

## Current Thought.

### A NOBLE PHILANTHROPY.

One of the most striking notes of modern Christianity is its practical character. George Eliot used to bring against Christianity the charge of its other-worldliness and neglect of the urgent evils of the times. This reproach, if it was ever just, has largely passed away. Throughout the long centuries what inspiration but that of the Christian religion endowed institutions of learning, reared hospitals and asylums, and succoured the sinning, the suffering, and the sorrowing?

That beautiful charity, the Fresh Air Fund, transfers, for a time at least, removes from the Arabia petrea of the city's stony streets to the Arabia felix of the country's green fields thousands of slum children and little Arabs; and great organized charities like Dr. Müller's, Dr. Barnardo's, and Dr. Stevenson's, seek the permanent transformation of the waifs and strays of society into useful citizens.

If he is a benefactor of his race who makes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, how great a benefactor is he who promotes the substitution of health for sickness, and the cure of what was long thought an incurable disease. That dreadful scourge, consumption, is the cause of many more deaths than either cholera or yellow fever, or any other of the long list of mortal maladies. Yet few diseases are more amenable to proper treatment. God's great boon of fresh air is an almost sovereign cure. Hence, many persons find complete restoration of health amid the pine forests of the Adirondacks and the palm groves of Southern California.

But in our own country, amid the pure air and balm-breathing woods of Muskoka, pure dry air, and in our National Park in the Rocky Mountains, are all the conditions required for the restoration to health of a large proportion of those afflicted with this delusive disease.

Our fellow-citizen, Mr. W. J. Gage, inspired by a noble philanthropy, has organized a sanitarium at Gravenhurst for the benefit of this afflicted class. He has himself given \$25,000 for this purpose, as did also the late Hart A. Massey. The town of Gravenhurst has voted \$10,000, and the Ontario Government has promised the same allowance per diem for each patient of the province as is given to the General Hospitals. The

Dominion Government has been asked for aid, and an appeal is being made for an endowment fund of \$250,000. The railways promise special privileges to patients seeking health in this sanitarium. We hope that this beautiful charity will win much sympathy and practical co-operation. We believe it prolongs in health and happiness many useful lives, and makes one of the most beautiful and most attractive parts of our country very widely known.

Mr. Gage, the moving spirit in this enterprise has secured the incorporation of an association for the management of this charity with the following officers: Sir Donald Smith, Montreal, president; Hon. Chief Justice Meredith, Toronto, vice-president; Mr. W. J. Gage, Toronto, treasurer; N. A. Powell, M.D., Toronto, secretary. Trustees named in the bill: W. E. H. Massey, Toronto; James Ross, Montreal; George A. Cox, Toronto; Hon. G. W. Ross, LL.D., Toronto; Edward Gurney, Toronto; Hugh Blain, Toronto; D. E. Thomson, Q.C., Toronto.

### CRIME AND ITS PUNISHMENT.

We do not think it Phariseicism to recognize the advantages which Canadians enjoy as a nation. "The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, yea, we have a goodly heritage." In the providence of God we are exempt from certain evils which assail other peoples, and enjoy advantages peculiar to ourselves. One of these is the almost ideal administration of justice in this country.

We have not reached that degree of high moral evolution when crimes of violence are unknown, but when they do occur they are promptly dealt with by due process of law. Such a thing as a mob usurping the functions of justice and inflicting punishment by Lynch law—a greater crime often than that of its victim—is unknown among us. Justice holds the scale with even hand. The poorest man among us if accused of crime, is sure of a fair trial and skilled counsel for his defence. A millionaire criminal, if there were such, can have no more, no less.

Notwithstanding the high degree of civilization reached by the United States, this ideal administration of justice does not universally obtain in that country. Whether this results from an elected