

## YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.

The Terms of Sentences in Michigan's Reform Schools.

A Paper on This Subject Read at the State Conference of Correction and Charities in Detroit.

## GIVE THE YOUTH A CHANCE

(Grand Rapids, Mich., Eagle.)

J. W. Holcomb, Esq., county agent for Kent county [a gentleman well-known in the county of Westworth, Ont.], attended the annual convention or conference of the agents of the State Board and the poor officers in Detroit last week and read the following paper, which is a strong plea for a change in some of the State's laws and methods: The people of this State, wealthy in its forests, its mines and its broad and fertile acres, are rich in the charity which has given a line of State institutions designed to the needs of the unfortunate. The dependent and neglected child is provided a shelter in a hospitable home; the wayward boy and girl are restrained in descent to crime; the blind are almost made to see, the dumb to speak, the deaf to hear; the flickering light of reason gently brightens to a steady flame, and the old man in comfortable retirement receives the wages earned in days of battle and blood. These congratulations are for the people of which we form a part, but the duty of this conference is not performed if we do not well consider whether the law may not better have laid out the work of the institutions in view of the purposes for which they were established and are capable of.

What, then, is the work and best purposes of the State juvenile reform institutions? The answer of years ago, had they then existed, would have been that they were places of imprisonment for boys and girls who were being punished by the law for crime; the answer of these more humane days may be that these schools and temporary homes are places of detention for boys and girls who have developed in bad conduct, evil tendencies, and need moral training and better home influences.

### SENTENCING THE BOYS.

For the offences usually constituting the lesser crimes, and for those specially prescribed by statute, boys between the ages of 10 and 16 may be sentenced to the State Reform School until they be of the age of 17 years. Under Act No. 218, session laws of 1889, are certain proceedings providing a discretionary and lesser term of sentence, in case of unmanageable boys and girls, but this law does not enter into the present discussion. While to a boy of between 10 and say 14 years of age, a sentence until he be 17 years of age may seem ponderous, yet it is not oppressive or cruel in the view that there is often for a young boy no other home; or, if there be a home, its influences are usually worse than no home at all. The boy may become a truant from school, in a city, become known to the police; may be found on the street at late night hours; may be connected with petty thefts, and by his mischievous and boyish criminal conduct, force the question as to what had best be done with him. An extreme sentimentality on the part of a police court audience offers its sympathy for the neglectful mother, and the suddenly repentant lad departs for a better school, home and government than he has ever known. And in passing I may say that in advising as to the disposition as to charges against the smaller boys, we may better look to the character of the home, its tendencies and the consequent association of the boy, than to the offence itself. The acts of such boys hardly to be called criminal, are often little more than the sequences of their home life, but as the home influences go on from day to day the daily sequence of wrong doing may be expected. It is a justice and benefit to the small boy so situated to remove him from such dangerous influences. It might not be necessary or advisable were his home and its influences better. Older boys than those last referred to may also reach the reform school for offences not from home causes. The policy of this institution is equally kind and wise. The boy committed when young, before 17 years of age has usually been released from actual residence in the school, and if at later years at his commitment, he has only been held there sufficiently long to determine the value of his opportunities.

The age of 17 is a fitting time for the release of boys absolutely from the reform school. It is the age when the boy laying aside boyish thoughts, sometimes with undue energy assumes the thoughts, strength and manners of the man, and on the farm, in the factory, the mill, the store and like occupations, claims with more or less modesty to be counted as a man. It is well, then, unless his previous life denies it to him, that he, feeling strong in his purposes and resolves, should be free to take up the burden he seeks to carry.

### PUNISHMENT OF GIRLS.

The Industrial Home for girls should be what the Reform School is for boys—as a staple school for literary and moral instruction as is possible, consistently with the control of the pupils. It should be as near a home as possible, for many who have never known that rightly called a home may learn what a home should be, in its just and kind government, in its sympathy for the dependent, and in all its aids to encouragement in the honest ways of life. These being its purposes, are the present terms of sentences favorable to such purposes?

