



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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PRISON DISCIPLINE.

A CONVENTION, or Congress, as it was styled, of gentlemen interested in the management and discipline of prisons, was recently held in Cincinnati, at which delegates were present from all parts of the Union. Speeches were made on the subject under consideration, and papers read, some of which were communicated by gentlemen prominently connected with the prison systems of England and Denmark.

Dr. Wines, of the New York Prison Association gave a general view of the prison system of the United States. He stated that there were forty State prisons, twenty-five houses of correction, and about two thousand county jails in the country, besides a large number of station houses and lock-ups; that the average number of persons confined in the State prisons was fifteen thousand; in the houses of correction, from five to six thousand; from forty to fifty thousand in the common jails, and perhaps as many more in other places of detention. He adduced evidence, showing that crime had increased during the last ten years; but not disproportionately with the increase of the population.

It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find a subject more worthy the attention and consideration of philanthropic and enlightened minds than prison discipline and the reformation of the criminal population of the country. Much has been accomplished for this class since the days in which the benevolent Howard commenced his labors in their behalf in Europe; but much yet remains to be done before prisons can be regarded as places in which true and permanent reformation of the vicious may be effected. In Howard's days prisons were regarded merely as places of confinement, the occupants of which must be subjected to torment and punishment only, for the evil they had committed. Reformation was not considered. The cat, the pillory, stocks, solitary confinement, physical punishment of various kinds, some of the most brutalizing and degrading, were the means of punishment resorted to; and we still hear, occasionally, even in this country, of a recourse being had to some of these relics of a barbarous age, in the treatment of criminals. Happily, such instances are rare, for with the development and expansion of thought, reform and a more enlightened and humane policy has gradually crept into this department of human affairs as well as into many others, until prisons are looked upon as institutions more for the reformation than the punishment of the vicious.

Some hundred and twenty thousand human beings constantly confined as criminals in this country alone, is a somewhat significant commentary on present-day civilization; and while Christians and philanthropists may mourn such a fact, their efforts to bring about a change will never be effectual so long as they are directed to the reformation of the criminal only. A system, the tendency of which is to make the few enormously wealthy, while the masses are kept in poverty, the aggregate of which is continually increasing, is to blame for the pauperism and for most of the crime that exists. That system prevails throughout Christendom.

It is all very good to teach criminals trades, and to educate them; but the course pursued in this respect is not productive of the greatest amount of good of which it is capable; for the branches of trade taught in such places are generally those most poorly paid for, and if proficiency is acquired by parties while in confinement there they find such a poor chance for a comfortable livelihood by following, when released, the trades thus learned, that in the majority of instances they prefer crime, idleness and plenty to industry and poverty.

But educating criminals and teaching them trades is like removing the external symptoms of disease while its cause, hidden from observation, still remains master of the citadel. Criminality, of whatever name, may safely be regarded as a symptom of a diseased state or system of society. Regenerate society and place it on a sound and correct basis, and the excrecences and impurities which now disfigure its surface will disappear, for their cause will be removed. This is the great problem of to-day as well as of nearly all time in the past. The best minds of the earth have devoted their energies to it in vain:—because their labors and efforts have not been concentrated. The solution of this problem has been reserved for the citizens of the Kingdom of God; and Co-operation,—the united, concentrated faith and effort of a whole people, will be the means of bringing about a revolution and remedy in this as in every other department of human affairs in which evil is to be found.

THE "SHYSTERS" IN WASHINGTON.

THERE is an old saying that "misery likes company." If this be true in every case the people of Utah might be able to take comfort from the following, which we take from a late number of the *Washington Star*:

"For various reasons, but mainly because it is the capital of the nation, this city has an undue proportion of the genius shyster. We have not only our native crop, but all the characterless 'shysters,' 'borders,' 'strikers' and 'dead-beats' of the country seem to gravitate towards Washington as a hospital, where they can find support when all other resources have failed. Most of them come here at first to strike for some specific piece of plunder—a snug sinecure office, or a fat contract—and failing in their original mission, they remain here to swell the grand army of vagabond dead-beats, ready to fasten themselves like leeches upon anything national or municipal that promises to give them a drop of blood. Like sinners, who, coming to the sanctuary to scoff remain to pray, they come to strike and remain to prey."

