

or place of employment, and ascertains all about his companionships, and endeavours to influence for good all his friends and relatives, so that his energies may be directed along right and worthy lines, rather than in antagonism to law and order. This system has been tried in other countries, and in our own province of Ontario, for fifteen years past with great success. It claims to be the simplest and most effectual means of permanently benefiting the child, the family and the community.

We publish in another place a summary of the Act introduced last week in the British House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone, with the same aim in view as that now before our Dominion legislature, viz., the prevention of crime. These two bills mark a step, we trust in advance, in this most important subject.

PREVENTION OF CRIME.

The measure introduced last week into the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone, which is described as a Bill to make better provision for the prevention of crime, and for that purpose to provide for the reformation of young offenders and the prolonged detention of habitual criminals, is a great advance in the rational treatment of crime, and is undoubtedly based upon sound principles.

Part I. of the Bill relates to the reformation of young offenders, and power is given to the court, where a person not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-one years of age is convicted on indictment of an offence for which he is liable to be sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment, to pass a sentence of detention under penal discipline in a Borstal institution for a term of not less than one year nor more than three years. The court has to be satisfied also that by reason of his antecedents or mode of life it is expedient that he should be subject to detention for such term and under such instruction and discipline as appears most conducive to his reformation and the repression of crime.

Where a court passes such a sentence, it is also to pass, as an alternative, such sentence of penal servitude or imprison-