For the well understood general offences and those found by statute, with the exception as before stated as to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 17 years, may be sentenced to the industrial home until 21 years of age. Although slight offences of girls extend further in their consequences than those of boys, I think the law inordinately assumes that they necessarily do as involving moral errors. I believe that with young girls as well as young boys a kind home, sympathetic surroundings, with wisely offered moral teachings, may often be sufficient correction. Poverty and strife of parents at the cheer-

less place called home suggest the street corner and pool room as the refuge of the son, and the street and the dance that of the daughter. For such refugees the boy may be sentenced to the reform school until he be 17 and the girl to the industrial home until she be 21 years of age. Can we justly assume that the girl is so much less susceptible to moral influences than the boy? Is it not an unjust discrimination against her? The observer may wonder why for a petty larceny a sentence of ten years, covering an entire girlhood, may be inflicted in a state whose constitution provides that "excessive fines shall not be imposed or cruel or unusual punishment inflicted"; and also how it can be consistent with a like sentence to a grown person for stealing thousands by force or why the girl of from 10 to 14 or 15 years of age should, for lounging about the streets contrary to the command of a perhaps dissolute parent, receive double the punishment in years pronounced on a woman living an openly immoral life who in a drunken brawl kills the associate in her sin.

### WHEN TO RELEASE GIRLS.

And now some one tells us not to send young girls to the industrial home, or any similar institution, for slight offences. What, then, shall be done with them? The jail is not a suitable place in this humane age. Fines cannot and will not be paid by the parents. Must we then allow the young girl to run astray until her greater offence sooth our sensibilities to the legally prescribed sentence? The people of this state who created it may make the institution fit the needs of those for whom it was created, and if a young girl of from 10 to 15 years of age needs its moral training she should not necessarily be obliged to pay for it with her liberty up to 21 years of age. My proposition then is that girls sentenced to the industrial home between 10 and 15 years of age, being usually for offences which do not presumably involve grievous moral error, should be absolutely released from all connection with the home at 15 years of age.

It can now be suggested that the power given the board of control, temporarily to release girls for good conduct at any age, can better accomplish the desired object than by the absolute discharge which I propose. I ask the exercise of the power in all cases where the girl has shown herself worthy of the favor, and if her former home and neighborhood are not suitable for her return, I think, on the well founded advice of the agent for the county of the state board, the young girl should be placed in a family in which she may be in truth a member of the household, weaving as well as she may be able, her lot with the good and ill fortune of her protectors. Thus at 15 she may be able to try the value of the moral teachings, to guard herself against the traps and dark ways of the world and rightly to study the plans and the hopes of her approaching womanhood.

### TICKET OF LEAVE.

An even chance for a respectable place with those of like age is a birthright to the young woman of 18 not sacrificed by the follies of the child. She may have more valuable aid and encouragement between 18 and 21 years of age in the sympathy of the friends she makes than in the protection of the Home. The "Ticket of Leave," painfully suggestive of a prison, may not be as easy badge for the wearer, who—otherwise welcome in pleasant association with respectable people—always bears the thought that the temper of a petulant employer, the jealousy of a rival, of the malice of an enemy may by slander send her back to the home to wearily count the days until her release at 21, or to be again "placed out" before that happy year where perhaps disheartened and discouraged she timidly and deferentially assumes new duties.

A few words with respect to girls over 15 years committed to the home. I think the age of admission should be extended to 18 years. There is frequently more than the waywardness in a girl over 15 in those whose offences make their commitment proper, and when the offences are in their cases of an immoral nature, no more safe course can be taken than residence in the Home, or a kind and strict supervision outside under the limit of the law. But let the burden of her who has sinned and repented be made light and easy to her galled spirit. Let the contrast between days of wrong doing and better conduct be forgotten, except by herself, while words of encouragement fall as the gentle dews of heaven.

