

## EDITORIALS.

## CAUSE AND CURE OF CRIME.

PRISON reform and the cause and cure of crime were the subject of an address delivered by Governor Seymour, at the Prison Reform Congress, held in Baltimore last summer. The address has attracted a good deal of attention throughout the country, and has been largely quoted from by the press. The ideas it contained are well worthy the attention of all interested (and who are not?) in the suppression of crime, and in the reformation of the criminal classes. There are few among criminals who love wrongdoing for its own sake, and who, in their experience, have not proved that "the way of the transgressor is hard." A large class of reformers in these days regard crime as the result of mental disease, and as the natural outgrowth of unhealthy social systems. If this theory be true, and there is good reason to believe it, then prisons are, or ought to be, moral hospitals, and not places whose inmates are to be subjected to so much physical torture or punishment and then turned loose upon society, with none of their evil tendencies repressed or corrected, and their natures more brutalized than ever. This has seemed to be the aim and end of prison discipline in the past; but during the last few years enlightened and philanthropic men in various countries have given considerable attention to prison reform, and measures are being initiated which promise, ere long, to make of these institutions places in which the moral diseases of the erring will be checked or cured, and they be transformed into creditable members of society.

The war cry against crime, of a certain well-meaning class of philanthropists, has been, and still is, "education." They say educate the masses, make them intelligent, and fill them with knowledge and you throw around them a shield which renders them invincible to temptation to crime. But we need only look at society in this country to prove the fallacy of this doctrine. In no country in the world, with the exception of some of the states of Germany, is education so easily attainable as in this, and it is perhaps also true that in no country is there a larger percentage of criminals. If all who are guilty of wrong doing belonged to the laboring or uneducated classes, the large and continuous influx of this element from foreign lands might reasonably be regarded as the principal cause of the abundance of crime in the United States. But every day's developments show that legions of crimes are committed by men moving in high circles and filling positions of trust and influence. This is an ample refutation of the theory that education alone will prevent crime. The proper development and cultivation of the mental powers are much to be desired by all, but this of itself is no antidote for or preventive of crime. In his address Governor Seymour referred to this popular idea, also to the causes of crime, its punishment, &c. On the first of these points he says:

There is a pervading idea in our country that the spread of knowledge will check crime. No one values learning more than I do, but it is no specific for morality and vice. Without moral and religious training it frequently becomes an aid to crime. Science, mechanical skill, a knowledge of business affairs, even the refinements and accomplishments of life, are used by offenders against law. Knowledge fights on both sides in the battle between right and wrong, in this age. It lays siege to banks, it forces open vaults stronger than old castles, it forges and counterfeits. The most dangerous criminal is the educated, intellectual violator of the law, for he has all the resources of art at his command, the forces of mechanics, the subtleties of chemistry, the knowledge of man's ways and passions. Learning, by itself, only changes the aspect of immorality. Virtue is frequently found with the simple and uneducated, and vice with the educated. Surrounded by glittering objects within their reach, our servant girls resist more temptations than any class in society.

We must look beyond the accidents of knowledge or ignorance, if we wish to learn the springs of action. To check vice there must be high moral standards in the public mind. The American mind must move upon a higher plane. To reform convicts, their hopes must be aroused and their better instincts worked upon. I never yet found a man so untamable that there was not something of good upon which to build a hope. I never yet found a man so good that he need not fear a fall. Through the warp and woof of the worst man's character there run some threads of gold, and in the best there are base materials. It is this web of entwined good and evil in man's character which marks the problem and perplexities of the legislator and judge.

The following views as to the causes of crimes are recommended to the earnest attention of all philanthropists and moral and social reformers:

Crimes always take the hues and aspects of the country in which they are committed. They show not only guilty men, but a guilty people. The world deems those nations to be debased where crimes abound. It does not merely say that the laws are unwise, or that the judiciary is corrupt, but it charges the guilt home to the whole society. This is just; for most of the crimes that disgrace us could not be done if there was not an indifference to their causes on the part of the community. As certain plagues which sweep men into their graves cannot rage without foul air, so many crimes cannot prevail without wide-spread moral malaria. It is greed for gold, the love of luxury in the American people, which have caused the legislative frauds, the municipal corruptions, the violations of trusts, which excite alarm in our land. It is the admiration of wealth, no matter how gained, which incites and emboldens the desperate speculator in commercial centers to sport with the sacred interests of labor, to unsettle the business of honest industry, by playing tricks with the standards of values.

