

EDITORIALS.

THE PREVALENCE AND BOLDNESS OF CRIME.

THE increasing prevalence and the boldness of crime in this country are startling thinking people, and they are beginning to ask what is to be the outcome. Now we hear of a train stopped and robbed; again a metropolitan house entered at noonday, its inmates gagged, and its valuables made off with; then a house in the same city entered under pretence of official business, with a similar result; at another time a bank boldly entered, the attendants secured, and the vaults rifled, and all over the country violences of different kinds, so that the papers have startling headings, asking, "Is anybody safe in his own house?"

Personal violence, with lustful and frequently unnatural purpose, seems to be increasing too. Unless a woman is capable of defending herself, in many parts of the country it is coming to be that she is not safe in the absence of masculine friends. We hear of a delicate girl of nineteen pulled off her horse on the public highway, stripped to nudity, violated, and left insensible; again, of a child of tender years enticed away by some unnatural brute in human form, and horribly used and mutilated, and so frequent have such inhuman offences become that a writer in a St. Louis paper declares that mothers thereabout cannot let their children go out of their sight without grave apprehension and painful anxiety.

It is told, too, in open court, that New York police are in league and conspiracy with gambling houses and other places of ill repute? A New York paper says—

"It is recorded by tradition of King Alfred, that in his reign people might hang golden bracelets and purses of gold in the trees along the highway without fear of losing them—not because the King's officers were incessantly patrolling the highways, but because it was thoroughly known throughout the realm that anybody who stole a bracelet or a purse of gold either on or off the highway would be hunted down remorselessly till he was captured, and that when he was captured he would be implacably punished. Whether this tradition be well or ill founded does not matter. It tells the story of a thoroughly well-ordered community, precisely as the outrageous incident of Monday in Eleventh street and the not less outrageous incident of Monday in Mangin street, one villainy treading close upon another's heels, tell the story of a thoroughly ill-ordered community."

"What language, then, can be too strong to describe the disorganization and demoralization of a police force which has sunk so low that it can only secure the safety of citizens within the four walls of their own houses in broad daylight, and in the most conspicuous quarters of the city, by keeping a patrolman fixed, like the dogs in the Pompeian doorways, at every man's stoop or within sight and call of every man's windows?"

"When things have come to this pass in a great city, men are necessarily thrown back upon their private resources for self-protection."

"If the public authorities cannot solve these problems, it will not require many more Eleventh-street and Mangin-street robberies to get them solved, in short metre and sharp, by the people who make the public authorities."

That is, if the police will not do their duty and furnish reasonable protection for person and property, the people will form vigilance committees and Judge Lynch will give the criminal portion of the community the privilege of dangling at the end of a rope on short notice. That seems to be what things are fast coming to in many parts of the States east.

THE END OF SIN.—Mrs. Flora Muybridge, one of the parties to the scandal which resulted in the killing of Major Harry Larkins, by

her husband in California, last Fall, is dead, having departed this life in St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco, July 18. Mr. Muybridge was tried last Spring, for shooting Larkins, and was acquitted. She and her husband separated soon after the death of Larkins, and shortly after the trial and acquittal of Muybridge she fell sick. Her illness resolved itself into a complication of spinal disease and inflammatory rheumatism. Two months and a half since she entered the hospital, where she languished in great pain, and was out of her mind much of the time. The Catholic Sisters attended her, and she professed to be converted before her death, receiving the sacrament of that church. She had no relatives, except her infant, in California, Mr. Muybridge being in South America, on a photographing expedition.

BASKET COFFINS.

MR. SEYMOUR HAYDEN suggests "basket coffins" as a remedy for the objections to the present coffins and as more generally satisfactory than cremation would be. The argument used by Mr. Hayden is that immediate contact with mother earth most quickly resolves human clay to its elementary substances, a process which wooden coffins resist for a considerable time and vaults an indefinite period.

Mr. Hayden proposes that wooden coffins be abolished, and that human remains, covered with perishable materials, shall be at once subjected to the disinfecting and assimilating action of mother earth.

Recently the Duke of Sutherland opened the gardens of Stafford House to afford the public a view of the specimens of wicker coffins. The scene is thus described in the *London Daily News*—

"Soon after 4 o'clock the stately garden terrace was occupied by a crowd of visitors, impelled thither either by fashion, scientific ardor, or simple curiosity. In busy converse with the Duke of Sutherland was Mr. Seymour Hayden himself, frequently called upon to expound the merits of the system to groups of ladies. The cases themselves, retaining for some inexplicable reason the ominous outline of the traditional coffin, were simple enough in construction, the objects aimed at being obviously sufficient strength to keep together until laid in the earth, and such openness of structure as should retard as little as possible the contact of mother earth with the last wanderer laid in her bosom. Lined with turf, these wicker baskets looked pretty enough. A more complicated species of basket requires rather longer description. A moment's thought will reveal that the simple basket of very open wicker-work would hardly suffice for the removal to their last earthly home of those who had perished from contagious disease. To meet this difficulty considerable ingenuity has been exhibited. Within a very large long basket of closer mesh than that just described is enclosed a smaller basket with double top and bottom. The space between the two baskets, an uniform three inches—is to be filled in with charcoal, broken into pieces about the size of ordinary blasting powder, forming, in fact, a disinfecting wall through which no contagious fumes could penetrate without losing by the way their noxious power. In a case of this kind contagion is stultified, the charcoal constituting an efficient barrier between the living and the dead. Not one, but many specimens of osier basket coffins were exhibited.