### THE ALMA MATER.

The proposition I have made would open wide the doors of the home. A greater number of young girls I think would be received, who would in time soon go forth regarding the home in sincerity an alma mater. Those committed to its care would come with less apprehension. The reluctance of parents and the hesitation of those placing girls there would be lessened—in short the home would, I think, better meet the purposes of its establishment.

I have read so far in criticism of the law and not of those acting under the law or of the management of any state institution. I understand we are met here as much for a practical conference as for ethical distinctions. To this conference and this distinguished assemblage I respectfully present my view asking that while with wisdom we discuss, we have in our hearts for the unfortunate the "charity which suffereth long and is kind, which vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up and doth not conduct itself unseemly."

### Had Enough of the Tune.

"Come over to our church and hear me preach this morning," said the pastor. "If you don't like the sermon you will see the music; we are going to have some of the loveliest chants you ever listened to." "No, thanks," replied Mr. Badman, for it was he. "I took some in the grab bag, the fish pond, the rink cake and the prize doll at your fair last week, and I haven't a cent left for the contribution basket. Guess I'll stay out till my luck changes."—*Durlette in Brooklyn Eagle.*

Every man ought to be as good as his word. Nothing is expected of those who never have a good word for anybody.

Although the English fashion of starching nappies is generally abhorred, a decided preference is shown for their ample dimensions and the 7x9 fringed dolly of Yankee origin has given place to the 5x25 inch piece of fine linen.

## MAGNETIC NEEDLE.

Why It Points North So Persistently. The compass needle points north because practically the earth is a magnet, not differing essentially in its magnetic properties from a bar of magnetized steel, says *American Notes and Queries*. It has two poles of great intensity, and like most large steel magnets, there are several supplemental poles of lesser intensity. Just as the pole of one bar magnet attracts the end of another, so the magnet poles of the earth behave toward poles of the compass needle, unlike poles attracting, and like poles repelling each other.

It is well to modify the statement that the needle points north and south; as a matter of fact there are but few localities on the earth where it does point due north and south, and these are constantly changing. An irregular line drawn from the mouth of the Orinoco river through the east coast of Hayti, Charleston, South Carolina and Detroit, Michigan, represents very nearly the line in which there is no variation at the present time. In all places east of this line the north end of the needle swings slightly to the westward; in all places west of it to the eastward. At the mouth of the Columbia river the variation of the compass is about 22 degrees east; in Alaska it is from 40 to 60 degrees east; midway between New York and Liverpool it is about 35 degrees west.

The reason is that the compass needle points not to the geographical, but to the magnetic poles, and these do not coincide in position. The magnetic north pole is at present on or near the north shore of Boothia peninsula, in the northern part of North America. Its position is constantly changing, and in the last six hundred years it has moved about half the distance round the geographical pole. During a period of 300 years, in which observations have been carefully made at the magnetic observatory in Paris, the variations have changed from 11 degrees, 20 minutes, east of north to 23 degrees, 10 minutes west. In the United States the rate of the change in variation differs much in different parts of the country. In Washington State it changes at the rate of about seven minutes a year; in Arizona and New Mexico it is stationary; in the New England States it is from one to three minutes per year.

### Life in Russia in 1889.

Melville E. Stone, founder and former editor of the *Chicago News*, has returned from a long trip abroad improved in health. Following are a few lines from what he says about Russia: "In St. Petersburg, in fact all through Russia, there is a hush in the very air. There's a dread of something, a fear of the Government. One day I saw a carriage containing a gendarme and another person. I asked our guide who it was and he said it was a political prisoner. I asked him what would become of him. 'Oh, he'll never be heard of again. We don't have any bother about juries and trials. The papers won't take up the matter, and his friends won't attempt to do anything for him.' But if he were your brother, wouldn't you try to do something for him? I asked. 'No sir. If I went to the officers and said I wanted to know what they were going to do with him, they would say: 'Come right in. You can have the cell next to his and go with him to Siberia to see what becomes of him.' When I want a man in Russia they make no fuss about it. An officer goes to the man's house or shop, and, beckoning to him, says: 'I want you.' The man doesn't ask what is wanted or why he is wanted. He goes. Outside stands a carriage with a gendarme in it. He is motioned into the carriage, gets in, and that's the last that is heard of him."

