

own home by the man who pledged himself to love and cherish her. The dastardly ruffianism of the act is clearly proven in a court of law, and then a learned judge dismisses the offender, because he has not exceeded "*the rights of a husband in ruling over his own household.*" Let us quote more fully from the opinion delivered by Judge Hughes on that occasion:—

"At common law a man has the right to resort to the moderate correction of his wife for her misbehaviour. * * * * It is not, however, for a magistrate or court to step in and interfere with the rights of a husband in ruling his own home. * * * * I am not prepared to say he was justified in either shoving or throwing her out of doors, no matter what had happened between them. And still I am not prepared to say that in the strict sense of the term, that was an assault and battery which he did, owing to his right to control and even punish her."

If this is a correct interpretation of the law, then the law is an outrage upon decency, manliness and common sense. It is law which the Canadians of to-day have not enacted, to which they have not assented, of which they never heard, and which they will not tolerate. We have no doubt that our legislators at the earliest opportunity will rid us of the incubus of this suddenly-discovered relic of antiquated barbarism, and in the meantime if any other wretches avail themselves of their "legal authority" to "control and even punish" in a similar fashion, and they cannot be prevented by any judicial process, then they must be prevented by such extra-judicial process as even civilized society has found beneficial in certain times and places.

Selected Articles.

NOVEL READING.

We reprint from one of the oldest and best of our exchanges, *The Christian Observer*, (Lexington Ky.) the following, and commend it to the careful perusal of parents, and also of our youthful readers:

"DIED FROM NOVEL READING.—Lane S. Dennison, aged fourteen years, killed himself at New London, Conn. This is a result of dime-novel-reading. When will parents cease to permit such reading to be placed within reach of their children?"

In an editorial, under the head of "Impure Reading," this excellent journal says:

"The legislature of Tennessee has lately passed a law, forbidding the sale of pernicious literature. In order to prevent evasions, the law specifies such journals as the *Police Gazette* and *Police News*, as among the prohibited papers. All upright men will rejoice in this law, and applaud it. Yet while Tennessee thus puts herself in advance of the other States of our land, she is years behind that lately heathen nation, the Sandwich Islands, in the exclusion of such literature.

The same evil influences are found in the daily and weekly papers received into our houses. During the last week, one of our best Virginia exchanges has had the details of a trial that ought never to have been reported in print. A local paper in Kentucky has printed the full, disgusting details of the most outrageous of crimes, and the daily papers of the large cities have lately had such detailed accounts of disgusting filthiness, as are unfit for man or woman, much more for children, to read. These accounts are not only such as to corrupt the mind, but such as to instruct the young in the ways of crime. Such accounts have appeared, not only in the papers from which we expect only pollution, but in some of our best secular exchanges.

Good journals are a great benefit to a family circle. But such reading as that, to which we allude, is contamination worse than poison. Is it not the duty of every judicious parent to shield his family from all such?

Newspapers are likely to publish what the public want. Like all other businesses, they cater to the public demand. If one class of the community demands disgusting sensationalism, and the upright, moral readers do not object, our secular prints will be filled with such. But, if our best citizens

will let the editors know that they abhor it, and that they will transfer their patronage to the sheet that excludes it, a great revolution will take place in the tone of the press.

One of the two things must occur. Either the papers read in our families must be purified, or our children will certainly grow up with evil habits and thoughts."—*Mothers' Magazine.*

AN ABSTAINING TOWN.

A meeting of tectotal Mayors took place at the Guildhall, London, on March 14th. Ten abstaining Mayors were present and addressed the meeting.

The Mayor of St. Ives, in Cornwall, said: When the seven bishops were imprisoned in yonder tower it was said by one of our poets—

And shall Trelawney die?
'Then twenty thousand Cornishmen
Shall know the reason why.

And if the Sunday Closing Bill for Cornwall be not passed, then 200,000 Cornishmen will know the reason why. I do not hesitate to tell this London assembly that we are not to be treated with contumely and contempt and scorn by the Imperial Parliament of England. We will not only knock at St. Stephen's, but we will form a grand procession from the far west, and come up and demand that the traffic in intoxicating drinks shall cease upon the Lord's Day. The various magistrates here have told you about the evil of strong drink, but I cannot tell you much about it in the borough in which I reside. In 1838 we began the struggle against the liquor traffic. We were only two of us in a population of 7,000 people, and we made up our minds that, live or die, the drink traffic in that town should come to an end, and in less than two years we closed up half the public-houses in the town of St. Ives, and I am proud to tell you that in less than twelve months, such was the wave of religious feeling in that town, that upwards of 1,400 were added to the Christian churches of various denominations. Some of those converts have gone to New Zealand, some have gone to Australia, to California, and the Far West, and some of them now are occupying the most public positions in those vast colonies, are sitting in its Parliaments, and occupying its pulpits, and are the leaders in the great movements in those colonies, but were first imbued with tectotal and religious feeling in connection with the movement in St. Ives. You would hardly believe it, but I do not see a drunkard in that borough, and I have now been two years the chief magistrate, and I've only had one solitary individual brought before me in connection with drunkenness. I can assure you that not one individual for these two years has ever been sent to the county prison or the county gaol, or has been committed to take his trial at the assizes. I say it is wonderful—and what God has wrought for my native town he can do for the vast empire of Great Britain. I say to this assembly, and through them to the people of this country, what Grant said in the great American war—"Peg away; peg away." Fight on, struggle on, and as certainly as you fight and you grapple with this gigantic evil, it shall totter and fall to its final overthrow. We have only one policeman for seven thousand people, and we have nothing for him to do. We employ him about other things that his time may be filled up. The Government the other day wanted us to have more policemen, but I told them in the words of Dr. Watts, that we have nothing for them to do, and said that

Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

Our present policeman has got something to do as a Wesleyan class leader, and he employs his time to promote the spiritual benefit of his fellow-countrymen. We are the seat of the great mackerel trade of the west, and have about 800 men engaged in that fishery, and they go from week to week out in the Atlantic about seven or eight leagues to the west of Scilly to get mackerel for the population of London to eat, and in 120 boats, manned by 700 or 800 men, there is not a drop of intoxicating drink. They know better than to put their money in the publicans' bank, where they neither get principal nor interest, but they take their money home, and put it into the Saving's Bank, and not into the "sinking fund" of the publican. Ladies and gentlemen mind your work. If you you have adopted the blue ribbon, which I have not already donned, but which I shall