duty of which the law can take no notice, if indeed it is a duty at all, which is not a legal question. I can discover no principle in the judgment in *R. v. Dudley*. It depends entirely on its peculiar facts. The boy was deliberately put to death with a knife in order that his body might be used for food. This is quite different from any of the following cases—(1) The two men on a plank. Here the successful man does no direct bodily harm to the other. He leaves him the chance of getting another plank. (2) Several men are roped together on the Alps. They slip, and the weight of the whole party is thrown on one, who cuts the rope in order to save himself. Here the question is not whether some shall die, but whether one shall live. (3) The choice of evils. The captain of a ship runs down a boat, as the only means of avoiding shipwreck. A surgeon kills a child in the act of birth, as the only way to save the mother. A boat being too full of passengers to float, some are thrown overboard. Such cases are best decided as they arise. See on the whole subject my *History of Criminal Law*, II. 108–15. In the United States (*Commonwealth v. Holmes*, 1 Wall. Jr. 1, quoted at length in Wharton on Homicide, s. 560) shipwrecked sailors and passengers escaping in a boat which could not hold all, the sailors threw some of the passengers overboard. The Court held that the passengers ought to have been preferred to the sailors, unless the presence of all the sailors was required for the common safety, but “under any circumstances it was held the proper method of determining who was to be the first victim out of the particular class was by ballot.” I doubt whether an English Court would take this view. It would be odd to say that the two men on the raft were bound to toss up as to which should go.

¹ *R. v. Stratton & Others*, 21 St. Tr. 1045; see Lord Mansfield's judgment, pp. 1222–6.

acts done by the council were the only means by which irreparable mischief to the establishment at Madras could be avoided.

(2.)¹ A and B, swimming in the sea after a shipwreck, get hold of a plank not large enough to support both; A pushes off B, who is drowned. This is not a crime.

ARTICLE 33.

IGNORANCE OF LAW.

²The fact that an offender is ignorant of the law is in no case an excuse for his offence, but it may be relevant to the question whether an act which would be a crime if accompanied by a certain intention or other state of mind, and not otherwise, was in fact accompanied by that intention or state of mind or not.

³In interpreting a statute which makes unlawful a continuous act which till the statute passed was not unlawful, it is to be presumed that the legislature intended to allow a reasonable time for the discontinuance of the act so made unlawful, and the ignorance of the agent that the statute had been passed, is a fact relevant to the question whether his discontinuance of it was within such reasonable time or not.

Illustrations.

(1.)⁴ A, a foreigner unacquainted with the law of England, kills B in a duel in England. A's act is murder although he may have supposed it to be lawful.

(2.)⁵ A, a poacher, sets wires for game, which are taken by B, a game-keeper, under the authority of an Act of Parliament (5 Anne, c. 14, s. 4), of the existence of which A is ignorant. A forcibly takes the wires from B, and is tried for robbery. His ignorance of the Act is relevant to the question whether he took the wires under a claim of right.

¹ Bacon's Maxims, No. 5.

² Draft Code, 24.

³ See Illustration (3). See also *Thompson v. Farrer*, L. E. 9 Q. B. D. 444.

⁴ *Ex parte Barronet*, 1 E. & B. 1.

⁵ *R. v. Hale*, 3 C. & P. 409. In *R. v. Reed*, Car. & Mar. 308, Coleridge, J., said: "Ignorance of the law cannot excuse any person, but at the same time when the question is with what intent a person takes, we cannot help looking into their state of mind, as if a person takes what he believes to be his own it is impossible to say he is guilty of felony."

(3.)¹ A is in command of a ship on a voyage, which during its continuance is rendered unlawful by the passing of the kidnapping Act, 1872 (35 & 36 Vict. c. 19), but A was not aware that the Act had been passed till a considerable time afterwards, and he continued his voyage in ignorance of the Act. The fact of A's ignorance is relevant to the question whether the particular voyage in which A was engaged was one to which the Act was intended by the legislature to apply.

ARTICLE 34.

IGNORANCE OF FACT.

An alleged offender is in general deemed to have acted under that state of facts which he in good faith and on reasonable grounds believed to exist when he did the act alleged to be an offence.

When an offence is so defined by statute that the act of the offender is not a crime unless some independent fact co-exists with it, the Court must decide whether it was the intention of the legislature that the person doing the forbidden act should do it at his peril, or that his ignorance as to the existence of the independent fact, or his mistaken belief in good faith and on reasonable grounds that it did not exist, should excuse him.

