

and that henceforth the converted missionary is desirous of labouring in the field where he now is. In direct reply to the resolutions sent them by the Foreign Mission Committee, Dr. Mackay and Mr. Jamieson state that, in their opinion, it would be best for the work in Formosa that the last-named should be permitted to continue. It is stated that this also is the desire of the native ministers.

This much is clear, that whatever want of harmony there may have been among the brethren in Formosa, they are now on their own testimony reconciled. Dr. Mackay is anxious that past misunderstandings and previous want of sympathy may be buried beyond recall. So far as the correspondence now published goes there is cordial unanimity, and certainly this unanimity strongly urged pertains to the request for the continuance of Mr. Jamieson's labours in Formosa. To this request the Foreign Mission Committee have given a reply in the negative. Whether this decision is right and wise there will be differences of opinion. The statement of the secretary is to the effect that "after a lengthened discussion it was resolved on a division to recall Mr. Jamieson." There is no doubt whatever that the matter pressed for settlement, and neither is there any doubt that each member of the Foreign Mission Committee who took part in the deliberation and cast a decisive vote, did so under a deep sense of responsibility. Perhaps the decision arrived at is the right one, but of this every one who takes an interest in the Formosa Mission cannot be certain. That much can be said on both sides is very evident, and in view especially of what the latest letters from the missionaries disclose and Dr. Mackay's pointed request for Mr. Jamieson's continuance, final decision might have been deferred till the meeting of the General Assembly, and its ultimate finding, though it might be precisely the same as that now reached by the Committee, would be more readily acquiesced in by the whole Church than is likely to be the case at present. It is not for a moment hinted that the Foreign Mission Committee have gone beyond their province in formulating the decision they have reached. This they had the fullest right to do, and no doubt they were deeply impressed with the sense of responsibility resting upon them to bring the matter to an issue as speedily as possible, and this in the best interests of all concerned, and having a regard to the effective prosecution of the work of the Gospel in Formosa. The conclusion arrived at may be the best solution of the difficulties that for some time have been occasioning great anxiety, but no interest could have seriously suffered by the comparatively short delay that would intervene between now and the meeting of the General Assembly, when the onerous responsibilities of the Committee would have been shared by the Church's representatives from all parts of the Dominion, and whose decisions carry a degree of weight with them that no Committee, however wise and influential, can command.

THE TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS.

THE problem with which people are wrestling is how to diminish crime by making punishment effective and at the same time humane. Opinion seems to vacillate between vigorous and vindictive methods on the one hand and gushing sentimentality on the other. The harsh and brutal treatment of criminals common a century ago would not now be tolerated in any civilized country, yet from overcrowding where prison accommodation is totally inadequate, is caused an amount of needless suffering that when it becomes known is anything but creditable to the Governments that permit such abuses to continue. The revelations made by George Kennan as the result of his investigations in Russia have brought out in clear relief the agonies endured by political prisoners who are compelled to herd with the worst class of criminals. Something depends on the class of prison officials. If humane and considerate men are in charge there will be no unnecessary suffering inflicted on offenders beyond what is inevitable. But cruel and heartless subordinates have it in their power to add much to the sufferings of the prisoners under their control. The easiest and least intelligent kind of management is in the exercise of brute force. The impression of some is that a degraded and criminal class can only be restrained by fear, and they think it the most effective weapon to use. The same idea as to the management of the insane was at one time widely prevalent, and the sufferings endured by unfortunates bereft of reason was painful in the extreme. Happily for these, other ideas are now in the ascendant, and the methods employed for the amelioration of the condition of the insane are more in accord with Christian sentiment. There is no valid reason why criminals should be subjected to wanton cruelty while detained in prison for their offences. There are other motives and feelings,

even in the breast of an obdurate criminal, than fear, and well directed appeals to his better nature will not be found to be so visionary as some are disposed to imagine. Here, as elsewhere, there is room for patience having her perfect work.

