

GENERAL NEWS.

Items as They Are Taken Off the Telegraph, and Presented to Our Readers for Perusal.

Criminals in Leavenworth.

LEAVENWORTH, Kansas, Jan. 16.—

Mr. J. H. Childers, Topeka, Kansas,
Dear Sir: Your letter requesting my views on the "criminal propensities of the Negro" has been received. In reply I shall say that I do not believe the tendency of the Negro toward crime is any stronger than that of the white man, from whom he has received his first impressions, and from whom he has received most of what he knows, be it good or bad. But I regret to confess that as a result of my observations in the past 25 or 30 years, that the tendency or increase of crime among the colored people is far out of proportion to the number.

The old Negro who came from slavery 37 years ago, though ignorant, was well disciplined and anxious to work, because that was all he knew.

It is a noticeable fact that those of the old Negroes who are now living are industrious, frugal, orderly and law-abiding citizens. It is the "New Negro" who was born since the war and since freedom that manifests such unfortunate tendencies toward crime.

The cause of his criminal tendency is largely due to the fact that he has not been disciplined and had proper restraints imposed upon his freedom. So that with much freedom and many privileges, together with enforced idleness, (by that I mean that most of the avenues of life being closed against, and preventing him from learning a trade and from earning a livelihood) he drifts upon the sea of vice and crime, to the sink-holes of iniquity and incubators of crime, where, by evil associations, the young Negro is seduced to commit crime.

W. B. TOWNSEND,
Marshal City Court.