

judiciary, by an abuse of a system of appeal from court to court, of the law's delays, purchasable by gold, we do not know.

Dr. Andrew D. White, late President of Cornell University, ex-minister to Berlin and to St. Petersburg, and now a member of the Venezuelan Commission, recently spoke on the subject of "The Problem of High Crime in the United States," in Boston and in New York. He asserted that in no other civilized country does our brother's blood cry from the ground so loudly and so vainly, and that under no other civilized government, whether monarchy or republic, is the right to life at the present time so trampled upon by privileged class—a privileged class of criminals; that the United States is, among all the nations of the Christian world, that country in which the crime of murder is most frequently committed and least frequently punished. We quote the following synopsis of Dr. White's address from the report of it in *The Tribune*:

"He held that in all of the great cities of this country there is a well-defined criminal class, a class of men whose profession is crime, just as clearly as the profession of Marshall Field, of Chicago, is known to be trade, and that of Mr. Choate, at New York, the law. This criminal class is 'preserved'—to use a game term—with practically the same care that is given to the preservation of wild beasts in India. Jungles have been developed in which its stronger men may prowl, and from which they sally forth to prey upon the community. Judiciary committees of legislatures exhibit a strong conservative opposition to any thorough cutting into or clearing up of these jungles, and in the larger cities the eminent criminal lawyer, 'the man ready to resort to any expedient and to go any length in the defence of crime, from wheedling the justice in his court to bullying the governor in his bedchamber, is a recognized personage.'"

"The speaker passed from this argument on what may be termed the nurture of the criminal class to a consideration of vital statistics, showing that the increase of criminals has been far in excess in proportion to the increase of the population. In 1850 the number of offenders in prison for each million of inhabitants was about 300, in 1860 over 600, ten years later nearly 900, and in 1889 nearly 1,200. Dr. White showed by statistics that the number of homicides in this country for seven years, ending last year, was 47,469. The

increase to the million of population is from 58.1 to 155.3 per cent. The number of legal executions for the same years was 722, and the number of lynchings 1,115." Dr. White created a sensation when he said: "I announce to you that there are doomed to death in the United States during the year which begins this day certainly over 10,000 people who will be executed murderously, cruelly."

Commenting upon Dr. Andrew D. White's lecture on "High Crime" in the United States, the *Atlanta Constitution* says: "There is something radically wrong in the social system when such things are possible. In the craze for material progress we are neglecting the moral instruction of the young people who are coming on the stage to control the affairs of the nation. There never was a time in our history when so many men from the respectable classes joined the great army of criminals. If these conditions continue, the outlook will be dark, indeed. The situation bristles with problems which should command the attention of every preacher, statesman and friend of humanity."

The *Golden Rule* says: "It is of much significance that the speaker held that this terrible state of things is largely due to the sensational illustrated newspapers, the 'blood and thunder' dime novels, and the theatre posters, with their vividly depicted duels, suicides, and murders. Many a shop window, hung with wide open papers crowded with pictures of crime, is a high school of lawlessness, always in session, and never lacking eager scholars. Every honest man's hand should be against them, and our lawmakers should send them all to the flames."

On this subject we have the following testimony of the *Independent*, one of the best informed and fairest-minded papers in the United States: "Neither brutal ruffians nor ladylike murderesses, neither vulgar thieves nor gentlemanly misappropriators, at present stand in fear of our criminal courts. That part of the legal profession which is engaged in criminal practice seems to have lost a sense of its responsibility for the safety and the moral health of society, which every lawyer, as an officer of the court, is sworn to protect."

VIPER LITERATURE.

The cheap press of the day is one of the greatest blessings to mankind. It is the greatest agent for the diffusion of knowledge and of sound and wholesome