

EVENING NEWS. Friday, June 11, 1875.

DROOP NOT UPON YOUR WAY.

How ye who start a noble scheme,
 For general good designed:
 Ye workers in a cause that tends
 To benefit your kind!
 Mark out the path ye wish to tread,
 The game ye mean to play;
 And if it be not honest, then
 Keep steadfast on your way!
 Although ye may not gain at once
 The points ye most desire:
 Do patient—time can work work,
 And do not despair;
 Obstacles, too, may crowd your path,
 In threatening array;
 Yet finish not fear, for they may prove
 More shadows in your way.
 Then, while there's work for you to do,
 Stand not despairing by;
 Let "forward" be the word ye make,
 Let "backward" be the word ye cast;
 And when success has crowned your plans,
 'Twill all your pains repay.
 To see the good your labor's done—
 Then droop not on your way!

CRIMES OF CUPIDITY.

All sorts of crime are still common, including those the brutality of which is not surpassed by the deeds of a more barbarous age; but it seems to be true that crimes growing out of what Mr. Bonnevillie de Marsangy calls the unbridled passion for money and material pleasures are increasing with greater rapidity than others. Mr. Marsangy's communication to the Detroit meeting of the Social Science Association declares that they take the character of a wave which for twenty years past has been rising, and now threatens to engulf everything. He proclaims the urgency of "reconstituting the holy alliance between labor, fortune and virtue." The special purpose of Mr. Marsangy's paper is to advocate the application of a new principle in the methods employed for the repression of crime, namely, the principle of requiring malefactors to reimburse both the individual and the society whom they have wronged. His theory is that crime proceeds in an increasing proportion from cupidity, wherefore punishment should involve a privation which would operate directly upon that passion. The loss of liberty is less effective than the loss of property to discourage a predatory inclination.

The proposition is neither entirely new, nor in our opinion capable of exercising the almost unlimited power of repression which Mr. Marsangy's language supposes it to contain. It appeals, however, to a strict sense of justice. It is quite true that the incendiary who has destroyed property, and the thief who has stolen and squandered it, ought if possible to make good the loss and damage they have caused. The main difficulty lies in accomplishing this object. Blood cannot be extracted from the turpitude and thieves are generally destitute of the ability to respond to a pecuniary demand of this kind. Mr. Marsangy's eagerness to meet and demolish this obstacle, and his tripartite plan in contemplation of his success, are calculated to diminish confidence in the practical character of his mind. He admits the pecuniary difficulty, but avoids it by proposing that the convict shall pay his fine by labor. Very well. Perhaps convict labor is remunerative in France, and therefore in that country it might be possible for the debt to be discharged in this manner. In this country, however, the cases are comparatively few in which the convict earns the bare cost of his subsistence and custody. The Albany and Detroit penitentiaries, and here and there a State Prison, pay their own expenses and something over; but in the majority of prisons a sentence of confinement to the convict has been repaid by his labor a very few hundred dollars only, would amount to imprisonment for life. If it is answered that the prisoner might be set free to earn his fine, it would be necessary to reply that the same reasons which render it impracticable to cost the English ticket-of-leave system, or habitual criminals law here, would likewise apply in this case. The country is too large, and the police system too feeble, to retain a hold upon criminal debtors outside of prison walls. Within their labor is too generally unproductive; without, they would easily find their way to all attempts to enforce a fine or any other penalty.

We regret to conclude, without further discussion, that so admirable a principle, which we should be glad to see put in practice as far as possible, is responsible of immediate application, and that the ingenuity of philanthropists and statesmen must be further taxed to find any important additions to the existing system, and to the tide of crime.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Grasshoppers as Food.

It has been suggested, perhaps mainly in jest, that the people inhabiting the grasshopper-infested States might solve the problem by eating their unwelcome visitors. There is a certain prejudice against insects as articles of diet, and no doubt it would be very hard to remove this prejudice. But nothing can be more certain than that locusts are perfectly wholesome food, and that they do not contain as many noxious elements as most edible birds and fish. People who eat prawns and shrimps, together with shell fish such as crabs and lobsters, and even crabs and lobsters, in fact all kinds of fish, will feed upon locusts, while the locust contains the same elements of a strictly vegetable diet. Moreover locusts have been eaten in eastern countries from time immemorial, and are eaten in the eastern markets of India. Many travelers, too, have tasted them, and as far as our observation goes all agree in declaring that the flesh is well flavored, and resembles chicken. Prawns are esteemed a delicacy, yet the flesh of the prawn cannot be as fine as that of the locust. Why does not some enterprising Yankee put up works in the grasshopper districts, catch a few millions of the creatures, prepare and put them up in cans? The venture might prove successful and if once a nation of eating locusts set in, the Kansas and Nebraska farmers would find grasshoppers crops more profitable than corn.—Sacramento Record-Union.

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