Voluntary or negligent ignorance of any such fact is no excuse for any such offence.

In cases of the infliction of bodily harm or restraint for the purpose of arresting or retaking a person honestly and reasonably but erroneously supposed to be liable to be arrested or retaken, the person inflicting such harm or restraint is not justified by such belief unless the state of facts in the existence of which he erroneously believed would, if it had really existed, have made it his legal duty to act as he did, or would have been such as to make his conduct an act of defence of his person or habitation.

Illustrations.

(1.)² A, under an insane delusion, kills B. If the delusion is such that its truth would justify him in doing so, his act is not a crime. The delu-

¹ *Burne v. Nowell*, L. R. 5 Q. B. D. 444.

² *MacNaghten's Case*, 10 Cl. & Fin. 200.

sion would also be evidence that A did not know he was doing wrong even if its truth would not justify the act.

(2.)¹ A, making a thrust with a sword at a place where, upon reasonable grounds, he supposes a burglar to be, kills a person who is not a burglar. A is in the same situation as if he had killed a burglar.

(3.)² A abducts B, a girl under fifteen years of age, from her father's house, believing in good faith and on reasonable grounds that B is eighteen years of age. A commits the offence of abduction, although if B had been eighteen years of age she would not have been within the statute.

(4.)³ A, in the last illustration, abducts B, in ignorance of her age, and without making any inquiry about it. A commits the offence of abduction.

(5.)⁴ A received into her house, not being a registered lunatic asylum, several persons to be medically treated, being persons who were in fact lunatics though A honestly believed on reasonable grounds that they were not lunatics but sufferers under other disorders. Notwithstanding such belief A committed an offence against 8 & 9 Vict. c. 100, s. 14.

(6.)⁵ A, a constable, honestly and on reasonable grounds believing B to have committed murder and not being able otherwise to arrest him shoots

¹ *Levet's Case*, 1 Hale, 474.

² *R. v. Prince*, L. R. 2 C. C. R. 151.

³ *R. v. Prince*, *Ibid.* See judgment of Brett, J., p. 163, and see p. 174. It has been doubted whether a person commits bigamy who contracts a second marriage under a *bona fide* belief that the first husband or wife is dead. In *R. v. Turner*, 9 Cox, C. C. 145, Martin, B., directed a jury that if a woman had an honest belief that her husband was dead she was not guilty of bigamy, and this ruling was followed by Cleasby, B., in *R. v. Horton*, 11 Cox, C. C. 670. In *R. v. Gibbons*, 12 Cox, C. C. 237, Brett, J., after consulting Willes, J., held (says the report) "that a *bona fide* belief that the husband was dead was no defence, unless the seven years had passed." In that case, however, the "*bona fide* belief" appears to have arisen solely from the fact that the woman had not heard of her husband for upwards of six years. It was thus a gratuitous belief, founded on ignorance. It seems to me that if the belief was founded on positive evidence the case would be otherwise. Suppose, *e.g.*, a woman saw her husband fall overboard in the middle of the Atlantic, and saw a boat go out to search for him, and return without him; suppose that she took out administration to his estate, heard nothing of him for five years, and then married again, would she be guilty of bigamy if by some strange chance he had escaped? Surely not. I am informed that this view was taken by Denman, J., and Amphlett, J.A., in a case of *R. v. Moore*, tried at Lincoln Spring Assizes, 1877. I think the proviso in 24 & 25 Vict. c. 100, s. 57 (Art. 257), ought clearly to be read not as excluding the general common law principle stated in this Article, but as supplementing and completing it, by providing that a second marriage, after seven years' ignorance as to the life of the first husband or wife, shall not be criminal, although the party so marrying has no positive reason to believe, and perhaps does not believe, that the absent person is dead.

⁴ *R. v. Bishop*, L. R. 5 Q. B. D. 259.

⁵ 2 Hale, P. C. 82, 85.

at him and kills him. A is justified. If A had been a private person his act would have been manslaughter at least.

(7.)¹ B, pretending by way of a practical joke to be a robber, presents an empty pistol at A and demands his money. A, believing that B really is a robber, kills B. A is justified.

(8.) (SUBMITTED.) A breaks into B's house in Cornwall, at 3.45 A.M., local mean time, supposing that it is past six, but forgetting that A's watch is set to London time. A commits burglary.

¹ 1 Hals, P. C. 474.