

## THE DUTY OF THE STATE TO THE CRIMINAL.

The March number of the "Presbyterian College Journal" contains several valuable articles, among others one with the above title, by Rev. W. D. Reid, B. D., minister of Taylor Church, Montreal. We should like to reproduce the whole paper, but space forbid; but here are a few sentences from his plea for prevention:

In closing, I feel that while the State has a duty to perform to the criminal, it also has a very imperative duty, in doing all it possibly can to prevent men and women from becoming criminals. This dealing with men and women only after they have become criminals is like a child trying to root out the weeds from its garden by cutting off the tops. What the State must do is to get down at the root of the trouble, and as far as possible obliterate the conditions that make criminals. Crime arises from ignorance, from the absence of virtuous education, from intemperance, from overcrowding in cities, and from ungodliness. If we are going to check the streams of vice, we must cleanse the fountains. Let the State then put into operation educational forces, and make them compulsory, and by positive teaching dispell the clouds of ignorance and vice. Let her legislate the liquor curse out of existence, and a large amount of crime will disappear. Let the State see that her citizens have good, decent houses in which to live, and that each person within her borders performs his quota of work to the common welfare of society; let her see that the religious influences of the Gospel of Jesus Christ be brought to bear upon all, and the result will be that criminality will be reduced to a minimum. Especially would I emphasize this last point. I believe that the great cure for all human woes is the Gospel of Christ. If we could only get men to accept Him, and live out His life before the world there would be no criminals. Hope in Christ is the soul of all philanthropy and of individual, national, administrative and penal amelioration. This has been the great energizing power that sent out such philanthropists as Howard, Clarkson, Willertore, Peabody, Morley and Parkhurst. These men, and many others of the same stamp, have ever based all their hopes for prevention and reformation upon the power of Christ. For this reason I believe that while prisoners are under the care of the State, every effort should be continually made to bring them under the power of the Gospel and that they should be so circumstanced as to give them every opportunity for reflection and prayer. No heart is too hard for Christ to enter, no life is too bad for Him to cleanse, and no soul is too degraded for Him to save. When He takes hold of the life, criminality for that person is at an end.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine for March contains its usual varied bill of fare. The following titles of articles will show how wide is the range: "The Making of Modern Scotland," "Bridge," Army Shooting and its Improvement," "Oxford in the Victorian Age," "The Sick and Wounded in South Africa," "Musing, Without Method" is devoted to "Victoria the Great." Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

## THE DELPIT CASE.

Mr. Justice Archibald on Saturday rendered judgement in this *cause celebre*, maintaining the inscription in law asked by Mr. Delpit. Shorn of legal phraseology the judgment we believe means that the decision of the court places the civil law in marriages above ecclesiastical law; and Mr. Delpit will have to ask a higher court to give effect to the ecclesiastical judgment rendered in the case which meant divorce. The judge held that the state had no right to interfere with the internal laws of any church of any creed; but parties in the church had a perfect right to go to any legalized authority to get married if they wanted to.

An appeal will be taken by Mr. Delpit against the decision of Judge Archibald dismissing his case for the annulment of his marriage with Mrs. Delpit.

