

SAVING OF CONVICTS HOW OHIO REFORMED 2,000 LAW-BREAKERS.

The Prisoners Must Go to School—They Are Well Trained, and Are Looked After When They Are Released.

F. J. Harkin, in Syracuse Post-Standard. Mansfield, O., Dec. 5.—The glory of an afternoon falling through barred windows, searching out the corners of the white walls and falling on the faces of 1,000 men and boys in clean Sunday clothes, while, led by an orchestra and trained choir, the melody of 1,000 strong young voices rings beyond the walls and across the brown hills, chorusing "Count your many blessings, see what God has done." It is the Sunday afternoon service in the Ohio State Reformatory, and they who sing have already begun to count their many blessings and are realizing what God has done for them through the enlightened people of the State of Ohio. These have been worsted in the fight for existence. They went into life poorly equipped for the battle, under the handicap of weak character, ignorance, incompetency and untrained hands and were defeated.

That is why they are here. They are to be made fit for the fight. When they leave this institution to take their places again in the field they will not be weaklings, but men who have learned manhood and its responsibilities. The work here is to reclaim the criminal and make of him a good citizen, fitted for moral and industrial life. This is Ohio's method of dealing with her men criminals between the ages of sixteen and thirty. The idea was that of General Roecliff Brinkerhoff, one of the world's greatest penologists. It might have been only an experiment had it not been turned over to J. A. Leonard, sometime school teacher, sometime special Indian agent. Men make institutions and he has made this. Born for such work he has already proved in the eight years he has been in charge at Mansfield that three-fourths of the nation's criminals could be saved to citizenship if the nation would only get about it in the right way.

This is a jail with the conventional things—impenetrable stone walls, the high barred windows, the long ranges of brick and steel cells, and the unrelaxed vigilance of officials. But the lock step has given place to the military tread of the striped clothes and gone and neat uniforms take their place; handcuffs, whipping posts and chambers of torture have given place to a simple, bare "meditation chamber," where the offender is sent to think out matters for himself, and the guards combine with their oversight the additional duties of instructor in some branch of literary, industrial or agricultural education.

These are all convicts, remember. Each has been tried by the laws of the state, has been adjudged guilty of some offense against society, and has been sent here to pay the penalty under a sentence that may extend anywhere from one year to thirty years—according to the nature of the offense. The

old way was to put these men at work, or place them in solitary confinement until the expiration of the time named, and then set them out to become even greater offenders against society, bitter from confinement, with hands still untrained and still uncured. Modern philanthropy sees in the prisoner one who is morally ill and who has been downed in an unequal fight. It means to cure him. How is this to be done?

Three-fourths of the crime committed in the United States are crimes against property. People want property that other people have and not being trained to earn it, and not knowing how to get it otherwise, they take it, or destroy it, and the commonwealth comes in, proves him a felon and orders that he pay the penalty for the law-abiding members of society must be protected. Here at Mansfield they mean to so teach and train the inmates that when each goes in the world again he will know that the property of another must be held inviolate, but that he can have like things if he will earn the money and buy them. And he will be able to work at some trade and earn for himself. As soon as a man or boy enters the Ohio State Reformatory the superintendent has a long talk with him, as man to man. The aims of the institution are outlined, its restrictions and its privileges defined, and a book of rules regarding conduct, study and the way in which the parole may be earned is given.

Each inmate must go to school whether he wishes to or not. Teachers from the best training schools are here, and the boys and men are taken through the eighth grade. Each inmate must learn some trade, by which he can make his living when released. Each is given spiritual instruction by a chaplain who left one of the biggest, best paying churches in the state to take up his work. Each inmate is committed on an indeterminate sentence. He must remain for a year at least. None is released on less time. He practically wins his own release, by obedience to the laws of the institution, by good work and study and by learning the trade assigned to him.

When he is released on recommendation of the superintendent, he is given a good suit of citizen's clothes, his transportation and \$5 in money. This is the least of his gifts, for best of all, a job has been found for him, he is going to it with all his reformatory record known. Two field agents of the institution will help him with advice, and get him a new job if he loses this one through no fault of his own. In event he fails again, he is brought back to the reformatory. Three out of every four so far have made good.

Two things that has astounded outsiders is that from the very beginning the inmates are treated as men, are shown the courtesy and consideration that man offers man in the world, and each is known by his own name, his individuality is preserved and bettered. This is rank heresy in prisondom in general, for the old theory has been that an adjudged criminal is a beast and must be cut off from all things human. Superintendent Leonard's idea is that every human character is a "I never knew before that a fellow like me could really do anything that would count for

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THE PUZZLING PUP



Can you cut the picture into three pieces, which rearranged will show the pup as he appeared while running away from the dog catcher?

women students. A lady has been appointed as moral censor, and installed in an office in one of the quadrangles, and her duty is to keep an eye on the behavior of lady students. More than one young lady has been reported for "simply speaking" to a male student of her acquaintance, and the University Magazine says: "There is a prying, prudish interference with our daily life; an insult to our university character. One swifter between laughter and anger. It cannot conceivably last, so we shall jump to the side of the laughable. There is more to be said, but we leave it to the fellow-undergraduate to say forcibly and pointedly." It is added that the severe atmosphere of the nunnery, however desirable, is impossible at Gilmorehill.

Mr. Schwab's Latest Surprise.

Mr. Charles M. Schwab, former president of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, who has made several flying visits to Montreal during the past few months has given the newspapers another surprise. It is not long since we read he had made a wedding gift of four million dollars to his sister; now it is said that he has sold his horses, dismissed his army of servants, closed his magnificent New York palace, and gone into the country to retrench. Less than thirty years ago Mr. Schwab was serving behind the counter in a small grocery store at Braddock for a few dollars a week, as a preliminary to driving stakes for the Carnegie Company at a dollar a day. While he was still in his thirties he was credited with a holding in the company for which twenty years earlier he had driven stakes was estimated at nearly \$40,000,000.

