

tried for murder within six weeks of his arrest and was acquitted, the very next day producing overwhelming evidence of guilt. It was generally found that an engraved portrait was more accurate and economical than a photograph. The telegraph was the most useful agent the police could employ. The *Police Gazette* was to be greatly improved next year, and the additional expense borne by the public funds. The press was a power in detection; but when officers were dogged and witnesses interviewed harm was sometimes done. If the identity of a culprit was clear, in an important case, capture was a question of time and money, if portrait, description, and handwriting were widely circulated. This had a moral effect on the person sought which, in more than one case, had caused a man to give himself up. In Great Britain, in about 60 cases out of every 100 the offenders were brought to justice. Of these an average of 75 per cent. were convicted. These results were quite as satisfactory as those obtained in foreign countries. In the metropolitan police district all the criminal business had been under his direction since April, 1871, and every offence against the criminal law was reported at once to him, and he became responsible for all subsequent proceedings. The same course was followed with all correspondence upon criminal business. For the work of detection he had under his control the Criminal Investigation Department, the chief officer of which was Mr. A. F. Williamson, who in the course of thirty years had rendered numerous services to the State. Five-and-twenty inspectors of advanced education, many of them speaking foreign languages, and others skilled draughtsmen or proficient in various accomplishments, served directly under him at Scotland yard. The remaining officers of the department were distributed among the twenty divisions. Every officer kept a detailed diary of his movements. The pay was exceedingly good, ranging from 88*l* to 750*l* a year. With reference to the effect of imprisonment on certain classes of culprits, he said: "In the case of a clerk who embezzles a trifling sum to pay a debt, of the servant who yields to temptation and takes a jewelled ornament to purchase some article of finery or an evening's amusement, of the unfortunate woman driven to conceal the birth of her natural child, would it not be far better if, while jus-

tice was vindicated, some means could be found of reforming the character without giving the prison taint? Such a system has been found in Massachusetts, and its success commends it to attention. It consists in releasing persons found guilty, upon probation, when the circumstances of the case appear to justify such a course. Their liberty is conditional upon the honesty of their proceedings, and if their conduct is not satisfactory they can be brought up, and without formality sentenced upon the previous finding. In 1882 about 85 per cent. thus treated have so conducted themselves as to merit approbation, and have been honourably discharged. There would be no difficulty or expense in the introduction of such a system in this country, and placing the probationer under the supervision of the police, who are already afforded sufficient powers under the Prevention of Crimes Acts. No public money is better spent than the 10,000*l* which is annually distributed among discharged prisoners' aid societies by the Government. The Convict office has been instrumental in obtaining upwards of 300 situations for license-holders and supervisees."

NOTES OF CASES.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

MONTREAL, October 31, 1883.

DORION, C. J., MONK, RAMSAY, TESSIER & CROSS,
JJ.

MUNN et al. (plffs. below), Appellants, & BERGER
& SONS (defts. below), Respondents.

Sale—Acceptance—Evidence.

Where it was admitted that there was no writing to establish the alleged contract, questions put to the witness tending to prove an acceptance of the goods by words were properly overruled.

The appeal was from a judgment of the Superior Court, Montreal, dismissing the appellants' action.

The suit in the court below was brought by the appellants, of Harbor grace, Nfld., against Lewis Berger & Sons, a body corporate, of Montreal, for the recovery of \$3,094. 71.

It was alleged that in 1880 the appellants, through their agents in Montreal, Lord & Munn, sold to respondents from 500 to 800 barrels of