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A Merciful Judgment.

"But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;
It is an attribute to God himself;"

In the exalted environment of the law, our English sonnet held to the old Mosaic code of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." As a consequence, the city of London has in a year only seventeen murders, and as many executions. In New York, in the same space of time, the murders committed exceed that figure enormously, the executions are fewer. As a consequence, we cry for mercy for the exact enforcement of the law in all cases. It is a demand that is reasonable. Our lack of respect for the law is engendered by its non-enforcement. The law should be enforced, and then should be repealed.

And yet, in our opinion, there are cases in which justice should be tempered with mercy. There come times when the judge on the bench, the twelve men in the jury box may exactedly be governed in their verdict by the teachings of Christ, rather than by the Mosaic code.

In Cincinnati, but a short while ago, a native of this county, was brought to trial for the murder of her husband. Victim of the age-old deception of man, unlocked by the wiles of the world, frantic and wild, and friends, suffering confidant of the temporary mental derangement that led to the crime, a weighty jury of twelve men and women of character, her tortured mind could conceive of but one means of release from her difficulties.

An exact enforcement of the law legally required that this girl be found guilty, for her act with it he is of service to his State and to the people. But he did not and he has life to by setting a long prison sentence. Instead, Judge Thomas Hart of Darby stopped the trial and gave a verdict of not guilty on account of temporary insanity. In addressing the defendant young woman, Judge Darby said:

"I approve your action in entering a plea of guilty," the Judge told Mrs. Anderson. "You have done a long thing. It is important for the district attorney that faith will be justified in the administration.

"You have gone a long way to appreciate for the district attorney that only by not having appeared the course which you took. You could have prevented the trial, child.

"The man responsible for your condition should be with you now. In your moment of suffering he was conspicuous by his absence. Ah, the family gathered around the fireside when you have sinned. It has taken into the thoughts of the author went have been in the law by your own fireside has been shattered.

"Your husband has left all to you. He has left you to rear your children. Now I know would be to you for assistance, but he would not, ever spoken. He did not, as many in your position have done, formulate a charge against you. He did not, as many husbands have done, institute a divorce proceeding. He did not, as many husbands have done, institute a charge against you. He did not, as many husbands have done, institute a charge against you. He did not, as many husbands have done, institute a charge against you.

"Perhaps we Americans are overly sentimental. The Mercury is not guilty of guilt, by acquittal of Judge Darby's action be unlawful, I believe. The law should be enforced, but as between its supreme enforcement, in cases like this, on the one hand, and the tortured mind of the accused, on the other, in the balance of love and mercy towards the accused, on the other, in the balance of love and mercy towards the accused, on the other, rarely so many, almost always, in cases of this character, that I would be found in the modern jury box, even if we found the modern jury box, even if we found the modern jury box, even if we found