

as Dr. Rainsford has courageously done; another is to co-operate with organized endeavors to suppress these wrongs; another, to give up whatever pecuniary advantage may seem to come from dealing with men who violate common laws of humanity in order to make low prices and to offer tempting "bargains." If it be said that the relations of merchants and saleswomen constitute a commercial question, one which the laws of supply and demand will settle, one with which the Church should not meddle, a better answer cannot be made than the words of Bishop Potter which *The Outlook* quoted recently:

"The growth of wealth and of luxury, wicked, wasteful, and wanton, as before God I declare that luxury to be, has been matched step by step by a deepening and deadening poverty which has left whole neighborhoods of people practically without hope and without aspiration. At such a time, for the Church of God to sit still and be content with theories of its duty outlawed by time, and long ago demonstrated to be grotesquely inadequate to the demands of a living situation, this is to deserve the scorn of men and the curse of God! Take my word for it, men and brethren, unless you and I, and all those who have any gift or stewardship of talents or means, of whatever sort, are willing to get up out of our sloth and ease and selfish dilettanteism of service, and get down among the people who are battling amid their poverty and ignorance—young girls for their chastity, young men for their better ideal of righteousness, old and young alike for one clear ray of the immortal courage and the immortal hope—then verily the Church in its stately splendor, its apostolic orders, its venerable ritual, its decorous and dignified conventions, is revealed as simply a monstrous and insolent impertinence!"

News!

Brief comment was made in these columns last week on the singular absence of the sense of the commercial value of truth in many newspaper offices, and the failure to appreciate the want, which one constantly hears expressed among readers of newspapers, of some journal which should give authentic intelligence. Another singular lack of perception in these same newspaper offices is to be found in the absence of any sense of the relative value of what is called news. A good many editors seem to interpret the word "news" as meaning only the abnormal, the immoral, and the sensational. Information about the normal, healthy life of the world is reduced to the smallest possible compass; its crimes, diseases, insanities, lusts, and perversities are magnified out of all proportion to their real importance. Not many weeks ago the first, and therefore the most important, page of one of the leading journals in the country was filled, on Sunday morning, with monotonous reports of local crimes and scandals. There was not a word about what was going on in the great world; no recognition of national, governmental, religious, educational, or philanthropic movements; no comment on the industrial life of men; but an entire page surrendered to local thefts, arsons, and crimes! The absence of the sense of the relative value of news is strikingly shown in the way in which most newspapers treat the colleges. There are a few journals of high standing which regularly report college news, but the vast majority of the newspapers, except at Commencement season, surrender space to the colleges only when there is some disturbance to report; and every college officer knows from sad experience that the slightest infraction of the law, the least outbreak of youthful exuberance, is elaborated and padded until it fills a column or columns, and is treated as if it were a matter of international importance. The college reads with surprise a report which is practically as fresh and novel to its members as to other readers. The normal life of the college, the work it is doing, the healthy manhood growing up in it, the lessons of obedience, manliness, and sobriety learned by the great mass of students,

the increase of endowments, the additions made to knowledge—these things are not "news." News consists mainly of reports of college rows! Evidently there is dense ignorance, not only of the popular cry for something addressed to the intelligence of men and not to their vilest curiosity and their meanest tastes, but of the meaning of the word "news;" for news does not mean simply the abnormal and the scandalous.

A Lenten Thought

The Temptation

There were many experiences in the life of Christ from which men are excluded. There was a steadfastness of faith, an absolute loyalty to principle, an inviolate devotion to a divine mission in that life which most men do not share because they do not lift their natures to the heights on which Christ lived; but the mysterious experience of the temptation in the wilderness is, in one form or another, shared by all men. Resistance and victory are only partially achieved, but temptation is universal. It is impossible to determine the exact form in which it came to Christ in that critical period when he was apparently coming into clear consciousness of his own nature and of his mission in the world, but there is no doubt that the temptation was real and the struggle real also. It was no sham experience, no mimic representation symbolical of that which happens to all men. There must have been a real attraction in the things that were presented in order to have brought out a real force in the resistance which defeated the tempter and rendered the temptations powerless. There is, in fact, no possibility of character without temptation. A man may be innocent who has never been tempted, but he cannot be virtuous; for virtue is a quality of character developed only after the opportunity of wrongdoing has been presented and rejected. It is through temptation that men come to moral self-consciousness. It is by resisting temptation that they attain moral power.

So profoundly moral is the life of man that no opportunity, however noble, comes to him which is not accompanied by temptation in some form; no work, however elevated, is open to him which does not bring some kind of moral peril with it; no achievement is so pure that it is free from the possibility of moral contamination. Life is a constant series of tests, and these tests take the form of temptation. Opportunity, work, and achievement are two-edged swords; a man must grip them firmly or they are more dangerous to him than to those against whom he uses them. It is only by incessant watchfulness, by habitual victory, by recurring moral achievement, that the best men are kept pure and true. The awful personal tragedies which sometimes stain careers which have been apparently without blame make it clear that no man can ever rest on his moral achievement. With every victory he gains new strength, but the struggle goes on until the last opportunity is met, the last work done, and the last foe overcome. The victory which Christ won at the close of the mysterious experience in the desert comes to men only with the end of life; the temptation which came to him comes to them every day of that life. If this thought brings with it an almost overwhelming sense of the arduousness of life, it brings with it also the inspiration of a hint of the greatness of life. For the greater the work to be done, the longer and more severe the education which trains one for the doing of it; the diviner and freer and purer the ultimate life of the soul, the more protracted and exacting the spiritual education which fits it for freedom, purity, and bliss.