Such influences have led to frauds, defalcations, breaches of trust. They have filled our prisons and overwhelmed many households with woe and sorrow. Having seen that the criminal element of the country is recruited from the educated as well as ignorant classes of the population, that the cause of crime is to be found in an unnatural social system, and that so long as this cause exists crime will increase rather than diminish, it will not be amiss to refer to the lax administration of justice, which, of itself, is an encouragement to criminals; and here, again, we quote the sentiments expressed in Governor Seymour's address. He says:

Let the laws be swift, stern and certain in their action. What they say, let them do; for certainty, more than severity, carries a dread of punishment. Let the way of bringing offenders to justice be direct, clear and untrammelled. The technicalities of pleading, proof and proceedings, in many of our States, are painfully absurd. To the minds of most men, a criminal trial is a mysterious jumble. The public have no confidence that the worst criminal will be punished; the worst criminal cherishes, at all times, a hope of escape. In every part of our country there is a vague idea that certain men, of legal skill, can extricate offenders without regard to the merits of their cases. This is a fruitful cause of crimes. Not less hurtful to justice are those fluctuations of the public mind, which shake off, spasmodically, its customary indifference, and fiercely demands a conviction of those who happen, at such times, to be charged with crime, and thus make popular clamor take the place of judicial calmness and impartiality. No one feels that there is, in this country, a clear, strong, even flow of administration of criminal laws. The mood of the popular mind has too much to do with judicial proceedings.

The expression of such views as the preceding by a gentleman of such experience and ability as their author, who is so prominently identified with the much needed movement for prison reform, is a promising indication that it is taking tangible shape, and that beneficial results may soon be expected. There is no movement now on foot in the Christian world in which society is more vitally interested than this, for it includes the reform of the entire criminal element. No thinking mind can contemplate, without alarm for the future, the present condition of society in this country. Everywhere, almost, in high as well as low life, crime of all shades and degrees is rampant. The ties of honor are disregarded, principle is violated, immorality and dishonesty are the rule, and the very foundations upon which society is based and upon which only it can be sustained and perpetuated seem to be tottering, and social anarchy is threatened, the like of which was never surpassed; and it is an undoubted fact that, with boundless resources every kind, the prosperity of the masses ahead of that of any other land, institutions of learning, numerous and efficient, and a liberal education within reach of a greater percentage of the population than in any other, churches and clergy numerous there is no country in Christendom in which reform is more urgently needed in the morals of the people than in this.

If by the efforts of philanthropic and intelligent men a system can be introduced which will reform those who have erred, it is to be hoped that it will be followed by something, better still, which shall prevent the growth of evil tendencies in the hearts of the young. This is the only hope for a better state of society and for permanent and lasting reform; and anything short of it, however well meaning and earnest its projectors, will amount to little more than the efforts of the quack who, by means of his nostrum, dries up a sore on the surface of the body, but leaves its source unchecked and unassailed.

**SENSATIONAL.**—The telegraphic dispatches, to-day, will be found more than ordinarily sensational. First we have an account of one of the most cold-blooded and seemingly premeditated instances of parricide ever committed, the victim being a writer of works of fiction, and a son of the late Chancellor Walworth; the parricide a boy only nineteen years of age, now in the Tombs, who, it is said, treats the matter very lightly, and expresses no regret, except on account of the trouble it will cause his mother.

Parricide is one of the most fearful crimes in the whole calendar, and scarcely a shadow of justification could be found for it under any circumstances. In this instance, if the telegrams are reliable, it was the result of domestic trouble between the victim and his wife, now and for two or three years past divorced. The youth of the parricide, and the coolness with which he seems to have committed the deed, render this one of the most shocking instances of this awfully unnatural crime on record.

News also comes of what are said to be cases of genuine Asiatic cholera in Western Prussia, imported from Russia, and the adoption of strict quarantine measures in the hope of checking the further development of the disease. Every spring, for the past two or three years, rumors of cholera have come from across the water, each time giving warning and unmistakable indication that the plague is on its dread march westward from the far east, and if the most rigid sanitary regulations and precautions are not adopted and enforced, there is no telling when it will again burst forth in fury and lay its thousands of victims low.