### Cleanliness a Modern Virtue.

The English upper classes are clean, but cleanliness of any high degree is a very modern virtue among them. It is an invention of the nineteenth century. Men and women born at the close of the eighteenth century did as the French people do to-day; they took a warm bath occasionally for cleanliness, and they took shower baths when they were prescribed by the physician for health, and they bathed in summer seas for pleasure, but they did not wash themselves all over every morning. However the new custom took deep root in England, because it became one of the habits of a gentleman.—*Pall Mall Budget.*

### Another Book on Robert Burns.

Rev. Dr. Charles Rogers has compiled for the Grampian Club, Edinburgh, a work entitled "The Book of Robert Burns," containing genealogical and historical memoirs of the poet, his associates, and those celebrated in his writings. For the last seven years the doctor has been engaged on what promises, from the appearance of the first volume, to be his *magnum opus*. As to him it will most assuredly leave all the previous biographies of the Scottish Bard in the rear; and on account of its plan it is not only a Life of Burns but also a most important contribution to the family history of Scotland.

### The Little Girls' Evening Dress.

Evening dresses for little girls are made high in the neck, and with long sleeves. China silk is the favorite material, in pale pink and green, or white honeycombed with yellow. They are made with several tucks, edged with a narrow, gathered flounce, and with short bodices and full sleeves. A broad, soft sash of China silk accompanies each little frock. The new Empire dresses for little girls are in embroidered muslin or white silk, and have the skirt gathered into a yoke from which tucks hang in perfect simplicity.—*Sun.*

### "He's All Right!"

Some papers in the west a few months ago gave particulars of the sudden and mysterious disappearance of Mr. C. E. Crickmore, a leading barrister from Sandwich, and the news which was copied into the *Times* created great uneasiness amongst the missing gentleman's relatives and friends hereabouts. The *Times* is now greatly pleased to be in the position to state that Mr. Crickmore is all right. He is now with his brother, Mr. Benjamin Crickmore, in East Flamboro.

"Was Miss Yellowleaf's portrait a good likeness?" "It must have been; she refused to take it from the artist."

## HYDATID CYST OF THE LIVER.

New and Dangerous Operation Successfully Performed.

A rare and serious disease, which is known as hydatid cyst of the liver, is being watched with great interest by the professors, doctors and medical students at the City Hospital, Baltimore. The patient is a German, John F. Berensbruch, 44 years of age. His disease is due to the ova of peculiar kind of tapeworm which inhabits the dog and other animals. The ova find their way into the stomach of man in drinking water, and are thence carried to the liver by the blood vessels. The egg is about 100th of an inch in diameter, and the parts which develop it are found in the water, on the ground, and stick to the surface of vegetables, and thus it is possible in eating vegetables uncooked to take the ova into the body. The animals from these ova, however, are not developed in man. The eggs once in the stomach of man increase at an enormous rate. From the stomach they are absorbed by the blood vessels leading to the liver. Here the ova form cysts or little bags around themselves, like the caterpillar in its cocoon. When this cyst is taken into the stomach of the dog, it develops into the full grown hydatid, which is one-quarter of an inch in length, with a head one-sixtieth of an inch, and having numerous little hooks and suckers.

Berensbruch was admitted to the City Hospital on Oct. 25th, 1889. He was a laborer at the Jesuit College in Woodstock, and had complained of a dull but severe pain in his right side since last spring. He had wasted away and lost nearly forty pounds of flesh. The doctors at the City Hospital diagnosed his case, and on Nov. 1st Prof. Charles F. Bevan, in the presence of Drs. J. W. Chambers, Thomas S. Latimer, W. F. Smith and John Branham, performed what has up to the present time proved a very successful operation. Prof. Bevan made an incision in the wall of the right side of the abdomen, just below the ribs, and about a gallon and a half of pus was taken from the man's liver. The method of removing the hydatid cysts is by means of draining the liver, which operation is of modern surgical art. The pain of the patient before the operation was intense, the tumor in his right side having extended his liver nearly fifteen inches. The great pain seemed to leave him after the operation, and he now appears to be recovering.

