INTRODUCTION

The subject of crime and punishment has seen a new light in the nineteenth century and the twentieth century. Expert thinking on the subject has affirmed and re-affirmed the conclusion that criminal punishment is practically failing in its principal purpose of deterrence. Punishment, experts say to the layman's utter surprise, does not lead to deterrence of crime but to its recurrence. The best form of punishment, therefore, should exclude its penal character and substitute for it proper and efficient correctional treatment.

This thought has influenced thinking in this country also, and in this Thesis an humble attempt is made to outline the problem of crime recurrence (Recidivism), its grave danger, and its solution through legislative reform of criminal law and procedure and through social rehabilitation on quite a large scale.

The following pages cover a wide field of crime and crime causation; punishments and their history, theory and purpose; the effect of punishment, as visualised from the available criminal records; and the possible remedies to avert recidivism.

But for the help from the Police and Prison Departments of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, this work would never have reached this stage of completion. The Bibliography is not exhaustive, but it is sufficient to indicate the great debt of gratitude to eminent works on the subject in India and abroad.