"From four o'clock until six the crowd on the terrace of the Stafford House was constantly recruited by fresh arrivals of members of the learned profession, and of the great world. Not the least curious of the visitors were the children, who looked with a wistful eye on three tiny baskets—one of which was decorated with black and gold."

TWO OF A TRADE, ETC.—Bradlaugh and Kenealy are both radical reformers, and they have both fallen sharply afool of each other. Both are able, remarkably self-assertive, ambitious, imperious, and

impatient of organized discipline or restraint. Recently Bradlaugh refused to sit on the same platform with Kenealy at a radical political meeting in the north of England. Bradlaugh says Kenealy is "a wind-blown bladder, with umbrella, spectacles, and a brief bag full of forms of begging letters for poor men's money."

Kenealy speaks of Bradlaugh as an "Atheist and Papist, who gives me no rest, but is perpetually assailing me with stones, brickbats, mud and dirt, until I hardly know whether I am on my head or my heels."

A great many people have no special affection for either of these quarrelsome, noisy, and irrepressible gentle men.

KNOCKED DOWN BY THE PRESIDENT.

THE following from the Washington correspondence of an eastern paper, is rather too good to lose—

"Mr. Sharp, of Washington, a friend of President Grant, is the possessor of a fine dog, which he keeps inside of his grounds now the dog law is in force. But as that gentleman sat at a window a short time since he saw two of the official dog catchers enticing his canine into the street, which they had no sooner done than they seized him and attempted to throw him into their cart; the dog resisted violently. Mr. Sharp went to the rescue of his favorite and remonstrated with the catchers, but ineffectually. A short, squarely-built man, who had accompanied Mr. Sharp, also joined in the protest, when he was told by the burly catcher to 'mind his own business,' accompanying the remark by still more expressive actions and a brisk push on the shoulder. Instantly the short man struck out a forcible blow from the left shoulder, and the boor went down like a log. But he was up as quickly, and was about to take the offensive, when Mr. Sharp put himself in the way and said hastily, 'Stand off, you fool; this is the President of the United States!' And so it was."

MONTANA MATTERS.—The following, concerning the Yellowstone Expedition, is from the *Bozeman Times*—

"Bozeman, July 14. "At 1 o'clock last night we received dispatches to the effect that the party has established itself six miles below the mouth of the Big Horn. Had built a good post a hundred feet square, and was secure from Indians. Pease had gone to Bismarck for supplies. Shiveley, Hyde and Weaver, the couriers from Pease, were attacked by Sioux on the way, and Shiveley shot through the heart and killed. Hyde wounded, Weaver all right. "Last night we received word from M. M. Black and D. H. Carpenter, at Benson's, that on July 10th sixteen Indians were seen on the opposite side of the river, and on the 11th three were seen, and during the night heavy firing was heard to the north.

"Lieutenant Jerome, and party and M. M. Black and party started for the new agency on the 12th, from which yet no news.

"Indians were seen near the Union Mills yesterday, and this side of Quinn's.

"Yesterday a letter from Carpenter reached us at the post. By the upsetting of the Yellowstone ferry-boat Sergeant Frie and privates Maloy, Burr, and Skibbie, Ben. Smith, one of Story's drivers, and Stonewall, son of Dr. A. J. Hunter, were drowned. Privates Muller and Dale and citizen H. Onstot were saved. Only Skibbie's body was recovered.

"Henry Countryman escaped, but McDonald, obliged to abandon his post, is at old Agency.

The *Helena Independent* of July 16th has the following—

"Franklin, I. T., July 12th. "The location of the Utah Northern and the letting of contracts for grade, bridges and ties, has been followed by energetic work. The contractors are making every possible exertion to get under way at once. Within a week's time the first steps will have been taken towards the completion of the road to Montana. G. S. K."

NIGHT EXCURSIONS.

"ALL work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and Jane a dull girl, which is one way of saying that recreation is necessary, and especially to young people. When one indulges in this necessary recreation, he naturally bends from business stiffness, exchanges the rigidity of work for the elasticity of play, the soberness of conventional formality for the lightness of social freedom. But there is no necessity for casting prudence aside and becoming foolish. There is no advantage in that. In all our recreations we should seek to be peaceable, pure, and prudent, avoiding evil and the appearances thereof, and not putting ourselves in situations where the tempter has the vantage ground.

Excursions are a pleasing and favorite means of taking holiday recreation, and properly conducted they may be made very delightful, invigorating, and instructive. They are also susceptible of abuse, and we should be vigilantly on our guard that abuses do not attach to them, so far as we are concerned.