This morning word is brought by lightning, from Memphis, Tenn., that for the past ten days a disease has been making ravages there and in the towns on the river in that region of country, which was at first supposed to be fever of a malignant type, but which is now decided by physicians to be cholera, and Asiatic at that. The account says that in the absence of a regularly organized board of health it is impossible to tell the number of victims, but that no alarm is felt in the neighborhood. This latter fact, if fact it is, may be through ignorance of the nature of the disease; and it is just probable that the dispatch is more sensational than true and sounds a false alarm. Let us hope it is so. True or not, it will be well, even here in Salt Lake City, to heed the warning it conveys. The hot season seems now to have fairly set in; and if the thermometer rises as gradually and constantly for the next few days as it has the last two or three, we shall have the weather uncomfortably hot. The sanitary condition of our city is not quite as satisfactory now as it used to be. There are one or two by-ways and slums in close proximity to the principal business street of the city where the elements of fatal infectious disease are abundant, and only need a hot sun to set them in operation. It will be well for those living near to or in such localities to be warned in time, and bestir themselves to make their quarters more salubrious. The old adage, "A stitch in time saves nine," contains a principle well worth heeding, especially when life and health are at stake.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

### AMERICAN.

**RICHMOND, 2.**—Specials from Suffolk, Nansemond County, Va., state that Mrs. Dempsey Jones and her sister, Mrs. Dazier, living nine miles from that place, were murdered yesterday and the house plundered while Mr. Jones and his children were at Sunday School. No clue to the murderers. The citizens are hunting them.

**NEW YORK.**—The following card is published to-day—

"To the Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle:

"Dear sir—I have maintained silence respecting the slanders which have for some time past followed me. I should not speak now but for the sake of relieving another from the unjust imputations in the document which was recently published, bearing my name, with others. It was published without consultation either with me or Mr. Tilton, or with any authority from us. If that document should lead the public to regard Mr. Tilton

as the author of the calumnies to which it alludes, it will do him great injustice. I am unwilling that he should even seem to be responsible for injurious statements whose force was derived wholly from others.

"HENRY WARD BEECHER."

**WASHINGTON.**—The public debt statement shows the total debt to be \$2,225,073,084; the total interest, \$35,669,904; cash in the Treasury, coin, \$75,588,318; currency, \$6,065,799; special deposits held for the redemption of certificates, as provided by law, \$29,125,000; total in Treasury, \$110,779,115. The debt, less the cash in the Treasury, is \$2,149,963,873; decrease during the month, \$3,525,282.

The statement that the board of examiners for the Treasury Department had resigned, on account of the failure of the system of open competition, is pronounced by them as unfounded. On the contrary, they say the system has proved successful, and especially in regard to original appointments, and the board so stated in their recent report to the advisory board. The character and ability of the persons appointed to the \$1,200 clerkships, from the examination, is admitted by the heads of bureaus and all others having a knowledge of the facts, to be very superior, and the success of the recent examinations for the \$900 clerkships was more marked.

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark., 2.**—In the Supreme Court, to-day, the Attorney General filed an application for a writ of *quo warranto* against Governor Baxter, to show by what authority he holds the office of Governor. The application is in the usual form, and sets out by stating that the governor has unlawfully usurped the place. Although Governor Baxter refuses to recognize the right of the court to hear such an application, and has announced that he will obey no mandate issued by it on such an application, and has refused to employ counsel to fight the matter, Judge English and Compton, both eminent attorneys, appeared in court and opposed the filing of the application. The argument on this point has been going on all the evening and will be continued to-morrow. The filing of this application has reduced the excitement of a few days ago, when it was first rumored that such an action was to be had. Should the writ be granted a conflict will ensue, as the governor holds that the legislature adjudges the matter, and it only has the power to do so. The militia is being reorganized by him.

**CHICAGO.**—A fire this p.m. destroyed two thirds of the Otis block, from Nos. 280 to 288, Wabash Avenue, together with the stocks of J. Liebelsten & Co., furniture dealers, and Potter, King, & Co., furniture, and damaged the stack of several others in the block; total loss about \$120,000, insurance \$75,000 in eastern companies.

**PORTLAND, Me.**—A fire in the woods in the northern part of Cumberland County, on Saturday and Sunday, destroyed about one thousand acres of fine timber.

**HARTFORD, Ct.**—The Credit Mobilier bill in equity has been amended by including the names of Andrew Carnegie, J. Pierpont Morgan, and John Ponder of New York, and Thos. Scott of Penn., as additional defendants, with Cornelius S. Bushnell, of New Haven, as having shared in the profits realized by the sale of the bridge bonds.

