Growth of Cities-Increase of

Of late there has been much specu-lation and philosophical disquisition as to the increase of crime and the as to the increase of crime and the causes of it. The increase is a stubborn fact. All the jails and prisons have been enlarged within the past few years—enlarged more than in ratio with the enlargement of the population. And all of of them are now full to overflow, demanding still further enlargement. A Western paper notes that while in 1850 the homicides in the United States were as one to 100,000 of total population, in 1860 they had risen to three and one-tenth, and in 1870 to five and three-tenths. That is to say, we had in propor-That is to say, we had in proportion to population over five times as many murders, man-slaughters, excusable and justifiable killings in excusable and justifiable killings in 1870 as twenty years before. We think there is no doubt that other and lesser crimes have kept pace with these; that incomy, arson, burglary, robbery and forgery are five times as frequent now in a population of 100,000 as they were in 1850. Certain other offenses have gone still faster into popularity—as perjury, fraud, and awindling. The increase of murders from 1850 to 1860 was 210 per cent, says the Indianapolis Journal. From 1860 to 1870 only 220 per cent. From 1860 to 1870 only 220 per cent.

Whereupon it is argued that the civil war cannot be blamed as the promoter of this crime. The Journal then points out what it thinks some of the causes: As the increase of European emigration, which brings us a large proportion of the criminal and refuse classes, who "live by crime and mendicancy." The criminal statistics appear to favor this view. There is one foreign criminal to every five of mative birth, while the foreign population is one to eleven of native birth. This is the rule in the State of Indiana. In the whole country the proportion of foreign to native population is as one to six; of foreign to native criminals one to three. This is one cause. "The illy restrained deviltry of the South" is another, if we may believe the Journal. But "the primary cause is the laxity of the law in bringing criminals to punishment." This will not do, as to crime in general. The criminal statistics that the Journal discusses are of those who have been brought to punishment. It may held as to homicides. We do not suppose that mere than one murderer in tion of foreign to native population

homicides. We do not suppose that more than one murderer in ten is ever brought to the gallows in this country. If the penalty of murder were life imprisonment we think the convicted would soon amount to three or four.

As to the main cause of the increase of crime in general. We think it demonstrable from statistics and other facts and circum. stances, that nearly all classes of crime have just about kept pace crime have just about kept pace in this country with the excess of the growth of large cities and towns over the growth of the rural districts. The population of New York is but one million—of the State, say four millions. The city with only a fourth of the people produces more than half of the criminals. Chicago holds the like relation to the State of Illinois, and San Francisco to California. A very large class of crimes result from want, and the irresistible temptations of necessity, nowhere felt half so powerfully as in the great and heartless city, where human selfishness finds its fullest development. Other classes human selfishness finds its fullest development. Other classes of crime, especially manslaughter and homicides which some communities consider justifiable while others punish them as murder, while they are frequent in the city, are almost unheard of in the country. It is in the great city that fraud, perjury and forgery flourish; and where, too, conviction is almost sure to follow indictment, if the accused is poor or friendless, which most of them are. If the great city, with its theatres, schools, churches, moral reform societies, multiplied charities, science and art associations, and immense collections of wealth, best represents civilization, it also is most promotive of crime, insanity, and all phases of want and misery. The argument, then, would seem to be that crime and civilization keep even pace! It is not pleasant to admit this proposition, but we really see no way to avoid it, unless we reject the pretenses of the cities as the true exponents of alvillation.—Sceramento Union.

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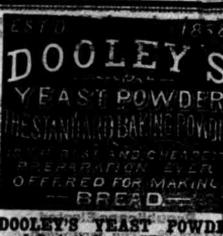
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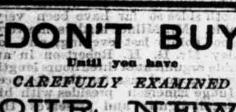
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