

keeping, to the undoing of the water-men, by the multitude of hackney or hired coaches; but they never swarmed so thick to pester the streets as they do now, till the year 1605, and then was the gunpowder treason hatched, and at that time did the coaches breed and multiply.

"He hath known many changes of scarcity and plenty; but I will speak only of the plenty.

"In the year 1499, the 15th of Henry VII., wheat was sold for 4s. the quarter, or 8d the bushel, and bay salt at 4d., and wine at 43s. the tun, which is about three farthings the quart.

"In the first of Queen Mary beer was sold for sixpence the barrel, cask and all, and three great loaves for one penny.

"In the year 1557, the 5th of Queen Mary, the penny wheaten loaf was in weight 56 ounces, and in many places people would change a bushel of corn for a pound of candles."

THE ABERDEEN SCHOOLS OF INDUSTRY.

(From Chambers' Journal.)

A parcel of printed reports which has just reached us from Aberdeen, conveys the pleasing intelligence that the Schools of Industry established in that town for the suppression of juvenile mendicancy and crime continue to be in a flourishing state. The object of these schools, as may be remembered, is to prevent begging and crime by children—vagrancy or begging being observedly a mere preliminary to theft, theft leading to burglary or higher offences, and all these crimes sooner or later terminating in imprisonment, transportation, or penal inflictions still more severe. The aim, then, of these institutions is to prevent crime, instead of waiting till it needs to be punished. The way they go to work, consists in the seizure of every boy or girl found begging or vagrandering within the limits of the police, and conducting them, not to jail, but to a School of Industry, where they are fed, instructed, and caused to work at an easy kind of productive employment. All are sent home at night; but after a little time, the whole attend daily without any compulsion. By this means the streets are effectually cleared of all juvenile beggars and petty offenders. The crop of thieves is cut off ere it attains maturity. Crime is effectually nipped in the bud. From the report of the rural police committee of Aberdeenshire, laid before the commissioners of supply, April 30, it appears that the benefit of the schools is extended over all parts of the adjoining district. A few years ago, the number of juvenile vagrants which infested the county of Aberdeen was between 300 and 400. It was quite common to take up above 300 in the year. In the year, however, ending April 1845, the number had diminished to 105; and in the year ending April 1846, it had sunk to 14. To the activity of the police is, doubtless, owing some of this remarkable diminution; but further, observes the committee, is it owing to "the establishment of the admirable Schools of Industry in Aberdeen—food and education having been provided for this unfortunate class, and thus even the shadow of an excuse has been taken away for sending out children to procure subsistence by begging. Your committee desire to draw particular attention to this subject, feeling it to be of the highest importance, because juvenile vagrancy is, they are persuaded, the nursery whence a large proportion both of the crime and the pauperism of after-years is furnished. Doubtless the Schools of Industry more immediately benefit the city of Aberdeen; but as it was from Aberdeen that most of the juvenile vagrants in the county issued, so now the county also is sharing largely in the benefit of these institutions."

Whatever be the merits of the various plans now before the public in respect to the punishment and treatment of criminals, it can admit of no question that institutions such as those we allude to may be rendered important national engines for the general prevention of crime. What can be more sorrowful than the sight of a prison half filled with children, who, having once got into a course of vice, are almost certain not to stop till they endure the higher penalties of the law. That properly-organised Schools of Industry will tend to assuage, if not nearly extirpate, this crying evil, the best evidence is obtained from the reports before us. Let every large town, then, follow the example which has been so admirably set. Let the metropolis, always behind in movements for social advancement, be up and doing in this good work. Already the subject has been sufficiently talked about; the time has come for action. To set about anything of the sort, a little

energy on the part of a single influential individual is alone required. In each locality, such an individual will know where to look for funds. He will not wait, and wait, and wait to see if government will lend its helping hand. Government seems to know or care little for first principles, and, besides, has neither power nor inclination to assist in any scheme of this broad and humanising nature. In establishing Industrial Schools, however, for pauper children, the co-operation of the local magistracy and police is extremely desirable: compulsion being a primary means of filling the benches with pupils. It would further be desirable to have a piece of ground in connexion with each school, which could be cultivated by the boys able for garden or field labour. Valuable as employment within doors may be, it is much less exhilarating than that in the open air, where the whole influences of nature contribute not only to physical, but also moral improvement. The returns from any species of field labour, we apprehend, would also aid materially in supporting the establishment, and render it less burdensome to the friends by whom it would, in the first place, be maintained.

SLANG WORDS.

Young people cannot be too guarded in avoiding the use of any words which disguise the real character of vicious actions. The use of slang words, like swearing, is a habit exceedingly easy of acquisition, and most difficult to be eradicated when once fixed and cherished. It is a habit which assuredly endangers sound moral principle, and at the very least gives a low grovelling turn to the character of those who indulge in it. When spoken by cheats, thieves, robbers, and every other species of livers on plunder, it betokens a mind sunk in vice, and, perhaps, hopelessly ruined. When used by gentlemen, it is equally significant of a want of purity of thought.

You may depend on the correctness of this fact, that no boy who swears, who irreverently makes use of the word God, or who in any respect employs improper or slang phrases, can be of good disposition, or in the way of well doing. Avoid his society. Shun his company. Have nothing to do with him. Lying, stealing, and speaking slang words, are all of a piece: they go hand in hand. A thief is always a liar—always a dissembler of his actions under fantastic phraseology. I think it thus necessary to put you on your guard, for I never yet knew any good come of a young man who used loose expressions. It is a well-known saying of Solomon, "My son, when sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Now, you must observe that sinners never entice any one to commit an evil deed by using correct terms of speech, which is a circumstance very apt to escape the attention of youth. Suppose a companion were to speak to you in these words, "I would like if you would go and steal a penny from your mother," I believe you would at once refuse to commit so abominable an action. The thievish bad companion knows this, and so he attempts to undermine your virtuous resolutions, by insinuating in the first place what a delightful thing it would be to have a penny to spend on some pleasing gratification, and then hints, in sly slang terms, that it would be very easy for you to "nip up" such a trifle. Such is invariably the practice of those evil-disposed persons whom Solomon advises his son to avoid. I therefore say—whenever you hear any one using words of an ambiguous or slang nature, pause to think on what their real meaning may be, and so prevent yourselves from falling into mischief.—*Edinburgh Journal.*

THE DAUGHTER'S REPROOF.—I once visited a poor miserable dwelling, when I heard a very bad man using wicked and cruel language to his wife, who was confined to her bed of illness; it was fearful to see and hear him, and I am sorry to say, I had not the courage to speak to him—I actually trembled with horror and dread.—But a little sick girl, about eleven years of age that was dying of a consumption, went to the angry man, and laid her small, emaciated hand upon his arm, and looking up in his face said, "Father, don't speak so, God hears all we say; pray don't speak so, father." She uttered these few words with such tender earnestness, and such loving gentleness, that her feeble, trembling voice touched the heart of the angry man and he was silent for a moment, and then he said, "I will do anything that child tells me to do, for she's an angel." His fierce nature was subdued: goodness and love had made this little child one of God's ministering angels to her wicked father.