While there is a tendency in some quarters to treat prisoners with undue severity and harshness there is also an inclination to regard them as heroes and special social pets. The more notorious and revolting a crime has been, its perpetrator, the justice of whose conviction has been placed beyond all reasonable doubt, has been lionized and made the recipient of the most delicate attentions that sentimental womanhood could possibly devise. The effect of such silly exhibitions of extravagant sensibility has only been and can only be injurious to all concerned. In the minds of these fair ministrants to criminal prodigies there is a painful confusion of correct moral distinctions. There may be extenuating circumstances, and these should have their due weight, but the glorification of crime in the person of a highly interesting criminal is not a thing to be encouraged in any well ordered community. In the criminal underworld there are always individuals, who cannot regard the frequent visits of fair damsels having dainty presents to notorious criminals other than as pleasing rewards for distinction in crime. Between cruel treatment and sentimental coddling of rascals there is a golden mean accordant with reason, common sense and humanity.

Of late the treatment of criminals in Canada has been receiving considerable attention, and it is evident there is urgent need for reform. Is all being done that might be done to lessen recruitment to the criminal ranks? There are influences constantly present that expose many children to the danger of lapsing into crime. The children of drunken and dissolute parents have few safeguards thrown around them, and their condition is perilous. The street is not a good school for the training of the young, and it is not wonderful that those in a position to know tell us that news-boys and girls have acquired precocious lessons in crime on the streets of large cities. Efforts have been made to look after and care for this particularly exposed portion of the youthful population, and it looks as if some better supervision would ere long be exercised over them. It is an old and familiar saying that prevention is better than cure and in this case it is peculiarly applicable.

Prisons should have a deterrent influence on the criminally inclined, but it is doubtful if under existing conditions this is really the case. A man's need must be extreme when he voluntarily desires seclusion and shelter for the winter within the walls of a jail, yet such is occasionally the case. Here in Canada at the present time, men are suspected of committing petty offences in the hope that they themselves will be committed to prison for the winter. In addition to being made asylums for the indigent our prisons are made places of detention for those afflicted with insanity.

There is a perversion of the purpose for which prisons are established. Their resources are unequal for the work which properly pertains to them. What is condemned on all hands is the indiscriminate overcrowding of the corridors by neophytes in crime and the hardened wretches who have grown old in wickedness. This should not be suffered to continue. The prison, instead of becoming a deterrent, is virtually a seminary of crime where experts indoctrinate the juveniles in all the dark and devious ways that lead to wasted and ruined lives. In an excellent paper by Dr. Rosebrugh, read before the Canadian Institute, the following recommendations are made:

- (1) County gaols should be maintained only as places of detention for persons charged with offences and awaiting trial, and should not be used for prisoners after trial and conviction.
- (2) County gaols should be conducted strictly on the separate or cellular system.
- (3) Persons convicted of crime should not be detained in county gaols, but should be dealt with according to the age and natural propensities of the criminal.
- (4) A boy under fourteen years of age, not previously vicious, should be restored to his parents upon their giving a guarantee of his future good conduct. Failing in this, he should be sent to an Industrial school.
- (5) A boy under fourteen years of age, having a natural tendency towards crime, or being convicted of a second offence, should be sent either to a reformatory direct, or to an Industrial school on trial, according to the circumstances, and a special court should be organized to deal with these cases as well as with females charged with light offences.
- (6) Industrial schools and reformatories should not be considered as places for punishment, but should be utilized wholly for the reformation of character. The young persons sent to these institutions should not be committed for any definite period, but they should be detained until reformation is attained irrespective of the time required. The officers of these institutions should be carefully selected preferably by a system of examination and promotion, and without reference to party or social influence.
- (7) As industrial employment is a necessary step towards reformation, and as this cannot be supplied by the county gaols, the necessity arises for prisons or reformatories of ample dimensions where such employment can be provided and

where other influences of reformatory character may be utilized.

(8) The expense and maintenance of such persons in such institutions should be borne by the county from which they are sent, when such expense exceeds the proceeds of the industrial labour of the person so sent.

