

A STUDY IN GRIMINOLOGY.

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THE title of this paper, it must be confessed, is not attractive. But few are likely to be drawn to an article thus labelled, in the hope of finding in its perusal a source of enjoyment. There are, however, subjects that deserve to be studied for other reasons than on account of the entertainment which is to be found in them. There are great humanitarian and socialistic problems which cannot be solved without the patient and thorough investigation of subjects from which the virtuous mind naturally revolts. One of these is crime.

This evil exists among us, however, and—to use a hackneyed phrase—is apparently here to stay, and the question naturally arises—What are we going to do about it? That the criminals constitute a numerous and growing class in most countries throughout the civilized world, imposing heavy and ever-increasing burdens upon the orderly and law-abiding people, is a fact too palpable to be either gainsayed or ignored. Mr. Boies's recently-published book on "*Prisoners and Paupers*,"* in the United States, describes a state of things which, though it does not yet exist among ourselves, comes so near to our own homes as to appeal to us with startling effect. It shows that human nature is the same in the new world as in the old, and that the evil influences which have been at work elsewhere, producing depravity of manners, and leading men into criminal courses, are quite as po-

tent on this continent as in any other part of the globe.

One of the facts brought out in this remarkable volume is—that, phenomenal as has been the increase of population in the great republic—an increase which has been the wonder and the admiration of the world—the increase of the dangerous and the unfortunate classes is entirely out of proportion to that of the population as a whole. Indeed, of late the proportion appears to have been nearly two to one. To be exact, while the increase of population during the decade ending with 1890 has been 24.5 per cent., that of the inmates of penitentiaries, gaols, and reformatories, has been 45.2 per cent. And, that this period, though more strongly marked with crime than any which has preceded it, is not altogether exceptional, is evident from the following facts:—In 1850 the criminals in the United States were 1 in 3,500 of the population, while in 1890 they were in the proportion of 1 in 786.5; from which it appears that while the population has increased 170 per cent. in forty years, the criminal class has increased 450 per cent.

The overflow of such a criminal population, separated from us by little more than an imaginary line three thousand miles in length, would be sufficient to give us trouble enough, and to impose upon us a sufficiently heavy burden, even if we had no such population of our own. But unfortunately we have. Human nature is the same on both sides of the international boundary, and the same influences are at work here that are in operation in the States. With one in about 1,200 of our population in a penitentiary, a reformatory, or a gaol, even though this

* *Prisoners and Paupers: A Study of the Abnormal Increase and the Public Burdens of Pauperism in the United States: the Causes and the Remedies.* By Henry M. Boies, M.A. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: The Williamson Book Company. Octavo, pp. 318.

Criminology. By Arthur Macdonald, with an Introduction by Dr. Cesare Lombroso. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk and Wagnall's Company. Octavo, pp. 416.