

Twenty years' imprisonment does not seem an over-severe penalty to impose on a husband who pours paraffine over his wife, sets her on fire, and then stands calmly by while she burns to what is commonly known as "a crisp." The resident of Clonmel, Ireland, who did all this was moved to take such drastic measures by his belief in witches, and more especially by his belief that the woman whom he cremated was a member of that reprehensible class. The jurors who tried him evidently held that Mr. Cleary's opinion on the witch question should be taken into account, since they convicted him of nothing more serious than manslaughter. The case establishes, therefore, that in Great Britain it is not murder to torture to death any woman whose behavior is eccentric enough to suggest demoniac possession. Once it was regarded as a pious and commendable act to put such people out of the way. Now it is manslaughter. Evidently the world moves—and ahead.

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