

Crime and the Price of Bread.

They eat the bread of wickedness.—
Proverbs iv. 17.

CRIME increases when the price of bread goes up, is the conclusion reached by Professor Brentano, the well-known Berlin specialist on sociology. He has just published statistical comparisons between the price of grain used for bread and the number of thefts per 100,000 of population in Bavaria, and the result shown is, that on the average since 1835, for every penny of

increase in the price of grain there has been a corresponding increase of one in the number of thefts. When the price of bread goes down, the thefts are diminished in proportion. Here are the figures from 1882 to 1891 :

Year.	Thefts per 100,000 of pop.	Grain. Pennies per kilo.
1882.....	535	152.8
1883.....	518	144.7
1884.....	509	143.3
1885.....	486	140.6
1886.....	480	130.6
1887.....	470	120.9
1888.....	459	134.5
1889.....	434	153.5
1890.....	494	170.0
1891.....	511	211.2

SERMONIC CRITICISM.**Prizes.**

WE desire to secure the help of our clerical readers in improving our department, "Hints at the Meaning of Texts." We propose the following :

For the best "Hints" of each of the following classes of sermons—(1) Revival—(2) Funeral—(3) Communion—(4) Children—(5) Miscellaneous—to be sent us before February 1, the publishers of this REVIEW will forward to the author \$15 worth of such of their publications as he may select. For the second best "Hints" of each of these classes, they offer a second prize of \$10, payable in same manner as the first prize. This makes in all five prizes of \$15 each, and five prizes of \$10 each.

The conditions of competition will be as follows :

- (1) The competitors must be subscribers for THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.
- (2) The "Hints" must be original.
- (3) They must contain not less than 50 words, nor more than 200.
- (4) Each must have its theme concisely stated.
- (5) A pseudonym must be signed to each brief, and the real name and pseudonym must be sent in an accompanying sealed envelope, which is not to be opened by the editors until the final award is made.

(6) The brief may be sent at any time before February 1.

(7) The brief must either be written in handwriting easily read, or be typewritten.

(8) Of course, any clergyman or theological student may send as many briefs as he chooses.

The method of award will be as follows :

(1) The editors of THE HOMILETIC REVIEW will print, from month to month, those briefs which they may deem worthy of publication in the "Hints" department, with the pseudonym, and also a star (*) to indicate that they are printed as competing for a prize.

(2) After all the selected briefs are published, a vote of our clerical subscribers will be requested as to the best brief of each of the five classes, and as to the one next in order of merit in each class.

(3) This vote is to be final.

Shot-Gun Preaching.

In our boyhood we made our first trial in "shooting at a mark," with an old-fashioned shot-gun which had been used by a soldier in the war of 1812-14. The mark was placed near the center of one side of a good-sized barn. After the discharge, on looking for the exe-