

It seems also desirable that the hazards and penalties of a life of habitual crime, as contrasted with the casual commission of an offence, should be increased. This would be best accomplished by the introduction of the principle of accumulative sentences, that is, enacting that a frequent repetition of sentences, not in themselves serious, should be made an indictable offence and punished accordingly. At present there is a large class of persons who live for many years by crime, and are frequently summarily sentenced for short terms, but who for a long period, and sometimes for life, manage to escape conviction for any offence which would render them liable to penal servitude. Some of them have been as often as thirty or forty times in prison for a month or two, and it is precisely this class which furnishes the most hardened of our criminals. If a certain number of convictions for minor offences was made to constitute in itself a cause for long detention under reformatory discipline, those persons, whose present comparative immunity is a great temptation to others, would be effectually reached.

Our penal institutions in Canada are not numerous. In the Province of Ontario there are but two—the Kingston Penitentiary and the Central Prison of Toronto, while there is also a reformatory for boys at Penetanguishene. To the first named establishment all long-term prisoners are sentenced; in the Central Prison only those whose sentences do not exceed two years. The latter institution, which, being in our midst, most concerns us, is under the administration of the Provincial Legislature, and in the gift of that body there is no more important or responsible appointment—not that it is by any means an extra lucrative one—than that of warden.

Some three or four years ago we were favoured with a Central Prison investigation, organized more apparently on personal than on public grounds. After an exhaustive enquiry a voluminous report was made by the commissioners who sat on that enquiry, but yet that point advocated and recommended by them, and which formed the basis of the great success of the systems of Maconochie, Crofton, and Montesinos, namely, a remission of sentence for good behaviour, has never yet been carried into effect by the Government which has the charge of this establishment.

There is nothing which would more effectually stimulate the prisoner to zealously conform to the laws of the institution, and to seek the favour of those in control of it, than this same remission of sentence. It is admitted that much good has been done by the wise, just and humane system of the present warden; but it is not right that the success of such an institution should be due to the personal exertions of one who for the time being may hold the governing power, while there is a fear that the same results might not be effected in other hands.

In the administration of such an establishment, having the combined purposes of both punishment and reformation, there must be a complete sympathy and unity in working of the official staff. The appointment and dismissal of sub-officials should to a great extent be vested in the hands of the warden, instead of men being placed in such positions by political wire-pullers, whose qualifications by no means fit them for the positions they are intended to fill. A prisoner must be made to feel that the law is just and inflexible, and in every collision will prove stronger than he is; that nothing can be gained by resistance, but that submission is instantly met with kindness and willing co-operation.

In carrying out the enforcement of the punishment inflicted, the official staff is undoubtedly fulfilling the functions for which they are paid as public servants, but the encouragement of the prisoner to reformation, by all legitimate possible means, is also a duty they owe to the public. The complete and frank recognition of this principle involves no changes in the material arrangements of a prison, but it makes the whole difference in the manner in which those arrangements are carried out by all concerned in them, and in the moral agencies brought to bear on the prisoner. The offence of a criminal does not acquit society of all its duties towards him; it is assumed that the worst of traits in a convict do not prove him devoid of some good ones, for "a well-arranged adversity," as Capt. Maconochie used to call it, is oftentimes the first requisite towards improvement. In the oft-quoted words of our poet-laureate—

I hold it truth with him who sings
To one clear harp with divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves, to nobler things.

Yet St. Augustine, who first "held that true," must be numbered among those who exhibit the misery of an ill-chosen or wicked commencement, and the power of man in again and again commencing life anew, and building upon the stepping-stone of a dead life a fresh, better and purer existence.

Let us for a moment contemplate the surroundings of a discharged prisoner from our own city prison. If from a distant part of the province, Government provides him with a pass to his home, and he is placed on the train by a prison official. Possibly he may not wish to return to the place which witnessed his fall, or if this be his second term of imprisonment, Government refuses to accommodate such with the means of transportation. We have thus placed in our midst paupers of the worst kind, without homes, without money, and without character. Is it surprising that many thus friendless and hopeless should fall into bad associations and again return to their evil ways? We have a so-called Prisoners' Aid Association, but it is poorly organized and arranged on no consistent system,

and it rarely seems to reach or seek out those for whose improvement it was organized.

