The Present Day Problem of Crime

Currier Albert Henry
THE PRESENT DAY PROBLEM OF CRIME

By

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DEDICATION

To Mr. Augustus Healy, President of the Institute of Arts and Science in Brooklyn, New York, kinsman and life-long intimate friend, by whose sympathetic and intelligent interest in the social problems of today and personal encouragement I have been led to give these studies to the public, this volume is gratefully dedicated by the Author.
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Anthony Ashley Cooper, The Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury,

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PREFACE

THE Problem of Crime is one of growing seriousness in the United States. The voices of the Press, the past year, as to the increase of crime have become a large resounding chorus. They proclaim with impressive unanimity and insistent iteration that crime in this country greatly surpasses anything of the kind known elsewhere in the civilized world.

The mischief and peril of it have grown to a terrific flood, and this flood still advancing is sweeping away with its destroying current the usual safeguards of society, upon which reliance has been hitherto placed for the protection of life and property and the maintenance of social order. The laws now afford but little security, as it is found that they may be violated with impunity; the magistrates and the police are no longer a terror to evil doers, and the spirit of lawlessness has spread like a pestilence, until a great multitude has become infected by it. The old-time respect for law seems to be mostly gone. It has become a bogey, at which the ill-disposed laugh in derision, unafraid, and boldly defying it as impotent to do them harm. The reasons for this are, because, as Judge Holt says, under our present system of administering criminal law “the punishment of crime is a sort of lottery,” uncertain, disappointing, very few of the guilty get any; most of them draw a blank; or, as President Taft says, with no ambiguity, because of “the failure of the law and its administrators to bring criminals to justice.”

These reasons and their explanation the writer treats of at more length in the subsequent pages of this volume; also the causes that have resulted in the uncertainty and