WHERE CRIME IS THOUGHT CLEVER

Amazing Lawlessness in the Gay Capita; of France.

A Comparison of Paris with Chicago Jeers at the Windy City -- Astonishing Disregard of Life and Property. here Epigrams Win Acquittat.

aris Letter in the Sun. To any one with a bent toward the w there could be no more interesting eld for study than the codes under publican France. The peculiarities en begin with the constitution. They not hoary laws, full of the anomales and inconsistencies of long decent, like those of England, for instance, but brand-new laws made for a progressive and up-to-date country which calls itself the "soul of the uni-" and the "greatest civilizer the rld has even seen.

The laws themselves may be of inrest only to legal minds; it is their working which affords to the ordinary Anglo-Saxon intelligence one of the most startling exhibitions of justice, or attempts at justice, this century has witnessed among an intelligent people. In France the average person pays scant attention to these matters; he shrugs his shoulders; he is not involved; doubtless things will be straightened out some time, if they are not right now. He prefers to believe that they are right now, because, for one thing, that belief is less troublesome than another might be. The thinkers of France, however, are more concerned, as the voluminous literature on the subject of criminology

As regards all French laws, but particularly the criminal law, it is per-haps only just to say that the country in a transition state. Probably the thors of the penal code and its supements are really sincere in their forts to learn, through experience, exactly what is best, not only in the punishment of crime, but in its prevention. At the same time it would seem, perhaps to almost any one but a Latin. that they have put the country to serious risk of danger at the hands of the criminal classes while gaining this experience. Speaking broadly, under the present code and the law passed in 1891, commonly known as the Beranger law, a Frenchman may rob and murder almost at will. If the jury does ot look out for his welfare, he has any number of tender laws of mercy at his disposal; failing all else, the president of the republic is there with his parig or commuting power.

NO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

There is in France a very strong sentiment against capital punishment. The advocates of its abolition say that criminals are not deterred by the fear of death. They point to the fact that it has been abolished in Italy, in Por-tugal, and in most of the cantons of Switzerland. Their constant agitation of the question has resulted in its practical abolishment in France also, as there has not been an execution, aside from military executions, since that of Emile Henry, the Anarchist bomb thrower, in 1894. In the three years since then there have been nearly six hundred murders, but all the cuiprits have escaped the death penalty. In the army, on the other hand, and in The military executions were, without exception, those of soldiers sentenced to death for striking an offi-

sentence to death, will doubtless strike most people, out of France, as incredible. It may be explained that some of the murderers were really convicted and sentenced, but that the president intervened. A case of this kind is up the Paris court records for this nonth. A man murdered his wife circumstances inconceivably brutal, because he had seen her speak to another man on the street. When she got home he tortured her for three hours, then was another two hours killing her. He broke every bone in her body, as well as her skull, and when she was found it was impossible to tell that she had once been human. Even a French jury was revolted. But the president said that the murderer was clearly entitled to clemency, because he had been moved by jealousy. The newspapers applauded the president.

Six hundred murders, without one

SARCASM FOR YANKEES.

This case is cited not because it is inherently remarkable in the way of French murders, but because the French say that capital punishment is a brutality worthy only of barbarous peoples; that its infliction is without the pale of civilization. Notwithstanding the records of their revolutions and of their commune they set themselves up as being a hyper-humane people-.umaner than any nation the world has ever seen. Lynchings in America are stock subjects for the Paris newspa One paper refers to us habitually, when discussing these matters, as "the hog-sticking and garroting Yan-Another occupies much space with boxing and prize fighting in England and America, usually defining such sports as "revolting beyond expression to any nationality even half civilized." A few days ago another ris off:

The practice of electrocution (sle) in America, which is the official way of carrying out the death sentence throughout the states, is one that cannot be too severely reprimanded. It is only to such a people as the gross, sordid, unfeeling Yankees, who have not yet had the benefits of even minor culture, that such a barbarity can seem other than the height of brutality."