Delinquent, Defective, and Dependent Classes in the United States

I.—Delinquents¹

By F. W. Hewes



no period in the National life of the United States has there been so vital an interest in philanthropic study as at present. Our civic life is under analysis as never before. As this is an age of science, explorers call upon the statistician to lend the aid of his figures in solving the problem. Readers are not willing, however, to delve through long tables of figures.

The statistician must tell what they reveal, and tell it, too, in an easy, rapid way.

What are our criminal courts doing? How many are they sending to prison? Are they sending more from rural or from urban communities? Are the mining and ranch States furnishing a larger or a smaller proportion than the agricultural States? Are the native or the foreign-born, are the white or the colored, furnishing the larger proportion? Are there more or fewer criminals than formerly? Finally—why?

Several of these questions are easily, rapidly, and clearly answered by a brief survey of the large graphic exhibit on the opposite page.

How Confined. At the top of the picture are seven horizontal bars drawn in lengths to compare the number of convicts in the several classes of prisons, as given in the latest census returns. It is readily seen that more than half of the 82,329 prisoners were in penitentiaries, State and county (including State prisons, convict camps, and other institutions for confinement of convicts serving sentence for other than petty crime), and nearly one-fourth in county jails, while the other fourth were distributed in workhouses (including houses of correction), city prisons, military prisons, and hospitals; and over two thousand were leased out.

Of the 794 who were in military prisons, 524 were in Kansas and 137 in California, leaving only 133 for all the rest of the United States. The hospitals for the insane had a total of 901 patients who had to be confined for safe-keeping. It is clearly evident that these confined insane persons should not be counted as criminals, and it is therefore puzzling to know why they are included. However, the number is so small and the distribution so uniform that they introduce no sensibly disturbing element into the study—merely increasing the proportions triflingly in the Northern States, where most of them are confined. The prisoners “leased out” were all of them in the South. Of the total (2,308), all except a few were negroes. Over two-thirds of them were in the three contiguous Gulf States—Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia.

By States. The large map shows at a glance how the 82,329 prisoners were geographically distributed. The largest circle, that in Arizona, indicates that Arizona’s prisoners were in the proportion of 4,193 to a million of the total State population (or, cutting off the right-hand figures, almost forty-two—41.93—for each ten thousand of Arizona’s total population). The smallest proportion is marked by the two small circles in North Dakota and Iowa, which record only a little over one-eighth as many. This means that the courts (of Arizona) have convicted of crime and removed from society one criminal in each group of 125 persons, while in North Dakota and Iowa the courts have found it necessary to imprison but one criminal in each collection of 2,000 persons.

Extremes Meet. The western boundary of Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas marks a striking transition. The great circles west of that boundary are in decided contrast to the small ones east of it. The whole geography of the country presents no other such comparison. The large

circles of the manufacturing States of the East, and of the negro States of the South, grade off sensibly westward and northward, to reach this remarkable group between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Lakes.

By Sections. The small map below the large one divides the country into the five distinctive groups adopted by the United States Government for general statistical comparisons. The large circle of the Western section seems to invite an inscription explaining its bigness; and in general terms it may be inscribed: Mining and Ranch Booms. The New England circle may be inscribed: Refuse of Immigration and City Slums, to account for its large size. The two Southern circles: Colored Element. The little circle of the North Central section (to account for its smallness): A clean foreign element and almost no colored population or city slums.

By Sex. The two bars just under the little map portray the fact that only 210 of each million females, or (cutting off two figures) only two (2.10) of each ten thousand, are catalogued on the criminal list; while almost twenty-four (23.67) of each ten thousand males are convicts. This verifies general popular belief, and reinforces the faith that the moral training of youth is much better off under the direction of women than men, both at home and in school.

Decennial Increase. Previous to 1880 the attempts of the census enumeration to gather criminal statistics were attended with very unsatisfactory results. That census, however, was much more complete in this respect, and the last census (1890) was still more thorough. How much this more thorough count of 1890 contributes to the reported increase of criminals it is, of course, impossible to know. Comparing the two reports as given, the increase of ratios in each of the five grand divisions and in the whole country is shown by the slant lines in the lower right-hand corner of the large exhibit. Three of the divisions present a considerable increase, while two of them show almost no change.¹

The comparison made by the slant lines is susceptible of two interpretations as related to the country as a whole: (1) That crime is on the increase; (2) that the laws are more faithfully administered.

At the same time this is to be considered with reference to the fact that conditions are actually changing. There is no such thing as a real standstill. For example, the apparent standstill in the Western section is doubtless the record of a decade at the top of a curve marking the transition from the non-convict criminal condition characterizing early mining history, toward the betterment resulting from the influence of a steadier people and the organization of courts of law.

On the other hand, the apparent standstill in the North Central section is probably due to a really comparative calm. This section is far removed from the constant disturbance introduced on the North Atlantic seaboard by the continuous inflow and practical retention of the worst elements of foreign immigration. It has not, on the other hand, had to undergo the tremendous strain put on the moral forces of the South by the transition out of slavery, not yet by any means completed, while at the same time recovering from the wreckage wrought by the Civil War.

Of the three sections showing an increase, the records of other civic history, such as educational progress, religious advance, elevation of labor, and care of unfortunates, leads the writer to believe that the reported increase means a better administration of justice, and hence the conviction of a larger proportion of criminals. A marked example of increased criminal record is furnished by the police

¹ This paper will be followed by two others by Mr. Hewes; one on Defectives and one on Dependents.

¹ The record of individual States shows a decrease of over one hundred convicts to each million of population in six instances: California, 248, and Wyoming, 2,340, in the Western division; Michigan, 139, and Nebraska, 208, in the North Central division; Mississippi, 245, in the South Central division; and Vermont, 174, in the North Atlantic division.