

communicated with their own relatives when they found themselves on the downward road.

With this terrible state of things in Chicago what about other cities? Here is an article from yesterday's *Chicago Evening News*. It will give a good idea of the condition of the United States at present:

THE INCREASE OF CRIME.

The *Detroit Evening News* recently published the results of an inquiry relating to crime in the principal cities of the United States. This inquiry, addressed to the chiefs of police, covered twelve points, as follows:

1. Is crime on the increase or decrease in your city?
2. What special form of crime is most prevalent?
3. So far as your observation leads, is prostitution on the increase or decrease?
4. From what class, as a general rule, do the worst criminals develop?
5. Is drunkenness among women on the increase or decrease?
6. About what percentage of released criminals actually reform?
7. Is the opium or chloral habit a permanent feature of the vice of your city?
8. What nationality furnishes the most criminals?
9. Which sex is the easier to reform and gives evidence of genuine repentance?
10. What class, the upper or the lower, gives evidence of most cunning in crime?
11. What has been your experience in dealing with criminals? Do they appreciate kind treatment or do they behave better under harsh discipline?
12. About what percentage of those who rob and steal and murder are detected?

The answers are a startling commentary on the morals of the day. They represent the center of population throughout the union and most graphically illustrate the tendency of the times. Summarized, they show that crime is either increasing, or at least holding its own, in a great majority of American cities; that prostitution is steadily on the increase in four-fifths of the big cities; that drunkenness among women is alarmingly on the increase; that women are harder to reform than men; that the more intelligent classes produce the more cunning criminals; and that, on the whole, the evidence of veteran police chiefs of cities throughout the country shows that crime of the worst sort is decidedly on the increase.

But this is not all. An expression in the reply of the chief of police of Mobile indicates that vice is permeating other than the distinctively criminal classes. He declares that "private prostitution has killed public prostitution," and this, revolting and improbable as it seems, is tacitly supported by others, who represent the social evil to be growing less open in its manifestations. It is not pretended in any of the answers that the evil is less general, but that it is less public, and several refer to specific causes of the alarming increase of the evil noted, chief among which are the back-room drinking resorts, where young girls are permitted to be entertained by male acquaintances, and the moonlight picnics, so popular during recent years.

Here is another extract on crime, versus religion. It is taken from the Philadelphia correspondence of the *Chicago American Israelite* of a recent date:

"There has of late been a great deal of controversy among the secular press regarding the religious condition of the country. The *New York World* recently expressed its concern about the matter by inviting the expression, through its columns, of the opinions of many eminent clergymen and laymen on this important topic. The *Ledger* of our city has taken up the subject in a manner that would be highly gratifying to contemplate, were the assertions made and the conclusions arrived at substantiated by the facts and figures of the case. The latter paper claims that religious feeling is not growing cold, but that it grows warmer with each new year, and says further, 'A church, besides being a temple for the worship of God, is one of the forces of the police power of any country, and the more churches there are in any city or village, the fewer policemen will be required. Churches are conservators of the peace, of law and order. Such being the case, it is more than gratifying to know that they are not decreasing, but increasing in number.'

"The *Ledger* also cites the sum of money which has been contributed from 1819 to 1880 for home missions, being \$232,826 from 1819 to 1829, and increasing to the enormous sum of \$31,272,154 between the years 1870 to 1880. Unfortunately, the *Ledger* mixes *Churchism*, which is but the means of creating religion, with true religion itself, and its influences on morality. But admitting for a moment that the *Ledger* is right, and that the gradual increase in the number of churches throughout a land meant a corresponding decrease in crime and morality, would not crime have lessened year after year in this country, where thousands of churches are annually built? Let us see if this is the case. According to the return of previous censuses, 'crime has made astonishing progress in this country.' In 1850 the number of prisoners returned was 33,474; in 1880 the number was 69,237—an increase of 80 per cent, and out of all proportion to the increase of population. Of this number, 46,338 were natives and 12,917 were foreigners; showing that, notwithstanding the statement of the *Ledger*, which shows that \$31,272,154 was spent from 1870 to 1880 for home missions, yet 81 per cent of the criminals of this country were natives. We have, as yet, no census up to the present time, nor is it necessary to show by statistics that crime has not decreased in later years, notwithstanding the growth of churches, and the phenomenal increase of the money contributed to the cause of domestic mission." Statements like these of the *Ledger* are very misleading, when made without reference to cold, hard facts, which, in this case, prove that journal to be entirely wrong. Don't brag about the increase of religious feeling through the agency of the churches or the millions spent annually for home missions, as long as crime and lawlessness, fraud, debauchery and murder are rampant in the land."

My letter has already grown too long, or else I would touch on La Tosca and Vereschagin. However, these topics will hold fresh a while. The articles on crime are clipped from well known journals, so that the Ananias of Utah can't say they are "Mormon" fabrications. This subject of crime is one that cannot be exhausted in one or two or three letters, and we will return to it at another time. JUNIUS.

CHICAGO, February 27, 1889.

Next to the Fourth of July, the Fourth of March is, perhaps, the most impressive date in the annals of American history. Independent of its being the great inaugural day for new Presidents, it has other events associated with it calculated to arrest the attention of the reader and student. It was on March 4th, 1681, that Charles II. gave to William Penn the grant of what is now the State of Pennsylvania in lieu of an inherited claim for £16,000 against the British crown. Two years later Philadelphia was founded, and in March, 1684, the Commonwealth Assembly convened in the new Capital city. Though the royal warrant entitled William Penn to regard the aboriginal Americans in the same category as wolves, bears and other vermin, he did not do so; and the greatest monument to his memory today exists in the lines of the poet:

"Pennsylvania, while thy flood
Waters fields unbought with blood,
Stand for peace as thou hast stood."

March 4th, 1801, is another day worthy of contemplation. John Adams, the retiring President, sneaked out of Washington before daybreak lest he should witness the inauguration of his hated successor, Thomas Jefferson. Both these men were patriotic Americans, but each believed the other a traitor and a disloyalist. When we see both dropping off, and disappearing beyond the awful veil on the same day, almost at the same hour, on July 4th, 1826, we cannot help asking ourselves, did the great men carry their petty dislikes beyond the bourne? Well might the latter-day poet, like his predecessor of ancient Rome, ask: "Can such direful hates exist in heavenly minds?"

March 4, 1817, is another day that comes prominently before us at the present time. This is the date of the famous Monroe inaugural which subsequently developed into the well known Monroe political doctrine—a doctrine at the time so popular that Monroe was adulated by all parties and sections to the point of absolute extravagance. Monroe also in a mild way advocated protective measures for American industries.

In the selection of James G. Blaine for Secretary of State under the present Administration there is almost poetic appropriateness. Whatever his faults, or his failings, or his weaknesses may be, or however much disliked by political opponents, he certainly is the most thorough incarnation of the Monroe doctrine today in America; and at present, when a conflict with foreign powers is imminent, he is the man best fitted in his party for the place assigned to him. He is even better fitted now than he was eight years ago.

March 4th, 1778, is another day that at the present time strikes the general observer as a very impressive one. On this day was born Robert Emmett, the bravest, purest, noblest personage in the gory calendar of Ireland's sad history. Contrast him with Richard Pigott, and oh! what