

## Flotsam and Local Items.

The following may be a valuable suggestion to Police Magistrates who desire, like His Worship of the metropolitan City of Toronto, to get through their work without unnecessary delay. We have yet to learn that the gallant Colonel who presides at Toronto has as yet got things down quite as fine as a Police Magistrate of San Francisco, who, as we are told in the *American Law Review*, deals out judgment to malefactors in such doses as the following: "Five and Five!" meaning five dollars fine, and five days in the workhouse. The writer also speaks of the record of sentence in the case of a girl who had been arrested on the charge of vagrancy. The Police Magistrate after making enquiries as to her antecedents and parentage, and receiving her promise that she would stay with her parents and behave herself properly, released her on good behaviour, and ordered the clerk to note his finding accordingly, whereupon the clerk in loud tones roared out for the edification of the Court, "G. B.—Next case."

THE appalling extent to which the crime of homicide prevails in the United States is well exhibited by the investigations of the *Chicago Times-Herald*, which has recently compiled a table shewing the average number of murders committed in the several States of the Union during the last decade. It is as follows:

South Carolina . . . 221	Georgia . . . . . 381	Florida . . . . . 157
Ohio . . . . . 332	Indiana . . . . . 228	Illinois . . . . . 315
Michigan . . . . . 205	Wisconsin . . . . . 154	Iowa . . . . . 202
Missouri . . . . . 362	North Dakota . . . . 29	South Dakota . . . . 45
Nebraska . . . . . 168	Kansas . . . . . 235	Maine . . . . . 18
New Hampshire . . . . 9	Vermont . . . . . 6	Massachusetts . . . . 96
Rhode Island . . . . 52	Connecticut . . . . . 73	New York . . . . . 512
New Jersey . . . . . 120	Pennsylvania . . . . . 312	Delaware . . . . . 48
Maryland . . . . . 280	Dist. of Columbia . . 24	Virginia . . . . . 305
West Virginia . . . . 87	North Carolina . . . . 285	Kentucky . . . . . 398
Tennessee . . . . . 408	Alabama . . . . . 461	Mississippi . . . . . 317
Louisiana . . . . . 358	Texas . . . . . 1,021	Arkansas . . . . . 305
Montana . . . . . 90	Wyoming . . . . . 22	Colorado . . . . . 252
New Mexico . . . . . 58	Arizona . . . . . 43	Utah . . . . . 57
Nevada . . . . . 39	Idaho . . . . . 27	Washington . . . . . 102
Oregon . . . . . 79	California . . . . . 422	

That New York, with its population of approximately seven millions, should be second in the list is not surprising, but that so sparsely a settled State as Texas should shew nearly twice the number of homicides that the Empire State has had during the past decade is an eloquent proof of the insecurity of human life in the Lone Star State.—*Albany Law Journal*.

It does not appear whether the above is intended to include what are known in this country as cases of manslaughter. In Canada there were during the last decade 217 persons charged with murder and 72 of them convicted.