Finally, the six-days' bicycle race at Madison Square Garden was the signal for a concerted attack against America and Americans such as probably no nation has ever been subjected to at the hands of another, unless it be the Germans, attacked by the same great "civilizing force." Putting out of con-sideration the chagrin of the French the race, the exhibition of bile was not so childish as it was disgusting, for at least two of the Paris papers in their revilings made use of epithets regardng Americans which, in common decency as well as to avoid a descent by the police, they were obliged to signify by a letter and a dash.

PRETEND TO BE BETTER.

These instances indicate the fact remarked, that the French really pretend to be a little better than other nations, and that they hold themselves to have had all the original brutality of the human animal refined out of them. Largely they regard their criminals as artistic, even refined, criminals -not refined in cruelty, as they really are, but of a wholly different clay from the common criminal of other

lands. If you tell a Frenchman that his laws are breeding a race of criminals he will not believe you; he thinks that you, a barbarian because a foreigner, know nothing about it. If you cite his own authorities, Count d'Haus-sonville, M. d'Olivecrona, M. Dufaure, or M. Leveille, he smiles incredulously and still denies. If you compare France with other countries, he poohpoohs. In a word, he believes France A PARISIAN PASTIME to be not only the greatest of all countries, but the most virtuous. He excepts Paris, perhaps, with an indulgent wink, because he likes to believe, and Provoked by a Parisan Editor's above all likes foreigners to believe

that Paris is "wicked." It might perhaps be worth while to emphasize this. A few days ago a Paris newspaper gave an account of the recent doings of highwaymen in Chicago. The report, although coming through an English channel, was apparently not exaggerated. It recounted a number of details, then summarized; for one week there was a total of forty "hold ups," besides a number of other aggressions. It was a great chance for commentary by the Paris paper. It squared its elbows and sailed in with a scathing rebuke of Chicago lawlessness; attacked the police, as a band of worthless tramps; attacked the city government; attacked the city; finally, as was to be expected, saved its best whacks for America and Amerleans. It was a severe arraignment, and the editor doubtless thought it was scorcher. The most interesting thing about it to alien eyes was the inevitable comparison, for which the concluding

paragraph had been saved:
"Thus we see life in an American sity of the first class," said the virtuus Frenchman, "Our friends across the water call themselves civilized. Bravo Chicago! We have heard of the great police systems of America; we have heard of the great fire companies; we have heard of so many great things from that land of great things that It would be impossible to name them all. We have also heard of great balloons, and we cannot conceive why they should be manufactured out of that great land. We have, finally, heard of Paris. We wonder what Chicago would think of Paris' what Chicago would think of the greatest city in the world and the admirable way in which affairs are conducted

BEAM AND MOTE.

If that Paris editor had looked over the issue of his own paper in which his remarks were printed he would have found some paragraphs by which he might have formed another comparison between Paris and Chicago. If he had looked through the files for a week, in order to make things equal as regards time with the record of Chicago, he would have found more paragraphs for comparison than he would have known what to do with; and he might have kept on looking back at the records for a year, or five years without being embarrassed for material in due proportion. But perhaps that one day's record-in nowise an extraordinary day-would have been sufficient to set up against Chicago's oneseventh of forty "hold-ups" and minor crimes. Summarized they were as fol-

1. A music teacher, unmarried, 26 dressed man, who invited her to dine with him. She paid no attention to man that ventures into their streets also took the boat and again addressed her. She turned away. At the Quai for mary years, bands of thugs and de Bercy she got off. The man got off, joined her, and again spoke. She appealed to a policeman, who refused to neighborhood of the fortifications the nothing. The young woman went on, and presently the man caught up with her and put his arm around her waist. She shook him off, and cried: "Leave me alone, you loafer!" The man drew mouth, knocking out three teeth. Then he ran the end of his cane into her left eye, driving it completely out of its ocket. The young woman fell to the idewalk, and the man jumped on her and kicked her, breaking two ribs. A number of persons pulled the man way, and he was finally arrested. At the police station he said he did not know the woman, but she had called him a "loafer," and he was unable to control his anger. The young woman was taken to the hospital and will be there for several months. happened in broad daylight, in a crowded thoroughfare. If the man is convicted by a jury, which is not certain, he will probably be sentenced to jail for three months (extenuating circumstance of anger, according to French law), but sentence will be suspended if it be a first offence,