Corn Superstition.

Many think they can't get rid of their corns. Perhaps because they used remedies that failed. Peck's Corn Salve will not fail. In big boxes, 15c., at Wade's drug store.

To The Ladies:

At Home cards, visiting cards, etc., cheapest and best, at Whig office.

VERONA HAPPENINGS.

Death of Mrs. Lawson-Smith—Man Broke His Leg.

Verona, Dec. 10.—Teams have begun hauling down the feldspar from the Border mine to the station. The several inches of snow which have fallen, will afford a more rapid transit. William Abrams, the monogamist, expects to start in a few days on his annual trip visiting friends in Kingston, Sunnyside and Watertown and Rosiere, N.Y., where his son resides. Since writing last, the population of Verona has increased by one—A. E. Holland is the happy possessor of a son.

On Thursday of last week, Mrs. Lawson Smith, after a month of patient suffering passed away. Her funeral was held on Saturday to the Methodist church and was largely attended. Rev. Wilkie Collins officiated. Apart from the choral service by the choir, Miss Hettie Steele, to fill a request, sang with much feeling and expression "I will meet you in the morning." The remains were placed in Lake View cemetery.

Jas. McMahon had the sad misfortune last week break his leg in two places. Dr. McCarter's new office is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy the first of the month. The Epworth League is growing in membership and much interest is centered there for old and young. Last Friday evening the church was well filled and a very interesting lecture was given.

Miss Frankie Keates has resigned her position with A. B. Wartelsky to enter in a matrimonial alliance. Her place is supplied by Miss Grace Trousdale. Mrs. David Snider, of the Cobalt, is visiting her father, A. Abrams for a few days. Arthur Rider, of the Cobalt, arrived to spend a few weeks at his home. James Brown, student at Queen's, spent Sunday here, calling on old friends. J. Craig, spending several months in the west, has arrived home.

No man has occasion to apologize for doing his duty. If a man's mind is valuable he doesn't kill it.



Christmas Footwear

Our Christmas Footwear Display wins great admiration from every looker, and well it may.

FOR WOMEN—There are Handsome Street and Dress Boots, with the new Cuban Heels and narrow Toes. Beautiful Slippers, Sandals and Oxfords in Dainty styles.

We've everything to make a Woman's foot look handsome.

FOR MEN—We've splendid Shoes in all the new shapes, made from the best of leather. Business Shoes, Full Dress Shoes, Slippers, Dancing Pumps, etc.

FOR BOYS AND MISSES—We've the best of Shoes for School and Dress occasions. Leggings and Rubber Boots for the Girls and Little Fellows, etc., etc.

Can't tell you the half here—Come, see.

J. H. SUTHERLAND & BRO.
The Home of Good Shoe Making.



Bissell's Carpet Sweepers

Grand Rapids, \$3.00
Superior, \$5.50.

Two of the best Sweepers made in the world to-day. There is no longer any question of the superiority of the Sweeper as compared with the old corn broom. Neither is there any longer a question as to which is the best Sweeper made. We sell it. THE "BISSSELL."

McKelvey & Birch

69 AND 71 BROCK STREET.

OUR GIANT SALE

Has Been a Great Success

We Have Decided to Keep Right on Selling at Sale Prices Until Christmas Eve
Values Like These All Over the Store

Overcoat Specials

Men's Overcoats in Black Frieze, Cheviots, Meltons and Beavers, having the appearance of coats double the price asked. All Styles. Very special at.....\$6.95

Men's and Young Men's very fine Overcoats—very latest stripes—Blacks, Oxford Greys, Browns, &c. Regular \$15.00 coats, but we have too many. Take your choice for.....\$10.85
Boys' Overcoats—all styles at \$2.95, 3.45, 3.95, 4.45 to \$7.95.

Suits

Men's Suits—new styles, just in last month at prices ranging from.....\$4.45 to \$15.95

Men's Trousers at89c., \$1.19, 1.65, 1.95, 2.45, to 3.95
Boys' Suits—3 Garments—Good Tweeds—\$2.95, 3.45, 3.95, 4.45 to 7.45.
Boys' Norfolk Suits—Single or Double Breasted—Sizes 24 to 34— at\$1.95, 2.45, 2.95 to 6.95

Underwear

Penman's Fleece Underwear at89c.

Socks

Heavy Wool Socks—regular 25c.—Sale Price19c.
Fine Cashmere Hosiery, in Black, Blue, Garnet &c.—regular 35c. Sale Price19c.

Gentlemen's Wear Suitable for Christmas Presents

Mufflers—the largest range in the city to select from—Prices 19c., 29c., 39c., 49c., 69c., 89c., \$1.19 to \$1.95.
Gloves—Several Makes to select from—Mocha, Dog Skin, Kid, &c., lined—69c., 89c., \$1.19, 1.39, 1.69 to \$2.45.
See Our Fur-lined Gloves and Mitts at Sale Prices.
Fancy Suspenders at all prices.
A very nice present would be a combination set of suspenders, Garters and Armlets, nicely boxed.
Fancy Vests put up in nice boxes at 89c., \$1.19, 1.39, 1.95 to 4.95.

All Christmas Gifts Put Up in Fancy Boxes

YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF A LARGE ASSORTMENT AND CUT PRICES. DO YOUR SHOPPING NOW. NO OLD STOCK TO SHOW YOU. NO TRASH. OUR GUARANTEE GOES WITH EVERY PURCHASE.

Roney & Co., 127 Princess St.

The Store that Sets the Pace