Whilst in prison an ample assortment of instructive and well-selected books should be at the disposal of the inmates; night-schools, with a staff of efficient and qualified assistants, should be provided; and with the united efforts of the officers of the establishment it may be hoped that the desire for reformation and a new life may be inculcated in the heart of the prisoner. But all efforts to "put off the old man" will in the most cases prove futile unless the good work of John Howard in prisons be followed up by the generous and liberal-minded in helping the discharged prisoner to obtain an honest livelihood, when out of prison.

F. S. MORRIS.

DEDICATORY.

LANDWARD the soft and pure lake breezes blow
Across a silver-sailed whitening tide
Of bright blue waters bearing to the land
Niagara's foam, Superior's agate sand.
They blow upon a city throned low,
But strong, immutable, conscious in her pride
That here, firm loyalty to law, fair truth and peace abide.

With chestnut bloom her streets in Spring are gay,
For coronal she wears in Autumn hours
The scarlet jewels of the mountain ash,
The ruddy gems that mark the maple's flash,
And flood the darkling world with hues of day;
She floats not one flag only from her towers,
Beside her blood-bought banners wave the flags of many powers.

For not the home of Englishmen alone
Shall be this mighty city. Unto her
All men, all nations yet shall bow the knee,
Grow rich and wise, and strong in equity,
Taste no Lethean lotos, make no moan
For past or present, raise without demur
A purer Athens, gentler Rome, where sages shall confer.

And fair among her monuments shall stand,
Though all else change, her Alma Mater dear,
The sculptured porch, the light of ruby glass,
The pillared cloisters set in emerald grass,
Were almost fitter for some older land,
But that they're her's, and being her's are here.
And she will not disparage them, although they rise so near.

From that gray tower a vision wide is spread
Of happy town and country lying fair,
A flush with orchards, merry with gay farms,
Peopled with honest hearts and lusty arms.
Where Rouille stood a column lifts its head,—
Go! wondering thousands, view it and compare
Your teeming city with the Fort that once stood lonely there.

SERANUS.

[The above poem originally appeared in "Our Land Illustrated," and is now reprinted in these columns on account of the references contained in lines italicized to our beautiful but ill-fated University.—Ed.]

PARIS LETTER.

THE Chamber of Deputies has arrived at a most important decision, and which has next to passed unperceived. It has agreed to nominate a monster commission of fifty-five members to revise the customs tariffs to meet the new international economical situation that will be created for France in February, 1892, when the last of her commercial treaties shall have lapsed by the effluxion of time. The composition of that commission will represent, not only the ideas of the House, but also those of the country. Now those ideas are decidedly protectionist. Free traders in France are at present merely viewed as mere archaeological curios. France is as profoundly protectionist as are the United States, Germany and Victoria. Formerly the leader of the protectionists was M. Quertier, who negotiated with Prince Bismarck the commercial clauses of the Frankfort Treaty of May, 1871. At present M. Meline, ex-Speaker of the Chamber, is the protectionists' man of light and leading. He is not an extremist, possesses mild, inoffensive and conciliating manners; he is the founder of the Order of Agricultural Merit, is the confidential adviser of President Carnot, and has all the odds in his favour to be the next Premier. France will frame a general tariff, which from 1892 will be applied with Prorustean uniformity to every country that does not execute with her a special treaty on *quid pro quo* lines. Germany alone inherits the right to the most favoured nation clause.

Naval officer, M. Leroi, in his book just published—"Armements Maritimes en Europe"—draws attention to the draw-backs of the French navy while comparing it with the navies of other countries. Now that bloated navies are as important for *pax perpetua* as bloated armies, the volume will repay careful perusal, and should be in the library of every Lord of the Admiralty, or every General Secretary of the navy. It is full of good sense, has no abstract doctrines, indulges in no arm-chair sea fights. M. Leroi denies that the French navy is in the inferior condition that some pessimistic patriots assert. At the same time the writer does not hesitate to expose all that is defective in the organization of the French navy. He asserts that none of the great Powers has relinquished ironclads.

