

country with hobby patriotism, hobby medicine, hobby science, hobby religion, hobby morality, and hobby immorality. Dunces, who never before had but one thought in their heads, and that a foolish one, cling to that with the tenacity of instinct. To be sure, they are very candid gentlemen. Their constant cry is, "Examine before you condemn!" Ah! examine! But since the lamented decease of Methuselah, human existence has been unfortunately abridged, and human knowledge has been unfortunately enlarged, and it is truly the coolest piece of impudence imaginable to expect that a man will devote his little life to the task of examining and exploding humbugs, to end at fourscore in establishing a principle of evidence he should have taken on trust in his teens. It would seem better to ride a hobby of one's own, rather than to give one's whole attention to discover the value of the hobby of others; and still better, in order to save time, to submit to assessment. In our country, the hobby mongers are in the ascendant, and the right to mind one's own business must be purchased of these idle dunces, malignantly developed into voluble bores.—*E. P. Whipple.*

### How we Make Criminals.

It is a fact conceded, that notwithstanding the vast material progress we are making; notwithstanding our free institutions; notwithstanding our newspapers,—crime, instead of diminishing, grows more formidable continually. Why is this? We will endeavor to explain the apparent paradox. The solution is at once a warning and rebuke.

The great highway to crime is acknowledged to be intemperance. On this point, men of all parties, all sects, and all localities are agreed. Our lawyers concede it, our judges proclaim it, jailers attest it. Those who urge a prohibitory law, and those who regard it as unconstitutional, have no difference of opinion as to this fact. Directly or indirectly, intemperance is chargeable with three fourths of all the crimes committed. Where it does not lead immediately to violations of the law, it does remotely, by super-inducing poverty, or by brutalizing its victim. If it fails to make the drunkard himself an outlaw, it takes its revenge by educating his children for the jail or the gallows.

But others, besides the inebriate, share the guilt of intemperance. The grand jury has declared that there are five thousand grog-shops in Philadelphia, or an average of one to every hundred men, women and children in this great metropolis. This legion of taverns, beer-shops, and hotels acts as a direct bounty on drunkenness. With the extension of these resorts, as might have been expected, the number of commitments has advanced proportionably. A few years ago there was less than half the quantity of drinking saloons that there are now; and there are, at present, twice as many crimes as there were then. Yet these places exist either by direct sanction of the law or in consequence of a neglect to administer the law. In either case society is primarily to blame. We are all alike equally guilty in this matter. Every man who has a vote, every citizen who has influence, should exert it to reduce the number of these nuisances, if not entirely extirpate them. While they continue to lie in wait at every corner, intemperance will increase, poverty gain new victims, and the jail and gallows sicken on their hecatomb of human sacrifices.

That there should be a wide difference of opinion as to the best way of eradicating intemperance it is natural

to expect. While we ourselves hold that there can be no permanent reform which does not begin with the individual, and that laws to be lasting must be founded on the fixed convictions of the great body of the community, we are not prepared to condemn those who, in view of this tremendous evil, believe that penal statutes, in this one instance, may safely lead the public opinion. There may be some social sores of such magnitude that nothing but the cautery or the knife will effect a cure. Medicine for the blood may answer to less severe diseases, or may preserve the health of the patient after the excision; but intemperance may be so cancerous in its nature, that, without it is first utterly extirpated, there is no hope. One thing is certain, palliatives have not sufficed hitherto, but have only seemed to aggravate the crime. With all our enlightenment, we are, to speak out plainly, a very drunken people. Free trade in taverns, has crowded our almshouses, filled our prisons, and found constant victims for the gallows. Go around the question as we will, it comes back to what it was. Any law which will stay or cure the evil will be hailed by the public as a wise enactment. If the prohibitory law will do it, let us have the prohibitory law, and without any proviso requiring the vote of the people. If the experiment after a fair trial does not succeed, we can try something else.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

### A Sociable Bear.

The following curious circumstance, which is said to be true in every particular, is related in "Lloyd's Scandinavian Adventures."

"Two women, with four children, were tending their cattle at a shealing far from home. It was the duty of one of the women to tend the cattle in the forest, while the other occupied herself with household matters, and in looking after the children. It so happened, however, on the 23d of last September, that while one of the women, as usual, watched the cattle, the other absented herself for a short time on a visit to a neighbour, leaving the children altogether to themselves. She had not been long away before they perceived two large brown animals, which they took to be cows, on the outside of the fence, bordering the patch of pasture-ground contiguous to the hut. All children are curious, and indifferent of danger. Without consideration, therefore, they climbed over the fence, and made up to the creatures. When the animals became aware of the near approach of the children, the larger of the two compelled the smaller to lie down at the foot of a tall pine, and then crouched by its side as if to protect it from harm. Whereupon the least of the children—that of two years of age—without hesitation toddled directly up to the animals, and laid itself down likewise, with its head resting upon the belly of the larger one, humming at the same time some nursery song, as if reposing on its mother's lap! the other children remained the while the quiet spectators of the scene. When, however, the eldest had reflected a little, and had come to the conclusion that it was not a cow, but a bear, as was the fact, the child was toying with, she became sorely affrighted. Meanwhile the infant, who could not remain long in the same position, presently rose from its hairy couch, gathered some blue berries growing hard by, and gave them to his bedfellow the bear, who immediately ate them out of the babe's hand! the child next plucked a sprig from a neighbouring bush, and offered it to the bear, which bit it in two, allowing the child to retain one half."