2. A carpenter, married, was returning home from work at 6 o'clock in the evening. In passing through the Rue Turbigo, then crowded with pedestrians, he was set upon from behind and stabbed four times. His assailant, a youth, was greatly astonished to find he had made a mistake. He had been laying" for the husband of his mistress, and his victim was entirely unknown to him. This youth was discharged from custody three days later. 3. A student, upon the eve of geting married, had determined to part with his mistress, a variety actress. pon pretext of having a farewell talk with him, she persuaded him to visit er at her apartment. She treated him

to drugged wine, and when he had come unconscious poured vitrol into both his eyes, entirely destroying the sight. She was arrested and tried before a jury, which acquitted her on the ground that she had been moved by

'ungovernable jealousy." 4. A party of dissolute youths was sitting in a wine shop of the Rue de Flandre. The talk fell upon courage and deeds of personal prowess. Each recounted something that he had done out of the ordinary. The youngest, a lad of 16, was taunted with the fact that he had not yet made "his mark." He became angry, and his companions laughed. Suddenly the boy pulled a knife and pointed to the street, Through the window they could see a coal cart going slowly by. The boy rushed from the shop, leaped to the cart, and stabbed the inoffensive driver twelve times, finally cutting his throat. His case has not yet come to trial. Judging from similiar cases of the past, the penalty will be several months' imprisonment, with suspension of sentence. That is, the boy will not be punished at all, except in the event of his

committing another crime. 5. A souteneur met a nurse girl in the Luxembourg garden. He had never seen her before, but he instantly proposed that she become his mistress, Upon her refusal he drew a revolver and fired at her point blank, the ball hitting her in the arm. The girl dropsuing and firing. The superannuated guardian of the garden took refuge in the is again in a sentry box. When the youth had exhausted the shots in his revolver he These cases unmolested. This happened at 2 o'clock of the French criminal law has brought has more than twice as many policemen, in the afternoon, when the garden, about. It may not be necessary to re-

which is as centrally located as Madison square, was full of nursemaids. 6. Another souteneur, who had for mistress a 17-year-old laundrymaid. thought she was not earning enough money to support him properly. He demanded that she give up her place and take to the streets. When she refused he knocked her down and pounded her face to pulp with his heels. He will probably get a heavy sentence, for, although only 27 years old, his record stands thue: Burglaries, 2; highway robbery, 1; stabbing affrays, 7; petty swindling, 6; picking pockets, 2-twen-

ty condemnations in all. Two young men who had been taking a walk in the suburbs reached the fortifications shortly before dark. A party of youths on the opposite side of the street crossed over and made some insulting remarks. The two young men paid no attention. Notwithstanding that they were set upon by the gang, who knocked them down and jumped on them. Each became unconscious, and when they were found a few minutes later it was discovered that each had been stabbed several There was absolutely no motive for this aggression. It was simply one of a peculiar sort, the result of pure deviltry, seemingly, which occurs in Paris two or three times a week, year

8. A bank clerk going home from a dance shortly after midnight was sendbagged and robbed in the Rue Lafa-

9. A woman of the street, plying ber vocation in the Boulevard Poissoniere, was stabbed and robbed at 1 o'clock. 10. A man and wife on their way home from the theater were garroted and robbed in the Rue des Acacias. 11. An elderly man, slightly under the influence of drink, was accosted by a woman of the street in the Boulevard Strasbourg, who choked him while a male confederate went through his pockets.

12. Four policemen were attacked in the Epinettes quarter by a gang of young toughs, and were severely handled, one having his arm broken. 13. In a public hall near the Place d'Italie a serious row broke out about midnight. Three men and one girl were geverely burt.

