

BAD READING.

The *Christian Weekly* repeats a lesson often enforced by the untoward incidents of the time:

Parents who are too negligent to supervise the reading of their boys are learning too late that "Police Gazettes" are not healthy literature for their ardent, craving natures. The community and its tax payers find that news-stands, unless regulated, may prove a costly plague and curse. A thunderbolt last week startled the good people of Burlington, N. J., who for some months had been disturbed by an outbreak of crime that was mysterious and inexplicable. Daring robberies which the police could not unravel, awakened general distrust. A street fight between two boys, ending in the stabbing of one, revealed the secret. About twenty young boys from nine to thirteen years of age, sons of well-to-do and wealthy parents, had formed a "mysterious brotherhood" patterned after a society described in their New York story-paper. They had initiations and passwords, and a law that any one who divulged the secrets should be hanged! Their "king" planned all the robberies, and their meetings were held in an old barn. Jealousy and insubordination led to the forming of a rival band and the confession by which a number were arrested and the leaders sent to the State Reform School. Long lists of places to be robbed were found in their possession, as well as a complete set of burglars' tools. And yet the New York story-papers go on unchecked, and the dime-novels glorifying the career of criminals are published, and parents permit their boys to buy and read, and are amazed when this evil seed brings forth its legitimate fruit. The army of criminals is being largely recruited from the youth of the land, and the most active and persevering recruiting agents are the publishers and vendors of the corrupting juvenile literature.

It was recently stated by a clergyman in a public meeting in London that he had met with an infidel not long before who told him that "he wished all the churches were swept from the land, beginning with Spurgeon's." "Then which of you infidels will be the first to take upon himself the responsibility of Mr. Spurgeon's Orphanage?" was the clergyman's reply. He got no answer.

THE JEWS.

It is about one hundred years since the Hebrews began to be relieved from the oppression of centuries. In 1783 Joseph II., of Austria, in an edict of toleration, freed them from many vexatious restrictions. In 1784 Louis XVI., of France, abolished the tax on the Jew, which was specially designed to degrade him. In 1787 Emperor Frederick William, of Prussia, repealed many oppressive laws. In 1805 Alexander I., of Russia, revoked the edict by which the Jews had been excluded from the empire. In 1806 the Jews were made citizens in Italy; in 1813 they were granted civil liberty in Prussia and Denmark, and it was not until 1853 that in England they were made eligible to election to Parliament. At the present time in Russia and Roumania there is persecution, but in most countries there is complete toleration.

The number of Jews in the world it is difficult to determine. The census of the United States taken in 1880 did not enumerate them, and there is no society and no bond of union among the Jews which gives either the ability or the disposition to ascertain the facts. There are, perhaps, eight millions in the world, yet this may vary a million on either side. It is probable there are 100,000 in New York and 500,000 in the United States. In Europe the last census taken shows that there are in Austria-Hungary, 1,643,000; Belgium, 3,000; Denmark, 4,500; France, 53,436; Germany, 561,612; Great Britain, 70,000, of whom 40,000 are in London; Italy, 62,000; Netherlands, 81,693; Roumania, 400,000; Russia, 3,000,000; Servia, 4,000; Spain, 4,021; Portugal, 1,000; Sweden, 2,993; Switzerland, 2,373; Eastern Rumania, 6,993. In Africa they are found in considerable numbers in the countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, and in Abyssinia the Falashas are frequently called Jews. There are also settlements of them in nearly every country of the world.—*Sel.*

The costliest thing in this world is sin. It costs purity of conscience, peace of mind and the favor of God; at the last it will cost the loss of heaven. The single sin of grieving away the Divine Spirit when he was striving with his love has cost myriads their everlasting perdition.—*T. L. Cuyler.*