

the court room with frequenters, not always, we believe, exclusively of the male sex, whose prurient curiosity it should be the last business of a court of justice to indulge, more especially when the indulgence is at the expense of the native modesty of the witnesses. A recent instance, in which a young girl incurred the penalty of imprisonment for contempt of court rather than be submitted to such an ordeal, is more eloquent than words in support of a change of practice in such cases. The Police Magistrate, we understand, has and uses the power of hearing such evidence *in camera*. If other justices have not the same discretionary power, it should be given them, subject to any limitations which may be deemed necessary to prevent any possibility of abuse.

#### Heavy Penal Sentences.

The series of heavy sentences passed at the recent Toronto Assizes must have greatly shocked the confirmed criminals. It appears that light sentences had become a kind of rule with the genial Police Magistrate, and the Crown Attorney, taking advantage of a provision in the new criminal code, sent several cases to be tried by juries. Judges Street, Falconbridge, and McMahon have responded by consigning to the Penitentiary for long terms some offenders who would probably have been sentenced each to a few weeks in jail or a few months in the Central Prison. Judge McMahon, in answer to some favourable comments in the Grand Jury's presentment on long terms for habitual offenders, defends the severe sentences on the ground that they are better alike for the community, for the convicts themselves, and for the administration of criminal justice. This is equivalent to a notice to these sneak thieves and pickpockets to stay away from Toronto, and if they are similarly dealt with elsewhere the whole country will experience a sense of relief. It should not take long to capture all the professionals who do not escape to the United States, and when caught they should be imprisoned for life. The unvarying testimony of prison managers is that it is almost hopeless to try to reclaim a sneak thief, and that whatever chance there may be of improvement depends on long terms of imprisonment with hard labour.

#### Toronto University and the People.

On Saturday afternoon Professor Keys, of Toronto University, gave, in the Student's Union Hall, for the benefit of citizens as well as students, a very interesting and instructive lecture on "Matthew Arnold." On the same evening Messrs. Alfred Jury and Phillips Thompson read papers on the Labour Question and Socialism, respectively, before a considerable gathering of students and others at Forum Hall. Both these meetings seem to us to represent wise methods and to illustrate hopeful tendencies. In the one case the University goes out to meet the people, and to give those who choose to use it an opportunity to profit to some extent by the study and research which are the special work and duty of the learned professors. In the other case, the students, or a large number of them, engaged in the study of questions intensely practical in their bearings, which are yet questions of the higher philosophy, in the best sense of the word, go from the more theoretical and scholarly dissertations of the class-room, to compare notes with the reasonings and conclusions of men who are every day in close contact with the people, and subject to the conditions which lie at the foundation of every philosophical system worthy of the name which touches these questions. In passing we may say that it is gratifying to learn that not only was no effort made by the University Council to prevent the members of the Political Science Club from hearing the speakers above named, but that they never had a thought of throwing any obstacle in

the way of their so doing. This is as it should be. The nearer the University can come to the people and the people to the University, the better for all concerned. At the same time we are persuaded that the very best way to counteract any danger to organized society that may be threatened from the violence of masses of men, exasperated by a sense of real or fancied injustice in the distribution of property and the good things of life which it procures, is for all classes of thinkers to meet and discuss freely the perplexing facts and problems involved.

#### State and Voluntary Universities.

Discussing the alleged action of the authorities of the University of Toronto, we said, on January 11th: "The position of the University as a State institution gives the press the right to criticise its action." Quoting this sentence last week, "Canadensis" asks: "Does this imply that the press has not the right to criticise the action of all universities, or that a university is not a State institution unless it has received a part or the whole of its endowment from the State? If THE WEEK implies one or the other, or both of these positions, I take issue with it; if not, what does the sentence mean?" In reply to these questions we may say that the sentence means just what it says. It does not express any opinion as to the rights of the public press in the case of universities which are not State institutions. It had no occasion to do so. We grant that it does imply that there are universities which are not State institutions in the sense in which we used the word, which is, we venture to maintain, its ordinary and generally accepted sense. But it does not imply that the receipt or non-receipt of a part or the whole of its endowment from the State is the one and only thing which differentiates the one class of institutions from the other. It was no part of the writer's purpose to explain what does constitute the distinction. Otherwise, it would have been deemed sufficient to accept as the broad points of distinction between the two (1) that the State university is made such by State ownership and control, and (2) that no university which is not owned and controlled by the State can properly be regarded as a State institution.

#### Prof. Cayley's Death.

Prof. Cayley, of Cambridge University, whose death has just been announced, was a very distinguished pure mathematician, his favourite subject being algebra. He gave much time and labour to the study of quintic equations, and always took a deep interest in the work done by others in the same department of science. He very eagerly welcomed the discoveries of the late Prof. George Paxton Young of this city, and also those of Mr. J. C. Glashan of Ottawa, both of whom have made important contributions to algebra. Prof. Cayley was President of the British Association for the year of its meeting in Montreal, and great disappointment was felt at his inability to be present. The social duties which would have developed on him were admirably discharged by the Vice-President, Sir William Thompson, and by Prof. Cayley's successor in the Presidency, Lord Rayleigh.

#### Death of Chief Ardagh.

The death of Chief Ardagh, in consequence of injuries received at the *Globe* fire, is the latest sad outcome of the recent conflagrations. Of the deceased chief personally it may be said that he bravely met death in the path of duty, and is as well entitled to the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, and to such honours as they can bestow, as the soldier who dies in defence of his country. It is to be hoped that the public gratitude and appreciation may be freely manifested in whatever prac-