

notwithstanding the greatly sadder stumbling-block of the ticket-of-leave system, *might* be in reality converted; but neither on the apple scheme nor any other will there be any wholesale conversions of either the little Johnnies or the greater felons of the country. Regarded as a whole, the latter will enter the penitentiaries as felons, and as felons they will leave them; but if, by seeming to be religious, and by exercising a degree of self-constraint in a place in which there is exceedingly little to tempt, they will have the prospect held out to them of quitting their place of confinement at an early day, the men of strong wills and of self-control among them,—always the more dangerous class,—will not fail to conform to the conditions. And thus the picked felons will be ever and anon let loose long ere their time, to rob in order that they may live, and to murder in order that their robberies may be concealed. In the brief passage which we have quoted from Sir Walter's "Life of Fielding," we find him remarking, that one of the less known publications of the old magistrate and novelist contained hints, some of which had been adopted, and "some of which are worthy of more attention than they have received." And we would reckon among the latter the hints contained in the chapter entitled, "Of the Encouragement given to Robbers by frequent Pardons." Pardons at the time,—a consequence of the extreme severity of the English criminal code,—were very numerous and very capricious, though neither so numerous nor so capricious as the ticket-of-leave system has rendered them now. And what were the effects which they produced? Simply this, as determined by a singularly shrewd and sagacious man, who knew more of the matter than any one else, that from the hope of impunity which they created, they hanged ten times more felons than they saved from the gallows, and greatly increased the amount of crime.—*November 29, 1856.*