

in a city of the Dominion, undertook to collect a debt of some \$30 from a verdant youth, by going to his premises, representing himself as a bailiff, and seizing and removing a quantity of goods from his premises, which he said he would hold until the debt was paid. The debtor being overpowered by the terror of the so called officer submitted to be robbed, but on mentioning the matter to a friend he was induced to indict the debt collector for robbery with menaces under s. 404 of the Criminal Code. The case was clearly proved, but the magistrate mercifully allowed the prisoner to go on suspended sentence, several respectable witnesses having spoken as to his previous good character. It is well to be merciful, though, perhaps, it was scarcely wise to let him off, as an example would have had a healthy effect.

The record of crime in the Dominion as set forth in the Government report for the year ending September, 1896, indicates an encouraging condition of things, the number of convictions being reduced from 5,474 in 1895 to 5,204 in 1896: Comparisons are odious, and statistics are not in all respects reliable, but one is compelled when speaking on this subject to refer to the remarkable contrast between the statistics above referred to and those of the country to the south of us. The *North American Review* gives some startling figures in connection with this subject, showing an enormous increase of crime in the United States as a whole, which, however, does not obtain in the best of the New England States, where the statistics are exceedingly satisfactory. The increase of crime is due largely to the large influx of population from Europe, which at one time was much sought after, but which has proved not to be an unmixed good.

The National Prison Association has recently referred to the matter at their annual meeting in Austin, Texas. The report of the Committee on Criminal Law Reform states that the progress of crime was "absolutely frightful," and recommends some changes in the handling of criminals as follows :