

of the Christian? Is our prison system the best for all concerned? Is it the best practically possible at present? It is best for none of the parties and is far from the best practicable. What can be done in other lands can surely be done here, but other countries which we should lead, not follow, in practical Christianity and sociology, are far in advance of us.

The main suggestions of the penologist of to-day are not only practicable, but urgently so. In fact, in the light of clear possibilities and actual present conditions, the question, "Is our treatment of the criminal an application of the Golden Rule?" should bring a blush of shame to every follower of Jesus of Nazareth, and every true citizen. Crime needs certainly a firm hand and stern discipline, but just as needful are kindness, thoughtfulness, insight, and sympathy.

In times past, economy, ethics, science, and religion, have often been at sixes and sevens on questions which were up for settlement, and have thwarted their solution, but on this matter of the necessity for a radical change in our treatment of the criminal, these four all point unmistakably in the same direction. This being so, the duty of the citizen is easy and clear. The darkness, prejudice, and inertia,

even of centuries, cannot stand at the approach of the light, and these, with a lurking and heathenish revenge, are the only opponents of the needed change.

The task we give our magistrates and our prison officials is an impossible one. We demand that they be an harmonious part of our criminal machinery. At the same time we insist that they be wise, humane, and just in their treatment of those committed to their charge. The thing is absurd. It is impossible. No class of men attempt in a more high-minded way to carry out these contradictory demands of the State, but they simply cannot succeed, and the result of the attempt to any earnest, thoughtful official must needs be either cynicism, an unconscious lowering of ideals, or a broken heart.

Let us stop this grim farce. Either let us cease to appoint wise, humane, and just men to carry out an unwise, scientifically inhuman, and unjust system, and instead give the work to a lower class of men who will more resemble the system; or let us so modify and change that system as to give the freest opportunity to our criminal experts to wisely, humanely, and justly do their duty to society in the positions which we have given them to fill.*

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*At the last Annual Meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada, the following prison reform platform was adopted:

A Dominion Reformatory for young men—first offenders.

Legislation whereby the Parole System and the Probation System may be legalized in Canada.

REFORMS REQUIRED BY THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT:

1. Greater expedition in the means that are being taken to establish the Provincial Reformatory for Boys on good farm land, and the adoption of the cottage system.
2. The adoption of the Probation System.
3. The adoption of the proposed bill for the economic treatment of inebriates.

REFORMS REQUIRED AT TORONTO JAIL:

1. A number of isolation cells for the purpose of keeping boys and young men—first offenders— from the contaminating effects of jail association.
2. The more prompt removal of lunatics.
5. Other provision than the jail for the destitute poor of the city.