

infants. Where charity is wanting, the law is always cruel. It were much better to prevent, than to think only of punishing these frequent misfortunes. The proper object of jurisprudence is, to hinder the commission of crimes, rather than condemn to death a weak woman, when it is evident, that her transgression was unattended with malice, and that she hath already been severely punished by the pangs of her own heart.

INSURE, as far as possible, a resource to those who shall be tempted to do evil, and you will have less to punish.

CHAP. II.

Of Punishments.

THIS misfortune, and this very hard law, with which I was so sensibly affected, prompted me to cast my eyes on the criminal code of nations. The humane author of the *Essay on Crimes and Punishments*, had but too much cause to complain, that the latter frequently exceed