### McGinty's Ghost.

That McGinty should have become a man of national renown was not surprising. His misfortunes were pathetic—his end was tragic. McGinty at the bottom of the wall was a hero, for he had the courage to break every bone in his body rather than lose a bet. McGinty in the coal hole was only the victim of an accident, but in the punishment that followed this misfortune he was the victim of judicial tyranny. Ten dollars or ten days would have been sufficient. McGinty, bereft of wife and child, stands a monument of domestic desolation. It is no wonder that the hearts of his fellow citizens, naturalized and native, are touched at his fate, and that their sympathies follow him to the bottom of the sea.

That the ghost of such a man should wander round the docks is the true outcome of a tale so full of pathos. Not even poor old Lear was so basely injured by his ungrateful daughters, for even D-n McGinty's shade is outraged by a dippant press. The *New York World* has the hardihood to say he was a bod carrier in Harlem and that he jumped into the river at the Battery, near Castle Garden. There is no "river shore" at the Battery, and if Mr. McGinty had been a New Yorker at all, it is certain he would have been an sinner. Not content with ripping Prince Eddie of England up the back, that audacious sheet prints all the gossip it can gather in regard to the alleged misdeeds of McGinty in the wicked Gotham.

That such reckless journalism should bear bitter fruit is already apparent. What could be more reprehensible than to bring the name of Dan McGinty into disrepute? Already this kind of thing has resulted in murder on Long Island. Reflections on McGinty's character are beginning to frenzy his friends and admirers. One man at Throg's Neck—(fatal name)—actually killed another for a king if he had arrested McGinty. Is this kind of thing to go on? It will unless proper respect is paid to a ghost so respectable, so respectably dressed.—*Philadelphia Times.*

### Questions of the Day.

The *New York Remedy* calls attention to the numerous questions that are more or less agitating the public mind at the present time:

- "Organization," cries number one.
- "Co-operation," shouts another.
- "More greenbacks," says the third.
- "Moral suasion," bellows the fourth.
- "Prohibition," feebly cries the fifth.
- "Too much population," wails the sixth.
- "Eight hours," says the seventh.
- "Ethical culture," says the eighth.
- "Strike," hisses the ninth.
- "Dynamite," whispers the tenth.
- "Overproduction," shouts the capitalist.
- "Trust in the Lord," means the parson.
- And "Protection," yells the greatest robber on earth.

And while all this hullabaloo is going on the land speculator quietly sits in his office wondering if the World's Fair is coming to New York to raise the price of real estate.

### Prosecution of the Press.

Editor Robert Cornell of the *Sunday Globe*, at Erie, Pa., has been invited to choose between his membership in the Presbyterian Church and the publication of his *Sunday* newspaper. One or the other will have to be abandoned.

Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy cures when every other so-called remedy fails. 50 cents, by druggists.

At a fashionable cooking class where the young daughters of society meet to study domestic economy as well as plain cooking, special attention is given to the theory and practice of eating. To England, glory is due for the best method, which is deliberate as well as dainty and consists in always taking the fork in the left hand and spoon in the right. The only time the fork is permitted in the right hand is for fish, when the knife is never touched.

## WONDERFUL EYES.

England Has a Living Microscope.