This is not a very delightful picture of the magnitude of a class which forms a prominent part of society at the capital of the nation, yet we do not suppose that it is overdrawn. Efforts are continually made at the seat of government to get rid of the most obnoxious of the disreputable characters alluded to. It would be well, however, that some other means of riddance be employed than that which is generally resorted to. If the suggestion would not be considered out of place, we would recommend that a penitentiary or house of correction for "bummers" be erected on a large scale, where all such useless encumbrances may be placed and put to some useful employments to keep them out of mischief, and where they can form a little society all to themselves that, if they wish to do it, they may prey upon each other instead of upon honest men.

The people of Utah have no objections whatever to any legitimate efforts to rid Washington of the "shyster" gang that infests it; on the contrary such endeavors are quite laudable; but it is certainly objectionable to any community to have such characters palmed off on them by the government. This is an affliction that Utah has had more than her share of in the past. There is not much of that kind of scrubby stock raised here, and we really think that it is too bad to unsolicitedly import so undesirable a breed.

Whether Washington continues in the above course, of which we have had so many illustrations in the past, will be best proved by the actions of the present and future officials sent from there here. There have been many instances of honorable gentlemen filling official appointments in Utah under government; still, as such have been in the minority the people here can scarcely be blamed for entertaining the idea that, when every other means of ridding the Capital of the class treated upon by the *Star* have failed, this scum of humanity has been, in many instances, forwarded to Utah.

The "Shyster" class are doubtless appreciated at Washington for one thing, being, political scavengers, they are handy to do up dirty political jobs that no high minded man would perform. There is one thing certain, no just, upright man will overrule law and justice by trampling on the rights of the people either in Utah or anywhere else; whether they be Jew, Gentile or "Mormon."

Sometimes it is the case that high officials in Washington instead of kicking their poor relations out of doors,

which is considered fashionable sometimes, occasionally use their influence to have them sent to Utah to fill some post under the revenue or some other department. Such policy may be very convenient for the patrons of poor relations, and their would be no particular objection raised to it in Utah did the parties thus patronized attend to their legitimate business instead of dabbling in affairs that do not concern them. But this is not always the case.

THE MAIL ROBBERS CAPTURED.

As will be seen by a notice in the local column, three men, who it is believed, robbed the coach near Nephi, Juab Co., the other night, have been captured. The telegram yesterday, stated that Judge Bigler had sent out the Sheriff with a posse of men to reconnoitre; that reconnoissance was successful, and the scoundrels are now in such a position that, if justice is done them, they will not be able to rob a mail coach again for some time to come.

This promptness on the part of the officers of justice is highly commendable, and to the vigilance and efficiency of the police system of the Territory, may be attributed its very great immunity from crimes of this nature; for it is safe to say that such transactions are ten times more numerous in some of the neighboring Territories than in this.

We said above that "if justice is done to the scoundrels, they will not be able to rob a mail coach again for some time to come." This, however, is a dubious point, in these days, for the administration of justice to thieves and criminals promises, under the present regime, to be as difficult here, and as lax as in some places in the East. New and learned doctors in and administrators of the law have come among us; strange men from Gotham, or other parts where morality and justice are at as low an ebb, and judging by their acts they view real crime and criminals in these parts with as much leniency as they are viewed there.

One very unfortunate feature connected with this capture is that the Judge who ordered out the Sheriff and posse by whom the arrest was made was a Probate judge; and even if the prisoners are handed over to the U. S. Marshal, as the telegram to-day says they are to be, the proceedings for their arrest having been made by the direction and authority of a Probate Judge, the pillars and administrators of Constitutional law now in authority here, may, and in all probability will, discharge the thieves, give them a chance to resume their vocation; and perhaps have the gentleman, through whose promptness the capture and arrest were made, punished as a criminal; for it has been officially declared that Probate Courts have no criminal jurisdiction, and that the officers assuming such right and acting in their capacity are liable to the punishment of the law. Their interference, even for the arrest and punishment of desperadoes and murderers, has been declared sufficient to warrant their release. And if the functionary, who recently expressed himself so emphatically in relation to a case of this kind away down south near Dixie, and liberated a would-be murderer for this cause only, had the disposal of the present one, we have little doubt that the course of Judge Bigler would be so construed.

