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OF
THIS WEEK**

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And HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

DRESSES WORN ON EACH OCCASION.

THE VISITS TO

Ville Marie

AND

McGILL UNIVERSITY.

THE SERMONS

BY THE

REV. J. B. GREEN,

VERY REV. DEAN ROND

(Bishop Fleet), and

REV. GAVIN LANG,

&c., &c., &c.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 4.

THE WEAK CLASSES.

The address of the Judge of Sessions to the Jury at the opening of the Court raises a question of great importance to society—that of providing so me means of preventing the young, whose tendencies are towards crime, from falling into the abyss.

What His Honour had to say on this subject has been for some time the theme of practical moralists and philanthropists, among whom we may particularly notice that at the time ex-Governor Seymour, of New York, who has made the treatment of the class tending to crime, as well as yet criminal, the subject of a short essay in the last number of *Harper's Magazine*.

We must say that the treatment of the subject by this very able and clear-headed man, is somewhat disappointing, in so far as concerns any remedy for this great evil, which is probably increasing with the growth of our cities.

He begins by a reference to the use of the lash as a means of correction or punishment in some of the Southern States, and then says that though in the North this mode of dealing with criminals is looked upon as barbarous, it is after all not nearly so barbarous as the usual punishment of imprisonment.

Whipping, he thinks, is more harmful to the moral nature of the spectators than that of the sufferer, who contracts permanent bodily disease from the lash, nor is subjected to any mental oppression which in the future weakens his will and renders him less able to resist temptation.

Above all he is not brought into contact with the demoralizing influence of the jail—on the one hand by association with worse offenders than himself, on the other by that kind of exhibition to outsiders which produces a desire to hide a sense of shame, and so leads to the formation of a criminal disposition at once sullen and audacious. Again, no one likes the pain of a flogging, whereas many are not unwilling to have the comforts of a prison, dangerous as these are alike to their bodily and mental health.

Yet Mr. Seymour contents himself on the question which he has raised between these two modes of punishment with condemning both, without suggesting in any definite manner what he would substitute in their places, except indeed with regard to some juvenile offenders, who he would have flogged by their parents or guardians under magisterial authority.

A fair criticism on this paper would be to say that, while its author condemns flogging for comparatively petty offences, yet as he condemns imprisonment for these offences still more strongly, and gives no hint of any third method, he implicitly recommends the substitution of flogging as the least of known evils.

We believe there is good reason to adopt that conclusion, but before the stage of actual or, at least, serious criminality is reached, there is one of a tendency to crime, in which very often the future criminal is far more to be pitied than blamed. Looking at the large numbers of children who in all cities are growing up without any instruction or example which can make them good citizens, who have no examples, indeed, except such as are calculated to make them become criminal, we see extensive and fertile hotbeds from whence jails of boys are being rapidly produced.

What can a helpless child do except beg; and when begging opens to him the opportunity of stealing, with no moral check on the impulse, who can wonder that he falls into the trap?

What is wanted therefore, is some agency which will authoritatively lay hold of children who are without guardianship, or whose called guardians are injurious rather than advantageous to them. Thus so-called guardians are injurious rather than advantageous to them.

The young people should be treated not as offenders, but as future members of a respectable society.

They should of course have more supervision than would be required for those who from early infancy had been carefully trained, but there should not be nothing to make their lives uncomfortable, nor to lessen their self-respect, while they were taught honest habits, and honest means of procuring a living. This is easily propounded, and it is not very original. But simple as it seems in theory, there are few projects which are more difficult of application; for unfortunately human nature cannot be cast in moulds and dried down to given dimensions like the metal used to realize the conception of an inventor. Obstacles are often thrown in the way by parents, who want to retain their children, sometimes to retain the profits of the dishonest industry of their children. Or on the other hand parents who can and ought to care for their families, are frequently only too willing to cast them upon public institutions which should not be burdened with them. Above all, few things are found more arduous than the providing and maintaining of suitable and adequate control for congregations of human waifs. But all these efforts must fail unless they

are presided over by those rare persons, whose benevolence does not weaken their perspicacity or their firmness, and whose vigorous discipline does not diminish the benevolence of their administration. Perhaps there are special difficulties on this continent, on account of the class of persons upon which public appointments of all kinds are generally filled, and which is not too well calculated to furnish subjects at once able and disinterested. But that everything may be done by judicious and just discipline, even with the most unpromising material, was proved by the occurrences on board the training ship which took fire in the Thames. Naval officers have not been looked upon as administering a rule most suited to make them beloved, however, it may be adapted to produce courageous, prompt and vigorous action in those who are subjected to it. Yet, while on that occasion one little fellow, of twelve years, with the pluck and sense of responsibility which might have done honour to a post captain, held the boat of which he wascox-wheeled by the side of the flaming ship at all hazards, for the rescue of those who remained on board, a crowd of other children surrounded the captain, and repaying the love and care he had shown for them, begged him to save himself whatever might happen to them. No finer example of heroism were ever offered, and yet these were shown by little boys, who had not long saved from the wretchedness of homes in the gutter of London, and with no instruction other than such as they might receive in the schools of the neighbouring Fagins. A more prossive fact in the same direction may be found in the reported diminution of offenders of school age in England since attendance at school has been made compulsory. There are plenty of lums in the way of any really good result. But the lums may be vanquished by courage and resolution.

THE SAILORS ON BOARD THE POMERANIA.

The conduct of the sailors on board the "Pomerania" was very bad, and what is worse, that of the officers, with the exception of the brave captain, was, we fear, no better. The truth is, those who now-a-days too often pass for sailors, especially on board many seagoing steamers, are the merest riff-raff of the water-borne populations, and it may as well be understood that one of the great dangers which attend accidents on board large passenger vessels, arises from the indiscipline and callousness of the crew. In the case of the "Pomerania" there was no special risk, especially on board many seagoing steamers, are the merest riff-raff of the water-borne populations, and it may as well be understood that one of the great dangers which attend accidents on board large passenger vessels, arises from the indiscipline and callousness of the crew. 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