John Thomas Heslop, of Birmingham, Eng., is a lad whose powers of vision are to be accounted among the marvels of the world. He is known as "the living microscope," on account of being able to see the most minute objects clearly defined. In 1878 or 1879 he was attacked with some baffling eye trouble and came very near losing his sight forever. After the disease had reached its worst there was an instant and startling change for the better, which resulted in a complete cure of all inflammation in an incredibly short time. It was not a cure, however, that brought back the old eyesight like that possessed by the average genus homo. When it returned it was with extraordinarily increased powers of vision. To John Thomas the most minute plant louse was as large as a rabbit, and the mosquito's bill as large as an axe-handle. He could see and describe distant minute objects with startling clearness and precision. He was amazingly shocked upon repairing to the well to get a cooling draught to see the immense number of hideous creatures that were floating, fighting and wriggling about in the water. From that day till this water has never passed the lips of John Thomas Heslop; his drinks consist wholly of coffee, tea and milk, thoroughly boiled. The doctors say that the entire organization of the eye has undergone a structural change; that the cornea has become abnormally enlarged, and that the crystalline lens has divided into three different discs or circles, each circle surrounded by another of light blue. In the centre of each of these three circles appears an iris, greatly diminished in size, but an iris nevertheless. Medical reports have been made on the case by journals, such as the *Lancet*, *Medical Times* and many others. The young man has been visited by all the greater and lesser lights of the British medical colleges, each of whom pronounce his case the most wonderful in the annals of optics.

### Why Blind Persons Seem to Smoke.

A peculiarity about the blind is that there is seldom one of them who smokes. Soldiers and sailors accustomed to smoking, and who have lost their sight in action, continue to smoke for a short while, but soon give up the habit. They say that it gives them no pleasure when they cannot see the smoke, and some have said that they cannot taste the smoke unless they see it. This almost demonstrates the theory that if you blindfold a man in a room full of smoke and put a lighted and unlighted cigar in his mouth alternately he will not be able to tell the difference.—*St. Louis Republic.*

### For Ladies Only.

LADIES.—Why is it, that when your husband or your children are ill, you consult the best physician at once, care for them day and night, wear yourself out with sleepless watching, and never begrudge the heaviest doctor's bill, if only the dear ones are restored to health; while day after day, week after week, you endure that dull pain in your back—that terrible "dragging-down" sensation—and do absolutely nothing to effect a cure? In a few years you will be a helpless invalid, and soon your broken-hearted husband and motherless children will follow you to the grave. Perhaps delicacy prevents you consulting a physician—but even this is not necessary. Poor sufferer, tell your husband how miserably you feel—perhaps you never did—and ask him to stop to-night and get you a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It has cured thousands of women suffering from weaknesses and complaints peculiar to your sex.

### Why She Did It.

Adorer (after a rebuke by the old lady)—I didn't kiss you. I only pretended I was going to. Why did you call to your mother. Sweet Girl (repentantly)—I—I didn't know she was in the house.

### "Painting the Town Red."

You may call this a vulgar expression and as modern as it is vulgar, but in the "Inferno of Dante" we read the lines: "Who, visiting, greet through the purple air, Us who have stained the incarnadine."

Incarnadine or red may be the wrong color for a town, but it is the natural color of the blood. If your liver is out of order, your blood will soon lose its ruddy glow and become impure. This means kidney disorders, lung disease, and, in course of time, death. To put the liver right and so stop such a train of evils, take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery—a sure remedy. It is guaranteed to benefit or cure all diseases arising from a disordered liver or impure blood, as indigestion, sour stomach, dyspepsia, all skin, scalp, and scrofulous affections, salt-rheum, tetter, erysipelas, and kindred ailments, or money paid for it will, in every case, be promptly refunded.

Colored glass, cut glass and engraved glass for windows are used very sparingly by people of taste. For lamp, flower, fruit, ice and sauce bowls the manufacturers' skill is taxed, but the simpler and clearer the crystal the better the gourmet appears to enjoy his wine.

The heir apparent of the Japanese empire having become of legal age, 11 years last month, was given a sword which is said to have been kept in the Imperial family for nearly 1,300 years, and installed in an office that will entitle him to be called Colonel or something of that kind.

In Africa it costs more to convert a native to Christianity than it does to convert him into a slave.

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