

the increase of its permanent and transient inhabitants there must be necessarily an increase in the number of crimes committed. When we consider, however, the number of cases usually brought before our courts, and the absence for many years of capital cases, the population of our city and of the rural parts of our district may well be characterized as a peaceable and a generally law abiding one ; but within the last few months an epidemic of crime seems to have struck us, and we find on the docket charges for such grave crimes as murder, indecent assault, arson, forgery, perjury and conspiracy, and an unusually large number of the minor charges ordinarily brought before the court, such as theft, stealing from the person and receiving stolen goods.

While I am glad to acknowledge the utility of the public press, and I desire that its liberty of expression should only be restrained when the writings published degenerate into libel and license, I cannot help regretting the sensational nature of many of the articles published in some of our newspapers in reporting the proceedings before our criminal courts. These articles, with their sensational headings, tend not only to influence morbid and unbalanced persons and to conduct them, under the effect of the emotional feeling and glamour produced, to the commission of crime, but also to unconsciously affect and