14. In a street fight in the Boulevard de le Gare between rival bands of toughs three were shot and four stab-

These fourteen cases are in no sense a record of an extraordinary day; on the contrary, there are three hundred and sixty-five days in the year just like it. The only extraordinary thing about the record is that it was to be found in a single Paris newspaper. The Parisian does not realize what a city he is hving in, because he confines his reading to one paper, which considers itself enterprising if it gets one-tenth

NO POLICE PROTECTION.

Few men in Paris venture out in the vening without a revolver. This is so cause a man is almost as likely to be attacked in a quarter alive with people as in one of dark, lonely streets. for does the respectability of the neighborhood insure his immunity. About his only chance for safety lies in his taking a cab; and the ubiquity years old, was walking down the Ave- and cheapness of cabs operate to keep nue de l'Opera at 3 o'clock in the af- down the percentage of nocturnal atternoon, and was accosted by a well- tacks. As for the suburban districts, him, but he followed her. On the Quai after 19 o'clock at night. Neuilly, Ledu Louvre she took one of the river vallois-Perret, Billancourt, and Pantin boats to go to her home. The man are particularly dangerous. In each of these places there are, and have been of things is accentuated by the fact that throughout Paris policemen habitually patrol the streets in pairs, never singly. The Bois de Boulogne, practically unprotected after sunset, is nevback and hit her a terrible blow in the er entered by a respectable man at night. As for the Bols de Vincennes, which bears a relation to Paris much he same as Bronx Park bears to New York, it is as unsafe by day as by night. For twenty years it has been he home of tramps and thieves, women as well as men, who camp out in its secluded parts all the year round. In the space of four months last summer no less than three hundred aggresions, including several murders, took place within its boundaries. About once a fortnight the police conduct a battue and arrest many outlaws, but they seem powerless to make the park reasonably safe to the respectable citi-

These facts are all perfectly well known to the editor who "wonders what Chicago would think of Paris," as they are known to most Parislans, but the chance to throw a brick is nevr lost by the Frenchman. But, aside from the record remarked, that editor might have found in the same Issue of his paper the account of two court cases which are perhaps even more significant of the present status of crime n France

A QUEER LAW.

The first was the trial of a man charged with shooting, in the public The wife had received three bullets in the lungs and had been eleven weeks n the hospital. The mother-in-law, on the contrary, had been hit in the back and had been laid up for only seven veeks. This fact, by a peculiarity of French law, prevented her from having standing in court; the law practially says that a charge of deadly assault cannot be brought against a peron unless the victim has been eight weeks in a hospital. In other words the law presumes that an injury the duration of which is arbitrarily, fixed at eight weeks is if it keeps the victim in ted but fifty-five days the presumpinjure. This monstrous law was no more ridiculous than the trial, which was as much of a farce as jury trials always are in France. The husband was proved to be a wife-beater and a cood-for-nothing, and had threatened his crime for months. Notwithstanding that, he made some witty remarks when he was put on the stand, an epigramatic fling at his mothers-in-law tickling the jury particularly, and they acquitted him without deliberation. France, it might be remarked parenthetically, is about the only country where a timely epigram is efficacious in warding off a death sentence, as it

has done many a time. The other case was that of a sergeant in the Garde Republicaine, who, after pestering a girl for many months with his attentions, attacked her with his sword-bayonet when she refused to marry him. It was an outrageous case, the girl being half killed, but a jury acquitted him without a moment's hesitation. (Since then, but a few days ago, this man made another atped her baby and fled, the youth pur- tack on the same girl, who escaped from him by jumping out of a window.