Night excursions are not to be commended, for they are peculiarly liable to abuse, and they are often promoted and patronized with this very abusive design in view. They have our decided disapproval, and should have the decided disapproval of every good citizen. Not that they are necessarily bad of themselves, but because they are so fertile of opportunities for the introduction of disreputable practices. It does not seem to us possible that any parents would be willing for their sons and daughters to go away from home a distance, with mixed parties especially, remain away far into the night and, as is sometimes the case, far into the next morning, in the midst of the excitements of holiday revels, with music and dancing, drinking of beer and wine and spirits, and rambles around. Yet these are the very things that most of these night excursions abound in, with their suggestive and exciting et ceteras, which are not always of the most innocent character, but which may be indulged in once too often, to the everlasting regret of those who, through inexperience or thoughtlessness, may be made lifelong sufferers thereby.

There are not a few characters in our cities and settlements who would choose these very night excursions for the pursuit of practices which are the bane of society, bipedal beasts of prey, who go about seeking whom they may devour, ever on the watch to lead astray and to betray to their ruin the innocent and unsuspecting, the simple and the weak, and by artful violence sometimes to destroy morally those who have more experience and who are of stronger mind.

It comes properly within the duties of the Priesthood to frown down these night excursions as a rule, and to submit to the salutary discipline of serious explanation and rational advice those members of the Church who engage in these night excursions, and particularly those who do not use their influence to prevent their children from going upon such excursions. Prevention is better than cure, and for some evils there is no cure but endurance of them, bitter though they be. It is far better not to go on these night excursions, and to use all reasonable means to prevent the young and unsophisticated from going upon them, than to have to bear the burden of hurtful and hateful scandals in consequence of going on them.

FOOTPADS IN NEW YORK.—This is the way the N. Y. *Herald* of July 16th talks of street robbery, etc., in that ill governed city—

"The frightful state of affairs in this city at present, so far as kidnappers, burglars and pickpockets are concerned, grows daily worse. In another column will be found an account of the danger of crossing the Williamsburg ferry at night. When policemen consort and affiliate with ruffians there is no reason to be surprised that even in this nineteenth century Dick Turpin's abound and that after dark no man's purse or life is safe in certain parts of New York."

PECULIAR OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.—In Halifax, Nova Scotia, a curious kind of official stealing is in process of investigation. A public park was recently made at that city, and it appears that there is a botanical ring there that steals flowers from the park, it having been observed that the stock of rare plants in the fine gardens of the city fathers increased rapidly and in suggestive coincidence with the disappearance of many fine flowers from the public park. Three municipal officials stand charged with abstracting a wagon load of plants from the park, and of having their gardening done at the expense of the dear public.

HARD FOR THE NEWSPAPERS.—The passing and stringent spell of hard times has operated very severely upon the newspaper world, as well as other people, which will not be denied when one accepts the statements that \$8,000,000 has been lost the past year in this country, chiefly in new and unsuccessful ventures to "run a paper."

An eastern paper has the following pertaining to the influence of the dull times upon the newspaper business—

"A New York correspondent of the *Chicago Journal* says that New York newspapers are having hard sledding. This is attributed to the falling off in advertising, particularly advertising from financial houses, who usually have railway stocks and securities for sale, and which they were accustomed to advertise very liberally. But all kinds of advertising have fallen away, while newspaper expenses have not decreased one dollar. No business in the country has been affected more than has the newspaper business by the business revolution, and to the credit of the newspaper men they have stood square up to the panic, and have given their readers just as good papers as ever."

REGARD FOR THE CONSTITUTION.—The Oakland (Cal.) *Transcript* says—

"Judge Nye requires every person applying for naturalization papers to read the Constitution of the United States, and of this State, before he will grant the papers. The Judge's head is very level on that point. A man ought to know what he is swearing to—but half of the swearers do not. There will be a demand for constitutions hereafter in this country."

There is something sensible in this request. A man who becomes naturalized ought to have an idea of the nature of the constitution of the country of which he wishes to become a citizen. It is a good sign, too, in these degenerate days, to find a judge holding forth so prominently the necessity of becoming acquainted with the Constitution. We have had judges in this Territory who have not been so anxious by any means to have candidates for naturalization, or indeed any of the people, come to an understanding of the Constitution. But said judges have been wonderfully anxious to pry into the domestic situation, practice, views, and belief of such candidates, and have even gone so far as to establish rigid religious tests, failure in passing which has been held to be sufficient ground for refusing admission into the pale of American citizenship, which the Constitution does not authorize, nor permit, but, on the contrary, expressly prohibits.

THE FLOODS IN FRANCE.—The recent destructive floods in the valley of the Garonne, France, were the result of from thirty-six to fifty hours heavy rain, besides the melting of the snows on the Pyrenees and the Cevennes. "The water poured in sheets" and torrents, and came down suddenly. Heavy rains fell in all parts of France and few escaped without damage. That country has had no other such floods for 20 years past, when the valley of the Seine was similarly afflicted and the Emperor Napoleon, like McMahon now, personally went to the relief of the people.