

called forth the most indignant protests from all sections of the press. The committee reported that in many of the best court-houses of England, nearly every requisite of humanity and common decency was wanting. It went on to state that the very worst evils of promiscuous association must be encountered for hours and even days by men, women and children, huddled together in dark, damp, cold rooms, deficient in ventilation. And even when put into separate apartments, the cells were like cupboards, less than a yard square, and in many of them no seats at all. Many of these places were the scenes of most horrible indecencies. In such places, under such conditions often for days, children, young women, many of them virtuous and innocent, have been crowded together with thieves, prostitutes, and all manner of vile characters. Even here in Montreal we are not free from this evil. Some time ago a detective arrested a young fellow, and he made this remark to me in reference to his prisoner: "I hate to send him down there among those fellows, he is young and will get contaminated." In more than one instance, in our own city, innocent people have been arrested, and unceremoniously hustled off to jail, and if bail could not be procured, they have had to spend some time in quarters, and among associates, that have drawn from them deepest indignation. Yes, too often the vile associations in the court-house cells and waiting rooms, and on the way to and from the place of trial, have contaminated, and injured, young men and women, and made criminals of our boys and girls. In the same connection we might mention that often the prisoner is arrested and taken away in a non cellular van, exposed to the gaze of every one. To an innocent person, what can be so humiliating and mortifying, as to be carried off to jail, exposed to the gaze of the whole street. And even to the real criminal, what can be more hardening and debasing, than to be thus pilloried before the public eye. Now it seems to me that in order to do justice to our supposed criminals, closed vans should always be used to convey the arrested one to the prison, the rooms where they are to be detained should be comfortable and home-like, the place of trial should be in the same building, and the prisoner