

taking away women unlawfully; persons receiving money to procure a return of stolen goods; bankrupts defrauding their creditors; persons pulling down and destroying turnpike gates,\* or flood gates on rivers; Egyptians (Gypsies) remaining one month in the realm; notorious thieves in the counties of Northumberland and Cumberland; persons going in masks or disguises into the mint; persons attempting to destroy Westminster, Fulham and other bridges; persons shop lifting to the value of 5s.—were most properly removed from the statute book.

But the work of reform did not stop here. Sir Robert Peel, on taking charge of the Home Department, in 1822, introduced still further mitigations into the laws for the punishment of crime. During his administration, the laws, in this respect, underwent many wholesome changes; and now, according to the latest authority that we have on the subject, the following crimes are punishable with death in England:—

Burglary, (that is, night house breaking and robbery.)

Stealing in a dwelling house to the value of £5.

Robbery in a dwelling house, with force and intimidation, however small the value of the article stolen.

Robbery from the person—that is, with force and intimidation.

Stealing from wrecks or ships in distress.

Stealing horses, cows or sheep.

Arson.

Riotously demolishing and pulling down churches, chapels, houses, &c.

Exhibiting false signals to bring ships into danger; destroying ships or their cargo in distress, or forcibly preventing persons from escaping from them.

Rape, murder, treason.

Stabbing or shooting, with intent to murder or to maim, provided the crime would be murder if death ensued.

Forgery of notes, negotiable instruments, government securities, orders for money, drafts or wills.

Coining.

Extorting money by threatening to accuse a party with an infamous crime.

Piracy, (that is, forcible robbery on the high seas.)

Still, with all this modification of the criminal law, we find, on referring to the reports made to Parliament, that the large majority of those who are convicted of some one or other of the above enume-

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\* *Note.* These acts were passed in consequence of the watermen, who were injured by the new bridges on the Thames, endeavoring to damage and deface them. The felony of destroying turnpike gates was created in consequence of the attacks made upon them on their first introduction.