One thing in connection with this case may have some influence in preventing such a result,—the parties upon whom the attack and robbery were committed were not Mormons, as in the case alluded to down south, and "A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

This may ensure the administration of justice in the present instance.

The progress of the case will be watched with far more interest than the mere nature of the offence would warrant, and we shall reserve further comments until the issue is decided.

THE *Omaha Herald*, of the 22nd inst., contains an account of the way in which a gentleman of that city has just been swindled by some New York sharpers. A recital of the facts may deter some in these parts from investigating their means in similar speculations. The gentleman who has been so completely "sold" and "done for" is named William Allstadt; he was formerly local editor of a newspaper in New Orleans, but is now clerk in the Farmer's House, Omaha. Such a "verdant

green" as Bro. Allstadt evidently is, would hardly be likely to be successful as "local," and his change of vocation is easily accounted for. Mr. Allstadt saw an advertisement in an eastern illustrated newspaper that a gold watch would be forwarded C. O. D., to any address on receipt of three dollars. Such a chance for profitable investment rarely occurs, so our friend of the Farmer's House determined to lay in a life-long supply of gold watches, and forwarded an order for three. Last Friday morning he received a letter, of which the following is a copy:

OFFICE AND SHOW ROOMS OF THE
ALUMINIUM GOLD WATCH CO.,
561 BROADWAY, N. Y., Oct. 15, '70.

William Allstadt, Esq., Omaha:

DEAR SIR:—We this day forward to you by express three of our Eureka Aluminium gold watches.

Respectfully,
J. F. WILLIAMS & CO.

A good bargain possesses wonderful charms: few minds can resist their influence. Three genuine gold watches for nine dollars! Who would not feel elated at the prospect of such an exchange! Mr. Allstadt hastened to the Express Office, paid the charges,—ten dollars, obtained possession of the precious package, and, opened it, when, to his astonishment and chagrin he found, not three gold watches, but one brass toy watch, worth about ten cents.

The unlucky wight gave information to a magistrate of the swindle that had been perpetrated upon him, and demanded aid, if any could be given, to obtain redress. Documents were made out and placed in the hands of the proper officers, who succeeded in regaining the money thus foolishly expended, but it only paid the costs of the proceedings, so that the ex-local was really "sold" to the amount of ten dollars.

The moral of this "o'er true story" is, never invest money in the hope of obtaining ten or twenty times the worth from advertising swindlers, for in every case the experience of those who do will be similar to that of Mr. Allstadt, the ex-"local."

AMONG the casualties of the war, which have recently occurred in the vicinity of the French capital is the destruction of the Chateau of St. Cloud, a repository of art treasures and historic relics, unsurpassed, for value and beauty, by any royal collection in the world.

The town of St. Cloud is about five miles west of Paris, in the department of Seine-et-Oise, on the west bank of the Seine. It contains a population of about five thousand. The Chateau, which rendered the town famous, has been the scene of several important events in French history. Henry the Fourth was assassinated there in the sixteenth century; in the 18th Napoleon the First broke up the Assembly of Five Hundred convened within the Chateau, and within its walls he was made First Consul. There too, in 1830, Charles the Tenth resigned his crown and put an end to the Bourbon dynasty. The palace was formally the property of the Bourbons, but has long been the favorite suburban residence of French royalty. It stood in the midst of a park, containing choice shrubbery, beautiful fountains and all the adjuncts of royal luxury and extravagance. It was one of the most famous monuments of art, elegance, luxury and refinement, in France or the world; but, war, which respects nothing, has destroyed it and most of its contents, and marred the beauty of its former surroundings.

THE Prussians have had one of the most remarkable and victorious campaigns in France, since the outbreak of the present war, furnished in the whole range of history. Providence and the fates must have been with them, or they are superior, both physically and in military science and discipline to the French, for the latter have been put to the right-about and have endured discomfort and defeat such as French soldiers never experienced before. But what they have failed to do by either brute force or strategy, is about to be accomplished by means of a newly invented infernal machine. A Paris correspondent writes:

"A gentleman who has lately been under a cloud, as he was the inventor of the Orsini bombs, has several thousand men at work on infernal machines. This magician assures me that within a week he will destroy the Germans as completely as those of the Assyrian who besieged Sennacherib. He is an enthusiast, but an excellent chemist, and I have hopes that he will, before long, astonish our friends outside."