These cases perhaps show sufficientpocketed it and leisurely walked away by the state of affairs that the leniency unmolested. This happened at 2 o'clock of the French criminal law has brought

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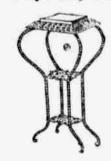
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LEBECK & CORIN.

mark that the statistics of crime for the last decade-during which most of the new laws were promulgated-indi-cate even more saliently the facts. While the population has remained almost stationary in that time, crimes against the person have increased about 60 per cent., and, what is more noteworthy, the increase has been made up almost wholly of offences committed by recidivistes, or persons whom the elemency of the law has permitted to be at large after conviction of a first Two other things to be remarked are, first, that no other country has such a large number of pro sional criminals, and, second, that the average age of criminals is in no country as low as in France. Nearly two-thirds of the persons guilty of ser-

New York and London.

ious crimes are between 15 and

grows less.

years, and the average age yearly

The local government Journal, in makor some statistical comparisons between New York and London, says that Greater London is double the size of Greater New York and has double the population. It

which can be easily accounted for when the character of the buildings of New York is remembered. We have four times as many scholars in our public schools but only 25 per cent, more teachers, waich seems to show that hig classes as we see them in London schools are not approved in New York. We have more public libraries, but not so many as we ought to have considering the difference in popu-lation. There are in London only palf as many hospitals as can be found in New York, and considering the extraordi-nary number of accidents in that city compared with those in London the hos-pitals appear to be needed. The New Yorker can boast of possessing nine more meteries than can be found in London. and he puts that can be found in London, and he puts the religious enterprise of London to the blush by providing a church or chapel for every 3,000 persons, while we only provide one for every 4,000. The municipal debt hargs heavier round his reck, the London debt being about is per cent, lighter for each ratepayer.
"Organized charity" relieved one family
out of every 299, but in London one famout of every 2%, but in London one family ir about forty-five is maintained by the ratepayers. As regards crime, particularly that coming under the head of housebreaking and burglary, we are better off than New York, probably because twe are better policed, both as regard, numbers and character. If crimes in Location under these heads were in the san though of varying steepness. The Recensary hydraulic power is conveyed through the apply had beneath the ralls, and the admission of water to the cylinders of the rame is controlled either by electrical means from the ears, or by the weight of varying steepness. The Recensary hydraulic power is conveyed through the apply had beneath the ralls, and the admission of water to the cylinders of the rame is controlled either by electrical means from the ears, or by the weight of the admission of water to the cylinders of the rame is controlled either by electrical means from the ears, or by the weight of the admission of water to the cylinders of the rame is controlled either by electrical means from the ears, or by the weight of varying steepness. The Recensary hydraulic power is conveyed through the admission of water to the cylinders of the rame is controlled either by electrical means from the ears, or by the weight of the admission of water to the cylinders of the admission of water to the c

proportion as those in New York we

A Railroad That Lifts Its Self by Its Own Boot Straps.

From the London Times. In Halford's patent rallway the imme diate motive power is the force of gravity, and the cars are, as it were, always run-ning down hill. This result is achieved by making the permanent way in sec-tions, whose length is to be determined by engineering considerations, hinged gether and supported at each end on hy-draulic rams. As the train reaches the junction of two sections, it puts the hydraulic mathinery in action, so that the ram rises, lifting the end of the section together with the cars that are upon it The train thus has a decline, down which it runs by its own weight, and as the same process is repeated with each sec tion, it is practically always running down a falling gradient, continuous, though of varying steepness. The necesrams is controlled either by electrical means from the ears, or by the weight of

inventor the rails are raised on columns and the cars suspended on either side below the track, but the system is claimed to be equally applicable to trains running above the rails in the ordinary way though in that case it is considered that the limit of speed consistent with safety would be much reduced. With a full-size railway the stroke of the rams necessary to produce a high speed would not be very long, and the passenger would ex-perience little, if any, of the switch-back motion which might at first right appear inevitable. As a model the inventior works very prettily, whether it would prove practical in the produced of the conprove practical in an engineerding sense and, if so, whether it would be a consimercial and economical success, are, t course, very different matters.

Neither Groom Nor Peddier.

The Columbus Dispatch vouches for he truthfulness of this: A couple called at the county auditor's office and asked Deputy Stader to give them a license. "I can give you a peddler's license," Mr. Strader said. "but you want the probate court, the other side of that lit-tle cigar stand you see in the hall. Taere is where you get marriage licenses."
"Well, now," was the reply, "we don't
want to get a marriage license. We have sout to leave, and thus actuating the had enough of them. What we came for pply valve. In the model built by the is a license for our dog-a dog license."