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CRIME AND THE COURTS.

In last Sunday's News-Observer Judge O. H. Allen, of Kinston, very thoughtfully discussed crime and its alleged increase in North Carolina. The contribution shows keen observation and a deep study of the subject treated.

Judge Allen contends, in which he is supported by the teachings of experience, that not the severity of punishment, but the certainty of punishment is the true deterrent. And the most progressive communities of the civilized world are putting this theory into practice.

If we can get people to believe that detection and punishment—without reference to its severity—will surely follow crime as its logical effect, there will not be needed so much legislation to make people "be good," nor so many agencies for the dispensation of justice between man and man. People will govern themselves; and self government is the ideal form of government. Self government—wherein man becomes master of himself because of his knowledge that certain acts on his part will be followed by certain consequences is a force that must be resorted to in the solution of the question of crime.

There are many reformations to be attained before crime will be reduced to a minimum. Speaking of obstacles in the way, Judge Allen says:

"Until man ceases to be a cruel being; until wars are less prevalent; until the press ceases to parade the details of every horrible crime before the public eye; and, in fact, until there is more of the spirit of Christianity infused into the mould of modern civilization—crime of one kind or another will continue to increase except as the facilities for checking it are increased.

Cruelty will be curbed in our nature only as the ameliorating spirit of Christianity spreads and vitalizes our people.

Then there is this important fact, that the press can and frequently does spread the contagion of crime. Crime is a disease and is capable of being spread abroad just so surely as the mumps, typhoid fever, or that "tired feeling" in the spring can be transmitted. There may be a get-at-able bacillus by which the transmission is made. But even though the scientist has not found it yet by means of microscopic examination the psychologist has found that an intangible germ does exist whereby the disease may be spread. He has found that this germ consists in the spiritual power which the idea exerts over action. Our actions are largely idea-motor, i. e., an idea having taken possession of the mind finds itself realized in an appropriate action unless inhibited by another and more powerful idea.

And here is where the press has the power to get in deadly work—as well as the power to do infinite good. Crime can be pictured vividly. Illustrations can give the minutest details. The transmission of news is so nearly perfect that the world can be brought to the spot of the commission of crime in a short time. These things are sufficient to work upon and assume the mastery over impressionable minds—and there are many such. The natural consequence is that the idea thus implanted realizes itself in another crime of some kind.

We must look to something else than to the remissness of the courts and the inefficiency of the machinery of justice. True there may be, and probably is, remissness and inefficiency, but this is the exception and not the rule.

Judges as a rule are honest and conscientious, and jurymen are no weaker than are other men. There will always appear mitigating circumstances, and these circumstances must be considered in every scheme of real justice.

The code of the Man of Nazareth—which is becoming more and more influential, despite our misgivings—is infinitely superior to the code of the lawgiver Moses.

The first thing that the new government of Serbia calls for is money. Prince Peter Karageorgewitch has been recognized by the Czar as the rightful sovereign of Serbia, but King Edward holds off, and it seems that the revenues are holding off too.

Since its status has not yet been legalized the provisional government finds difficulty in raising necessary funds. The banks will not float a loan, even a small one.

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PEOPLE OF THE DAY The SPORTING WORLD

Our Ambassador on Kishineff Affair.
Robert S. McCormick, United States ambassador to Russia, who came home recently to attend his son's wedding, is not in harmony with the demonstrations that are being made in this country in opposition to Russia because of the recent terrible affair at Kishineff.



ROBERT S. MCCORMICK.

While he does not, of course, condone the brutalities of the mobs at Kishineff, Mr. McCormick says that the stories charging complicity of the Russian government in the outrages committed are absurd. In a recent interview with a New York newspaper man Mr. McCormick said:

"That the authorities at St. Petersburg had any previous knowledge of the matter is preposterous. The whole affair occurred just as lynchings and other outbreaks occur in the United States—too quickly for the authorities to take any steps to prevent them."

A Japanese View of Us.

Baron Shibusawa of Japan, now visiting this country, landed in San Francisco. He was taken to the Chamber of Commerce and talked with the president.

"I found," said the baron, "that he was a man of practical views. 'How can we make money?' seemed to be predominant in all his conversation. I am neither a poet nor a meditative thinker, but even to me the entire bearing of the gentleman appeared to lack what we would call in our language 'kain, or highly reserved manners.'"

When the baron got to Washington he found that the president had too much "kain, or highly reserved manners." The president praised Japanese valor. "These words were very gratifying," said the baron, "but I felt somewhat disconcerted because of the fact that he did not make any reference to our commerce." The baron hinted as much. The president explained that he did not praise Japan's commerce because it is still in its "infant stage."

Swinburne and the Babies.

Algernon Charles Swinburne, according to one of his American friends, made a systematic study of babies before he wrote his roundels upon babyhood, says the Kansas City Journal.

Mr. Swinburne, who is a bachelor, one day went on tiptoe into the nursery of a friend's house and bent in reverie over the infant that slept there. As he regarded it the slumbering infant smiled, and in contemplation of this seraphic smile the poet's heart was filled with joy and awe.

"It's the wind, bless its heart," the nurse whispered. "Whenever they smile in their sleep, sir, you may know they're troubled with the wind."

Mr. Swinburne scowled and withdrew. On account of the nurse's remark he never wrote a poem on the subject of a baby's dreams.

Rostand Now an "Immortal."

