

done, nor the relative value of the various modes advocated by philanthropists, enthusiasts or legislators. The world constantly progresses, and in its progress let us hope there will soon be evolved such a measure of wisdom as shall lift the subject of temperance wholly out of the morass of partisan politics into the serener region of humanity and love.

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## V.—OUR CRIMINALS AND CHRISTIANITY.\*

BY W. M. F. ROUND, NEW YORK,

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ONE evening, while attending the meeting of the American Social Science Association in Saratoga, I found myself talking with a venerable member of that body in the parlor of the hotel while the session of the Association was going on in a neighboring hall. I expressed some surprise that he should be absent from the meeting. He replied: "I stayed at home to read a book on social science that furnishes me with a solution of all the problems they discuss there." I asked the name of the book and its author. He answered that it was written by various authors; that the first chapter was written by a man named Moses, and the last chapter by a man named John; and the name of the book was the Bible. And the old man was right in his estimate of the book: it is at once a guide to the solution of our social problems and a standard by which we may measure our success in dealing with the problems of society. No worthy and permanent social reform has ever taken place except in the line of its teachings—and its teachings culminated and crystallized in Him who has given a name to the fairest and most luminous era of civilization that has ever shone upon the earth. All organized philanthropies have centred in Him, and there has been no true philanthropic impulse becoming a part of a national life that was not essentially and professedly Christian. It is our boast as a nation that we are a Christian nation. In His name our name as a people has blossomed. Whenever we have departed from the spirit of His teachings we have met shame and degradation; wherever we have brought ourselves into harmony with His recreation of law, we have met with prosperity and success. So it behooves us to bring to all our institutional developments, of whatever name or nature, the test of the Gospel. Let me ask you to apply with me this touchstone of Gospel teaching to the Penal system of our land.

\* In the following article the writer does not undertake to express the views of either the Prison Association of New York or the National Prison Association of the United States, with both of which Societies he is officially connected. The aim of the paper has been simply to call attention to certain radical defects in our Penal System, to provoke a consideration of them, and a discussion of means to effect their removal.