

ernment was in a very low state. But when she left it China had risen to a prominence in Asia unequalled in its history. Probably her greatest mistake was her conservative policy which prevented China from breaking down its surrounding walls and opening it to western civilization—a folly that was demonstrated in the last war with Japan. But notwithstanding this *Tai Thai's* name will shine on the pages of history as that of one of the remarkable women of this age. It takes more than favorable circumstances to lift a little slave girl to the throne of a mighty empire.

CURE FOR HOMICIDES.

Judge I. C. Parker, of the United States district court for the western district of Arkansas, who has presided over more than one hundred murder trials, has a long article in the June number of the *North American Review*, in which he suggests a remedy for the alarming increase of homicides in the United States. The criminal record shows that there have been in this country 43,902 homicides during the last six years—an average of 7,317 per year. In the same time there have been 723 legal executions and 1,118 lynchings. In the last year 10,500 persons were killed, or 875 per month, while in 1890 there were 4,290, or less than half as many as in 1895. This bloody record shows a fearful increase of the crime which destroys life, and it is to check this increase that Judge Parker makes his suggestions.

In looking for a chief reason for the increase of crime, the Arkansas judge comes to the same conclusion as Judge Anthony of Illinois and David Dudley Field, to-wit: it is in the fact that the administration of the law affecting the civil rights of the citizen, his property rights growing out of controversies between man and man upon contracts, has come to be regarded as of much more importance than the enforcement of the law which protects the life of the citizen; and that the criminal law and its administration has rather fallen into disgrace, especially in the large cities of the country. Yet, he says, all must agree it is more important to protect a man's life than it is his property. If the man's life is destroyed, if the assassin fires into his house and takes away his life, it is a greater deprivation than to deprive him of his horse or his cow, or even of all the other property which he possessed. But the administration of law that upholds this position has fallen into disgrace largely because of the corrupt methods resorted to to defeat the law's administration, and because courts of justice look to the shadow in the shape of technicalities, rather than to the substance in the shape of crime.

To cure this condition, Judge Parker would have a more rapid vindication of the law through the courts, and he does not believe it can be accomplished otherwise. He believes one of the great abuses that leads to the condition complained of is the negligence of courts in not crowding this class of cases to an early adjudication; and that another is

the action of appellate courts which which grant new trials on purely technical grounds, thus practically co-operating with unscrupulous attorneys for the escape of men guilty of the most wicked murders. On this latter point he says: "The action of appellate courts upon cases where crimes have been committed is, in my judgment, of all others the most fruitful cause of the increase of crime. It is not so much the severity of punishment as it is its certainty which is effective. Let capture be sure and punishment certain, and crime is in a measure destroyed."

As a remedy for the condition, and to check the carnival of murder that is developing to a sort of fury for double, treble and quadruple killings, Judge Parker offers the following:

I would remodel the appellate court system. I would organize in the states and in the nation courts of criminal appeals, made up of judges learned in the criminal law, and governed by a desire for its speedy and vigorous enforcement. I would have sent to these courts a full record of the trial, and they should be compelled to pass upon the case, as soon as possible, according to its merits, and ascertain the guilt or innocence of the accused from the truth and the law of the case manifest on the record. I would brush aside all technicalities that did not affect the guilt or innocence of the accused. I would not permit them to act on a partial record, or any technical pleas concocted by cunning minds. I would provide by law against the reversal of cases unless upon their merits innocence was manifest. The guilt or innocence of the party should be the guide. I would require prompt action on the part of these courts. By the establishment of courts of this kind public confidence, in a great measure lost at the present time, would be restored, and the people would again be taught to depend upon legal protection against crime, and in this way a vigorous support to the courts and juries would be given by the masses of the people looking toward the law's vindication.

There is no question but that the judge's suggestions would be a very effective weapon in securing the desired effect. The general means he advises has been urged over and over again by the western press particularly, but the bar that has stood in the way still is likely to do so, viz: the apparent self-sufficiency which characterizes a great many of those who hold judicial position and who seem to think that the acme of perfection has been reached in the present system, and therefore disdain the idea that the courts themselves, by their dilatory procedure, are largely responsible for the increase in heinous crimes.

THE FLYING SQUADRON.

In January last there was international agitation caused by the placing in commission of twelve of Great Britain's best battleships, as a flying squadron. This aggregation of fighting ships was ordered to Bantry Bay, on the Irish coast, there to receive sealed orders as to its destination, for none outside of the British admiralty knew the purpose of the demonstration. At that time, President Cleve-

land's stand on the Monroe doctrine in relation to Venezuela was a prevailing topic of discussion, and it was generally believed in this country that the assembling of the flying squadron was intended as a menace to the United States, and that the purpose was to dispatch it to the Bermudas so as to have it in position to strike against American interests.

The view that it was a menace to the United States was not removed by the semi-official suggestion that it was intended to show Germany that England would not brook any interference in the Transvaal trouble; and in this country the most vigorous public sentiment was aroused, which might have culminated in trouble if the squadron had appeared off the Bermudas. But it never moved from Bantry Bay in a body—the sealed orders were withheld. A dozen British war vessels, brought together in haste and with considerable expense and not a little display of "bluff," remained on the Irish coast, doing nothing. This week the last five of the warships will start for their stations with other squadrons, seven having left already.

Now that all is quieted to its normal condition, the conviction seems to be firmly rooted that the original design of the squadron was that of a menace to this country. The admiralty has never given a reason for bringing the vessels together; but the fact that the squadron never started out after being got ready is now generally attributed to the hostility awakened in this country at the supposed menace. To have carried out the original design of sending the vessels adjacent to American waters would have produced more serious complications than Britain wanted about that time, hence the purpose was abandoned.

THE ELECTORAL VOTE.

As figuring on which way this of that state will go at the November election is coming into vogue, we give a list of the votes which each state is entitled to in the Electoral College. Those interested in politics will find it convenient for reference in their mathematical calculations on presidential possibilities:

Alabama.....	11	Nebraska.....	8
Arkansas.....	8	Nevada.....	3
California.....	9	New Hampshire.....	4
Colorado.....	4	New Jersey.....	10
Connecticut.....	6	New York.....	36
Delaware.....	3	North Carolina.....	11
Florida.....	4	North Dakota.....	3
Georgia.....	13	Ohio.....	23
Idaho.....	3	Oregon.....	4
Illinois.....	24	Pennsylvania.....	32
Indiana.....	15	Rhode Island.....	4
Iowa.....	13	South Carolina.....	9
Kansas.....	10	South Dakota.....	4
Kentucky.....	13	Tennessee.....	12
Louisiana.....	8	Texas.....	15
Maine.....	6	Utah.....	3
Maryland.....	8	Vermont.....	4
Massachusetts.....	15	Virginia.....	12
Michigan.....	14	Washington.....	4
Minnesota.....	9	West Virginia.....	6
Mississippi.....	9	Wisconsin.....	12
Missouri.....	17	Wyoming.....	3
Montana.....	3		

Total.....147

Electoral vote necessary to a choice, 224.