(9) Tramps and habitual drunkards should be sent to an institution where they can be provided with productive industrial employment and where they can be brought under reformatory influences, and they should be detained in said institutions not less than three months. Incurables should be sentenced to penitentiary for life. They should be considered as having forfeited all right to regain their liberty unless reformation takes place.

(10) In order to meet the requirements of the case, there should be sufficient prison accommodation in Ontario to relieve the county gaols of all persons undergoing sentence. This accommodation should be provided either by enlarging the Central Prison, or by erecting two additional prisons, one in the east and one in the west. There should be unification in our prison system. The prisons should be graded and the reformatory principle in its most improved form, and after the best models, should be incorporated with such prison system.

(11) The question of prison labour should be removed from the arena of party politics, and members of labour organizations should look at this question from a patriotic, rather than from a trades or selfish standpoint.

Books and Magazines.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL. (Kingston.) The literary emanation from Queen's is bright and attractive as ever, and contains several notable communications, not the least valuable being Professor Carmichael's lecture on "The Gael."

PIARISISM. A sermon preached in Chalmers' Church, Quebec. By the Rev. Thomas Macadam, Strathroy. (Quebec: J. T. Moore.) This thoughtful discourse was published by request of those to whom it was addressed in the ancient capital. It is evident that they appreciate a good sermon when they hear one. Mr. Macadam has treated an important, practical subject in an earnest and impressive manner, and deduces the lessons it is well fitted to teach the present generation. The literary merits of the discourse also deserve recognition.

KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY. (Toronto: D. T. McAlinsh.) The February number of *Knox College Monthly* has a goodly array of attractive and profitable reading. Rev. R. P. McKay, of Parkdale, discusses "Spiritualism," Dr. Thompson, Sarnia, writes on "The Catholicity of Scripture." William Neilly describes "Mission Work in the Far West," and John Knox Wright has something interesting to say about "Couva." The Rev. John Neil pays a fine tribute to the memory of the late Rev. John Gibson, B.D., whose devoted service in the mission field was recently terminated by his death.

THOUGH this is midwinter and it is not always easy at first sight to discriminate between a garden and a plowed field, there are nevertheless pleasing reminders that spring and summer are on the way. Among these harbingers of spring must be reckoned the seed catalogues that blossom out so luxuriantly at this season. Steele Brothers, Toronto, are out in good time with an extensive and attractive CATALOGUE FOR 1889. The large and enterprising establishment of D. M. Ferry & Co. of Windsor and Detroit has issued their handsome SEED ANNUAL. F. W. Wilson of Chatham, Ont. has forwarded us his ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, raised in his nurseries.

THE THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY. (Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—The second issue of this most promising monthly amply justifies the expectations awakened by the first, as the following list of contents and writers will show: "The Dollinger-Reusch History of the Intestine Conflict on Morals in the Church of Rome," by William Arthur; "What is a Miracle, and the Proofs of it?" by Prebendary Reynolds; "Schools of Chinese Writers," by Joseph Edkins, D.D.; "The Signs of the Times," by Canon Fausset, D.D.; "Belief and Conduct," by Gregory Smith; "Cremation and the Clergy," by Sir T. Spencer Wells, Bart; "Palestine Life—The Clapping of Hands," by James Neil, and the usual synopsis of Current Literature.

GENTLEMAN DICK O' THE GREYS; and other Poems. By Hereward K. Cockin. (Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.) The short poem with which this handsomely got-up little volume opens is a fine example of concentrated stirring and dramatic power. The other poems range over a great variety of subject and are treated in diverse styles, yet most effectively. There is touching pathos and twinkling humour in many of the pieces. Some of them are unconventional but never devoid of exquisitely good taste and rich kindly feeling. The volume as a whole attests the fact that a fresh, vigorous and healthy poet has made his mark in Canadian literature, one who does not indulge in sickly subjectivity, but whose deep sympathy with nature and human nature keeps him in touch with the popular heart.