**APPLGATE'S HOUSE,** Clear Lake, June 1, 3:30 p.m.—A series of long yells and cheers aroused this camp from a pleasant siesta half an hour after the departure of my last courier. Gen. Davis, Gen. Wheaton, and other officers and all the men rushed from the house and tents to find the cause of the uproar, and at once the whole camp was in commotion. Down the level plain, north of the house, was a grand cavalcade of mounted horsemen, their steeds rushing forward at a furious rate, who soon neared the group of spectators, who scattered about the premises. "Captain Jack is captured," shouted a sturdy sergeant, and again the valley echoed with cheers and yells. The mounted command was that of Perry. He had returned from a scout of twenty-three hours. Three miles above the mouth of Melin Creek, at half past ten o'clock, this a.m., the Warm Spring scouts struck a hot trail, and after a brief search the Modocs were discovered. Col. Perry surrounded the Indians' retreat. His men were bound to fight. Suddenly a Mo-

doc shot out from the rocks with a white flag; he met a Warm Spring and said that Jack wanted to surrender. Three scouts were sent to meet Jack. He came out, cautiously glanced about him a moment and then, as if giving up all hope, boldly came forward unarmed and held out his hand to his visitors. Then two of his warriors, five squaws and seven children darted forth and joined him in the surrender. The command that made this famous scout was the first squadron of the first cavalry, Col. D. Perry, composed of troop F. Lt. Miller, and troop H. Maj. Trumbull, and the medical officer Surgeon DeWitt. The guards were C. Pullman and H. L. Applegate. Jack is about forty. He is five feet eight inches high, and compactly built. He has a large and well formed head, and a face full of individuality. Although dressed in old clothes he looks every inch a chief. He does not speak to any one. The Modocs are grouped in the field near the house and surrounded by a guard. Spectators peep into Jack's face with eager interest, but he heeds them not, he is as still as a statue.

**SAN FRANCISCO, 2.**—Langley's Valley, Lost River, Oregon, Green's Camp, May 31, evening.—After a thorough examination of the Modoc captives gathered in during the present scout, under Colonel Green, it has been ascertained that the last lot netted thirty-four men, women and children, thirteen of them being able-bodied warriors, sixteen rifles of various patterns, one hundred and thirteen cartridges and several lean and hungry ponies. Boston Charley and Schonchin are anxious about the disposition to be made of them. The former murdered Dr. Thomas, and the latter mutilated Meacham. Boston Charley and Schonchin look like desperadoes. Each carries his character in his face. Boston Charley is about twenty-eight and Schonchin is fifty. The boldest warrior of the band is Sca faced Charley. Doctor Cabaniss, of Yreka, the contract surveyor, who is putting the Modocs into camp this a.m., after sleeping at night in their retreat, says of Captain Jack that he presented a most woe-begone appearance. The wily warrior sat upon a rock in the centre of a little lava bed, a few yards back from the crest of a bluff, and he seemed as lonely as his surroundings. He was wrapped in a faded army blanket, and his head was buried in his hands. His sister Mary, captured at Willow Creek the day before yesterday, talked to him with tears in her eyes, and asked him to enter our camp. He was sullen and had little to say. The Modocs say that Jack is insane, but there is much method in his madness.

The war with the Modoc, as a tribe, is over.

**RICHMOND, Va., 3.**—A negro was murdered in Brunswick Co. on Saturday, making the tenth murder in the State in two weeks.

**NEW YORK, 3.**—W. J. Stillman, writing to the *Tribune*, from Vienna, gives a lengthy circumstantial account of the irregularities alleged against ex-commissioner Van Buren, in connection with concessions for saloons, restaurants, etc., in the American part of the Exposition building. From this account it appears that the charges against Van Buren and his secretary, Myers, are all true, and that parties were not only required to make large deposits with Myers before a concession would be granted them, but that several who obtained the right to keep drinking saloons were obliged to sign an agreement to divide the profits, and that Myers actually demanded 10 per cent. of all profits from Jewett, one of the New York parties who purchased the right to run a restaurant.

The pleantry indulged in recently by some New York detectives at the expense of English officers who are engaged here in the case of MacDonnell, the forger, threatens to result unpleasantly to the victims, as the English government is about to make an investigation, and has asked Secretary Fish to obtain the particulars of the so-called joke.

Lucy D. Fisk, executrix of James Fisk, jr., has begun what is essentially a new suit against the Union Pacific R. R. Co., the Credit Mobilier of America, Governor Dix, George Opdyke and others.

**SAN FRANCISCO, 3.**—The Board of Supervisors, last night, passed the ordinance requiring the heads of all prisoners sent to the county jail to be shaved.