

still lingers among people and they go, they know not why, to places where horrors are exhibited. But the moral effect of it is disastrous, and public enlightened opinion should be depended upon to thwart any attempt to degrade the stage by making it the caterer to the most vulgar taste imaginable.

No parents would consent to give their children, whose minds are so open to impressions, good or bad, an opportunity to associate with thieves, murderers and other criminals or to familiarize themselves with the details of their crimes. They would shield them even from the contact with such characters offered by the low-bred dime literature of the day. At the stage is a much more potent factor than the average novel, and its purity ought to be guarded with greatest care, lest it should become a school for crime, a menace to public safety. No boy, no girl could go to the theater and see the supposed crimes of Durrant there reproduced without sustaining some moral injury, perhaps irreparable.

ROME'S CLAIMS.

Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, in a sermon delivered to the members of the Catholic summer school at Plattsburg, N. Y., spoke of the church and its mission in the world. In the course of his address he stated that this institution, referring, of course, to the Catholic church, is exactly what this age and this nation specially need, intimating that without it the latter cannot be preserved. His exact words as quoted were:

Now this great institution, founded by Christ and blessed with such marvelous unity and ability, is precisely what is needed in our age and country in order to give religion unity to many diverse denominations and permanent stability to the state itself. Let us then go forth from this summer school with increased knowledge, both sacred and profane, but above all things with a profound conviction that we have in this institution of the church what the age and nation require. And let us prove by our individual lives the practical influence of that institution in governing and sanctifying the individual, and, therefore, with a power to influence the whole nation for good, and thus preserve it.

It seems almost incredible that a prominent prelate at this time should stand up and claim in all seriousness that the church of Rome is the harbor of refuge to suffering humanity. That institution was fairly tried for centuries but failed to bring about a better condition. It was a few pages of history and nausea at the time before the Reformation, when it held away over the Christian world, and look at the then existing conditions, there is very little, indeed, to bear out the statement of the reverend gentleman. Socially mankind was divided in two classes. One exercised the most cruel despotism, by the grace of the church, over the other. Superstition and ignorance were the characteristics of the age, as witness the persecutions for heresy and prosecutions for witchcraft, the sale of indulgences and the scandalous intrigues within the very gates of Rome. What did the representatives of Romanism at that

time ever do to adjust the deplorable conditions or to spread light and knowledge among the people? What is there on all the pages of history since the beginning of papal reign to indicate that an effort was made to promote liberty and progress and advance the cause of humanity? Suppose there had never been a reformation and a revolution, what would the world have been? It is not necessary to draw on imagination for an answer to that question.

In one of the dispatches a story is told that is interesting in this connection: A poor orphan girl enters a convent. In the agony of temptations to which human nature is subject, she whispers her confession to some spiritual counselor. The result is that in order to atone for her sins she tortured her tender body by sticking needles into it—that is, if the punishment actually was self-inflicted—until she now is at the point of death. And is this what is offered as the balm of Gilead which humanity needs. Anyone acquainted with the first principles of Christianity or with human nature knows that such alleged means of salvation are not Christian, but pagan. They utterly fail to cleanse from sin, to remove guilt or to impart moral strength. And it is to be feared that the remedies offered by that institution for all other ills of humanity are equally powerless.

Archbishop Ryan's speech, however, is significant as revealing the realism of the institution he represents. It is nothing less than "to influence the whole nation for good and thus preserve it," as if its existence depends on Roman influence in national affairs. It is only right that this high purpose of Rome's representatives should be pointed out. The citizens of the United States are interested in the matter.

THE BALKAN SITUATION.

There seems to be but little doubt that actual fighting is taking place on the Balkan, and the development of affairs there are well worth watching. The first reports were to the effect that the insurgents in Macedonia had defeated a Turkish detachment. Another conflict is now said to have occurred, ending with the dispersion of the rebels. The Turks have enough troops in the province to resist any ordinary insurrection.

The rising in Macedonia is the outgrowth of the Armenian disturbance. Both Armenians and Macedonians were by the treaty of Berlin in 1879 promised protection from Turkish despotism, but the promises never were fulfilled. The latter seeing that their fellow-sufferers in Asia Minor succeeded in bringing their situation once more before Europe, naturally seized the opportunity of doing the same, and armed themselves. There is no doubt that their cause is as just as that of the Armenians.

The recent outrages in the capital of Bulgaria where ex-Premier Stambouff was assassinated and the funeral procession savagely scattered, all, it is thought, by the consent of the government and perhaps as a result of Russian intrigue, has brought the situation to a

highly critical stage, and what further complicates matters is the fact that Ferdinand holds the position of ruler without the consent of Russia, which is a violation of the Berlin treaty, in as much as this provides that the Bulgarian king can occupy the throne only by permission of all the signatory powers. In this violation Russia would find a justification for interference whenever the czar's government thinks the time has come to order the troops to cross the frontier. Altogether the situation is such that European statesmen at present will have their skill taxed to the utmost.

DECREASE OF CRIME.

It is claimed that during the last period of about twenty-five years, or from 1868 to 1894 crime has been on the decrease in England. Generally, the problem is to account for the increase of crime and to find a remedy for it, but if the statistics given are reliable, the conclusion seems to be well founded that these important questions are about to be understood. The decrease is said to be about 8 per cent on the average.

The number of persons arrested as offenders against persons or property twenty years ago was 187,018. Ten years later the number was 166,901 and in 1892-93 only 160,625, a decrease all the more marked if the increase of population during the same period is taken into consideration.

Offenses embracing cruelty to animals, drunkenness, sanitary and hygienic rules are always large and such crimes are more closely looked after, and there is a natural expectation that the increase in the number of such offenses would be large; on the contrary, the increase is only 2.4 above the record of ten years ago, but as the population has increased 12 per cent there is a real decrease of 10 per cent.

The criminal class "known to the police," including those at large as well as in confinement, show a decrease in number of 87,000 to 50,000. Those at large numbered in 1881, 38,960, in 1890, 31,225, in 1891, 30,488, in 1892, 29,826, London itself making the best showing; this in every 100,000 persons there were "known to the police" 15 in London, 50 in provincial cities and 61 in the country. The *Morning Post*, of August 28th, 1894, says: "The anarchists, annoyed by the surveillance of the police, are leaving London and settling in the provincial cities."

Houses of bad repute decreased in number in three years from 2,683 to 2,360. Juvenile offenders, those under 16 years of age, numbered 10,000 in 1868-69. This figure has fallen steadily until 4,000 is the last record. In every 100,000 of population there were 46 juvenile offenders in 1868-1870 against 25 in 1893, a decrease of 70 per cent.

It must be remembered that this decrease is not due to any change in the administration of the laws or to a relaxation of their rigidity. On the contrary the laws have been made more stringent, and the number of arrests for every hundred crimes shows that the execution of the laws is more thorough; for in 1868-1887 there were 44 to 45 arrests for every hundred crimes, and in 1892-1893 there were 46.8 ar-