Paris journals and Paris correspondents of American newspapers all declare that never in the memory of the habitue had there been such an ardent competition for seats or was there such a large gathering for the official reception of a new member into the French Academy of Immortals as marked the consecration of M. Edmond Rostand on June 4. The ceremonies were



M. EDMOND ROSTAND.

among the most interesting events of the kind recorded in the history of the academy. M. Rostand delivered his address in exquisite prose, full of color, reverting in turn from charming and refined familiarity to flights of poetic fancy, passing from the most discreet or most pointed irony to the highest eloquence. Aside from his elevation to a place among the immortals, M. Rostand has reached the high plane in the field of literature early in life that most of the successful have achieved only after passing beyond the years of middle life. M. Rostand is only thirty-five years of age.

Wagner Tells How to Bat.

"Foot work has a lot to do with the success of a ball player and especially at the bat, and the pitcher is more apt to find this weakness to his liking than any other," says Hans Wagner.

"I am ready to step in any direction, with my right foot for a pivot. I bat mostly with a wrist movement, as you can get a quicker move and allow the ball to come closer before timing it. I never care to anticipate the kind of a



HANS WAGNER, PITTSBURGH SHORTSTOP.

ball the pitcher is about to deliver, as I find a low ball no more difficult than a high one.

"A ball wide of the plate can be chopped off to right field, while one a bit closer can be turned to account by a proper swing. This can be accomplished by taking the bat up short, as it requires less swing and can be worked with a snap, which will have just as good effect when it meets the ball and the batter is less likely to send up weak flies."

Hart and His Colts.

Colonel Hart, president of the Chicago National league club, is now at peace with all the world and on speaking terms with himself.

After years crowded with disappointments and defeats Colonel Hart's luck has finally changed for the better. Today he can gloat over the knowledge that his Chicago aggregation is at present one of the fastest and strongest ball teams in the National league. And this rather broad assertion is made despite the writer's opinion that New York, Pittsburg and Cincinnati possess great ball teams this year.

Manager Selee and his Colts have honestly earned all the bouquets now being tossed at their feet. These have not been won by flukes, but simply and solely by the hardest kind of work. In truth, they have had more than a shade the worst of it in "baseball luck." Barring accident, the Hart-Selee team will in all probability finish in the first three clubs.

Brash Is a Sure Comer.

Oscar Ames, who is training at the Wheaton (Ill.) track, has a full sister to Charles C. Lloyd's fast trotter Chain Shot, 2:06 1/4. In his stable which is touted to trot in 2:12 or better this season. She is called Brash and has a record of 2:14. Oscar has handled her for the past two seasons, and she has always won enough money to more than pay for her feed and has been improving right along. She is owned by Charles Allen of Kenosha, Wis.

Ames also has a number of youngsters which are eligible to start in all the futurities that are showing great form, and those who follow the big line this year will do well to keep an eye on them, especially on Echo Bell, a two-year-old by Allerton, dam Palo Alto Belle, a daughter of Electioneer and Beautiful Bells.

The Ithaca Oarsmen.

The Cornell varsity eight is now formed of the following men: Stroke, Coffin; No. 7, Lueder; No. 6, Captain Frenzel; No. 5, Lee; No. 4, Van Alstyne; No. 3, Seabring; No. 2, Adams; bow, Hazlewood, and coxswain, Atkin. With the exception of Lee, a freshman, and Adams all the foregoing men rowed in the great crew of last summer.

The Cornell eight suffered a severe loss early in the year when five men who were pulling port oars had to leave college on account of the epidemic of typhoid fever which swept the university, causing almost a score of deaths among the students.

Revolver Shooting.

Negotiations are in progress for another cable revolver match between French and American experts, and if conditions satisfactory to both teams are arranged the contest will be held this month. Communications so far exchanged between the revolver associations of the two countries have been of an encouraging nature.

Neva Simmons.

It is said that Neva Simmons, 2:11 1/4, in training at Cleveland, is in fine shape. If she gets to the races she will have a say so about the first money in the 2:12 classes.

Little Boy is All Right.

Little Boy, 2:01 1/4 to wagon, has entirely recovered from his lameness, which laid him on the shelf last year, and he is once more rounding into his old time form.

Hansen's Californians.

Hansen's Californians, Jones, McCredie, Schmidt and Householder, are doing excellent work for the Brooklyn club.

Decline of the Essay.

Why do we no longer find in these magazines the long essays that were the backbone of the old style periodicals? Is it because there are nowadays no men who like to and are able to take their pens in hand and ramble on and on aimlessly over hill and dale, with many a leisurely pause and occasional airy flights? Is it because the editors can find no writers who are surcharged with views on all sorts of abstract subjects and could be moved to impart those views at length to the readers of magazines? Certainly not. Almost every man who writes at all would like to write essays—long essays. But the wise editors won't have them any more, because the people won't read them and won't even take magazines that get the reputation of harboring them. If an editor craves a small circulation in this day let him gather the essayists about him and freely turn them loose upon his pages.—Success

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Via Norfolk, Va., and steamer, single fare for round trip \$8.70. For parties of 25 or more \$7.70.

Tickets reading via all-rail routes will be good returning, leaving Baltimore not later than July 25th, and only when executed by Joint Agent in Baltimore immediately on arrival and fee of 25 cents paid at time of deposit.

Tickets reading via Norfolk and steamer will be good returning, leaving Baltimore not later than July 25th, and only when executed at Baltimore by Agent of the steamship line via which they read. Deposit of ticket at Baltimore and fee of 25 cents will not be required.

Extension of limit to leave Baltimore not later than July 31st, on tickets reading via all-rail routes or via Norfolk and steamer by payment of \$1 additional to joint agent for tickets reading all rail or to the agent of the steamer line over which the tickets read.

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