

step over to the opposite side from where we were, as he wished to show us something unusual. Presently he halted before a cell out of which stepped two little boys—the eldest about thirteen—mere children. So unexpected and unusual did the whole appear, that we judged the officer was playing off a practical joke on us. But we were soon undeceived on that point. We were told that these children were sent there for some slight breach of the law, because the judge had no option in the matter, there being no other place to send them. Such a sad sight brought tears to the eyes of some of the party and made most of us think that “the law’s inhumanity has made countless thousands mourn.”

But we need not go so far away from home for examples. On the first day of this month there was confined in the common jail of a town in this province, a boy—or rather a child—eleven years old, on the same corridor with a man who was held for trial for attempted murder. The inhabitants of the town pride themselves—and justly so—on the high moral and intellectual standard of their people. This boy was placed there for truancy, and it is safe to say that the knowledge that he will acquire while there will stay by him longer and will bear more fruit than that obtained during any one year of his attendance at the public schools.

The following clipping from a Montreal paper of June 25th last, headed COLLEGES OF CRIME, gives in a short space an illustration of our mode of treatment of the criminal class:

#### COLLEGES OF CRIME.

Francis Tearney, who was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment Saturday for stealing iron spikes belonging to the Harbour Board, has been going to gaol pretty regularly for the last twenty-six years. He graduated as a criminal at the age of nineteen and is now forty-five years old. He has been sentenced no less than forty-nine times, and is probably a harder citizen than when he was first “sent down.” Obviously the gaol can have no terrors for this evil-doer. He is no better for having served forty-nine terms in prison, and it is doubtful if society is any better off. There is something radically wrong with our system of dealing with offenders against the law. In nothing is the failure of modern civilization more apparent. We have made little or no progress in this matter in many years. There is a large section of the human race with whom crime is an inherited instinct, an hereditary disease, and all we have learned to do with the patients is to lock them up, herd them together, keep them for longer or shorter terms in an atmosphere reeking with criminal association, criminal suggestion, criminal influence. If our object were to establish a great University of Criminal Education, our methods would surely be very similar to those we now apply to the repression of crime.—*Montreal Star*.