## Literary Notes.

"If I had been Irish born—above all if I had been an Irish Catholic, if the Parliament of my country had been destroyed, if the property of my ancestors had been stolen, if education had been denied to me and mine, if liberty had been restrained, and law set aside and trampled upon—well, I should not overflow with love for the oppressor, even when the oppression had all but ceased, and given place to a wiser and saner policy." So writes Mr. T. W. Russell, M. P., in the opening article of "The Fortnightly Review" for March, after having made careful statement of the main political facts of the century. It is then he explains the unwilling allegiance of and the spirit of Hate in Ireland. He says Ireland will meet England more than half-way if the Land Question is settled, and if the government of the country be made a popular government in place of the sham court at Dublin breeding and nourishing sycophancy, existing for a class but not for the whole country. Under the main caption "The late Queen and the Victorian Era." Diplomatics writes of "Queen Victoria and Germany," Michael McDonagh of "Queen Victoria as a Statesman" and J. A. R. Marriott of "Ireland under Queen Victoria." "In the Hive" is a chapter, and delightful reading it makes—from M. Maeterlinck's new book, "The Life of the Bee," to be published shortly. If all the chapters are to be anything like as interesting as is this one translated by Alfred Sutro, Sir John Lubbock will find in Maeterlinck a formidable rival, and lovers of Nature and her denizens will find in the book a rich and rare treat. The article "Victor Emmanuel III, King of Italy" by Helen Zimmern is worthy of careful pursuit, for the man written of is one whom some people had grown to believe was a fool, but who in his high position in proving himself every inch a king. If he can associate with him in power men of his own stamp Italy will yet be a power among the nations. Space forbids mentioning the other articles that go to make the March number of this magazine of universal interest.

The April number of Table Talk has much in it that relates to Easter and its customs. Its illustrated dishes are timely, tempting and practical, with full instructions about their preparation. Table Talk is the exponent of good living and it is a valuable assistant to the housewife in that it helps her to solve the perplexing problems of house-keeping. Our readers can obtain a recent number free, on application to the Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Ladies' Home Journal for April is decidedly springlike. Several pages are devoted to the discussion of spring clothes and the little accessories of dress which mean almost more than the dress itself in the tout ensemble of a stylish woman. "The Princess Aline," that very charming story of Richard Harding Davis, appears as a two-act comedy. Several short stories and the last instalment of "The Successors of Mary the First" complete a very readable number of the Journal. The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.

The Contemporary Review for March discusses a large number of very interesting subjects. "The Situation in South Africa" gives the opinions of some one writing from Cape Town. W. T. Stead has an article on "The Crown and the Constitution," showing the power exercised by Queen Victoria in connection with the various ministers during her reign. Other noteworthy articles are the following: "The case of the British Army Officer," "The Outlook for the Church of England," and "Looting in China." Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

A number of bright, timely articles make interesting reading in the April Cosmopolitan. Prominent among them is one on "The Garden Spirit," and another on "Making Maple Sugar." The latter will recall to many readers pleasant reminiscences of parties formed to participate in the "sugaring off," and the frolics attending that important event. Both articles are beautifully illustrated. "Spring Days in Venice," with fine illustrations, gives a very realistic picture of this unique city in the Adriatic. To Canadians perhaps the article in this number that will excite most interest is "The British Aristocracy," by the late Grant Allen. The Cosmopolitan is certainly very readable.

The April number of the Missionary Review of the World is one of peculiar interest. The leading article is a tribute to the character of the late Queen and her influence on the Christian character of her people. Then follow papers on the Famine in India by Dr. R. A. Hume, depicting the results and outlining measures for its relief; Rev. Geo. Owen writes on the Foreigner in Cathay, discussing the all-engrossing Chinese question; and there are other papers, long and short which are not inferior in interest, including many interesting editorials and news items from all quarters of the globe. Funk & Wagnalls Company, 39 Lafayette Place. \$1.50 a year.

Current History begins its eleventh volume in the March number by enlarging its pages to regular magazine size and appearing in an entirely new and more attractive form. In its reading matter the reputation of this magazine for reliability is fully sustained, while its interest is increased by fuller discussion of important topics and greater variety of illustration. It still, however, faithfully serves its original purpose of a periodical summary of contemporary history, all-embracing in scope, free from offensive political or religious bias, conveniently arranged for reference purposes, full of suggestions as to other sources of information, abounding in useful maps and portraits, and forming a necessary supplement not only to all encyclopedias and other reference works, but even to the daily and weekly newspapers. Price \$1.50 a year; 15 cents a number. Three months' trial subscription, 25 cents. Boston: Current History Co.