The author insists on France keeping up a numerous squadron in the Mediterranean to be easily re-inforced in time of war; to adopt the English and German plan of having ships in apple-pie order by a small number of hands forming *cadres*, to be filled in when war would be declared. In time of peace have ships ready armed, but in charge of skeleton crews. He declares that it is a waste of force for France to maintain foreign naval stations; the ships sent there are old wooden hulls. Supersede them by flying squadrons. But France has no serious coal depots abroad, nor any docks to shelter or to repair ships. In her unlimited supplies of easily extracted coal and iron, England, M. Leroi admits, has an immense advantage over France. He also points out that English war ships do not employ as many hands as do other navies, because machinery largely supersedes manual labour. England thus can economize twenty-five per cent. in hands as compared with France. He calls upon the Government to put an end to the system which makes admirals discharge also the functions of diplomatists—about the last office they are fit for. An admiral should simply be viewed as a fighting animal, occupied with cannon, shells and his men, and not a *burabiste* editing despatches and drafting protocols.

The Anglo-Portuguese conflict-fever is cooling down. It was too violent to last long. England not a little contributed to the subsidence. She kept cool in presence of the not unnatural petulance of the Portuguese at being compelled to cave in. As at Lisbon, so at Oporto, Demos drunk has appealed to Demos sober. No Latin nation came to the rescue of Portugal—save with newspaper articles. But smooth words do not butter parsnips. The boycotting vapourings were certain to prove only gas. French commercial travellers rushed to Lisbon, etc., to solicit orders from the anti-English purchasers, but the difference in the prices acted like a douche, and the cracking up of the Portuguese by the French press was not tantamount to the difference in quotations. The truth of the matter is this, and I have learned it from letters shown me, written by a few cool-headed Lisbon citizens, the Portuguese were kept in Egyptian darkness by their late Government, who speculated in carrying the elections by having a twist at the tail of the British lion. The blowing-the-coolers exploited the contrast of the big punishing the little boy; of the strong squeezing the weak. But since the French traveller, Captain Trivier, related, from Major Pinto's own recital, how the major with his gatling guns and magazine rifles astonished the natives, mowing down 170 of Mloul's men like corn in harvest before the reaper, the contrast of the picture proved fatal to sympathy with Portugal. The Pinto gatlings worked marvels in Makololand, as did the French chassapots at Mentana.

The system of profit-sharing is making satisfactory strides in France. They are not the large fabricants who are in a hurry to recognize this safest of labour solutions, but the small master-workmen; those who carry on their trades in their own apartments assisted by some hands. A little self-abnegation all round; steady and business habits, economic attention regarding the employment of machines and materials, such constitute the secret of success. I have spoken with a few *patrons* who have thus gone hand-in-hand with their employees; they are delighted with the change; they make more money, and are able to take orders at lower but not cutting out prices. Every six months a dividend is made of profits over and above a fixed weekly salary. The secret of success in profit-sharing is to commence modestly and progress slowly. Two or three of the small profit-sharing establishments unite to start a store with which they exclusively deal, appointing a manager at a fixed salary with a share in net gains. It is also a rule in these co-operative houses to have their accounts inspected once a month by a chartered accountant in no way interested in the concerns.

The department of the Var is one of the most important divisions of ancient Provence. Its capital is Toulon. M. Baudrillart has been examining into the causes of the decrease in the agricultural population; these he traces to a growing distaste for rural occupations and a desire to emigrate to cities, as Marseilles, Toulon, etc. Emigration is for nothing in the depopulation of the department, as not thirty inhabitants quit the region annually for foreign parts. M. Baudrillart adds that the progress of irreligion and the subdivision of property by the law of primogeniture are among the most potent factors in the dwindling away of the population. The Code contains an organic clause, that the father of every seven living children lawfully begotten shall be exempted from the payment of national taxes. The Minister of Finance fiat that law, but adds, the Treasury must be recouped in the premiums thus allowed out of the local taxation where the prolific boughs reside. The communes refuse to be saddled with a burden incurred in the general interest of the country, so fathers who have graduated for seed of Abraham honours will receive nothing, and loudly lament they cannot undo what they have done.

The Gouffé murder is monopolizing all attention. It puts the most sensational drama into the shade. At present one can see pretty clearly into the deed. It was perpetrated on the 26th of July last by a Michel Engaud and a woman, the most cunning of demons, Gabrielle Bompard. In want of money they looked about for a victim whose murder would pay them. The bailiff Gouffé was selected: he was wealthy, had a weakness for the sex, and a passion for Bompard. The latter and Engaud went to London and returned with a large trunk in which to box up the victim. On the 26th of July, Gabrielle in-