

ENGLISH CRIMINAL LAW.

Open and public place.—A railway carriage, while on its journey, is within the definition of “an open and public place, to which the public have or are permitted to have access,” in a statute forbidding gaming in such places.—*Langrish v. Archer*, L. R., 10 Q. B. D. 44.

Rape.—The statute 38 & 39 Vict. ch. 94, sec. 4, which enacts that “whosoever shall unlawfully and carnally know and abuse any girl being above the age of twelve and under the age of thirteen years, whether with or without her consent, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,” etc., does not operate to prevent a conviction for felony, under 24 and 25 Vict. ch. 100, sec. 48, of a person committing a rape upon a girl between those ages.—*Reg. v. Ratcliff*, 10 Q. B. D. 37.

GENERAL NOTES.

The following is probably intended as a satire upon the “small type” conditions of which common carriers are so fond:—

“A few Saturdays ago a Philadelphia fish dealer departed for a railroad station a few miles out, to spend Sunday with some friends. After the cars had started he found on looking at his return ticket that ‘in consideration of the reduced rates,’ etc., the ticket was good only till the day following; so on his return, Monday, he had to buy another ticket to come home on. A day or so afterward a leading official of the company bought a couple of early shad of him. They were delivered, and on opening the bundle was found a card stating that ‘in consideration of the low price charged, the shad would not be good after two hours.’ The fish had to be thrown away, and that official has been in a brown study ever since.”

THE MONTREAL POLICE FORCE.—Thirty years ago there were but two police stations, the population being about 60,000, whereas now there are eleven stations for a population of about 150,000. The following table will give an idea of the comparative strength of the force for the last thirty years:—

Year.	Chiefs.	Sub-Chiefs.	Sergeants.	Detectives.	Men.	Appropriation.
1854.....	1	2	4	2	75	\$30,000
1856.....	1	2	4	2	100	36,000
1862.....	1	2	6	2	125	48,000
1866.....	1	2	12	4	125	60,000
1870.....	1	4	16	4	125	78,200
1872.....	1	4	20	4	150	100,128
1876.....	1	2	24	6	162	134,500
1880.....	1	2	20	6	162	131,289
1882.....	1	2	33	8	209	160,000

The large increase of expenditure is due chiefly to the expense of building or renting and maintaining station houses rather than for the pay of policemen, whose numbers have not increased in proportion; but that the ratio of police protection to population has improved and is nearer to what it should be, viz., at least 1 policeman to 500 people, will be gathered from the following comparisons:—

	Population.	Police.	Ratio.
1854.....	60,000	75	1 to 800
1870.....	108,000	125	1 to 864
1880.....	143,000	168	1 to 851
1883.....	150,000	215	1 to 697

The annual revenue from fines in the Recorder's Court may be regarded as a criterion of public morality; these have lately fallen off in a marked degree, as a few figures taken at random from the City Treasurer's books show:—

1866.....	\$14,050
1867.....	17,328
1870.....	15,442
1872.....	18,027
1876.....	15,998
1881.....	12,665

The death of Mr. James Cockburn, Q.C., one of the commissioners appointed to consolidate the Statutes of Canada, occurred on the 14th August.

The *Canada Gazette* contains the appointment of William Twining, Esq., of Halifax, barrister-at-law, to be Marshal of the Court of Vice-Admiralty at Halifax, vice Joseph Bell, deceased.

The cat had a good friend in Mrs. Ellen M. Gifford, of Boston. In her will she left \$25,000 to establish a home for friendless or disabled cats. But the will, it is stated, is to be disputed on the ground that there is presumptive evidence of insanity in any person who will “die and endow a college for a cat.”

A solicitor complains, in the columns of the *Law Times*, that “solicitors were forgotten in the festal tribute” to Mr. Benjamin, although they are the persons “whose patronage made both bench and bar.” The *Law Times* answers that “solicitors cannot secure to counsel that eminence which is the prize alone of learning and ability to which solicitors contribute nothing.”

A new system of postal notes is to come into operation in the United States on September 3, by which the sender can transmit any sum from one cent to five dollars. The *New York Tribune* illustrates the convenience of the new arrangement by stating that “a lady living out of town who wants to send \$3.79 to a drygoods store in New York will hand that sum, and three cents fee, to the postmaster. He will give her an order with the figure three punched in the dollar column, the figure seven in the column of dimes, and the figure nine in the column of cents. This is simple and easy, and offers no chance for fraud.”