

The Roman Catholic process of selection was powerfully encouraged by the Inquisition, which did its utmost to remove all the nobler and better characters.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that other forms of artificial selection in the civilized life of man exercise a very favourable influence. How much this is the case is at once evident in many relations of our advanced civilization, and especially of the improved arrangements of school life and education. And even capital punishment acts beneficially as an artificial process of selection. The abolition of capital punishment is, indeed, still regarded by many as a "liberal measure," and the most absurd reasons for it are given in the name of a false species of "humanity"! And yet capital punishment, for incorrigible and degraded criminals, is not only just, but also a benefit to the better portion of mankind. The same benefit is accomplished by destroying luxuriant weeds, for the prosperity of a well-cultivated garden.

In the same way as by a careful rooting out of weeds, light, air, and ground is gained for good and useful plants, in like manner, by the indiscriminate destruction of all incorrigible criminals, not only would the struggle for life among the better portion of mankind be made easier, but also an advantageous artificial process of selection would be set in practice, since the possibility of transmitting their injurious qualities by inheritance would be taken from those degenerate outcasts.

Against the injurious influence of the various kinds of artificial selection, we fortunately have a salutary counterpoise, in the invincible and much more powerful influence of *natural selection*, which prevails everywhere. For in