

day by day is seeking to train her children in the fear of God, "What has thou done?" She will answer "I know not." Her children go out into the world true, God-fearing men and women, throwing out influences that will cease only with time. I am not here to-day to glorify any work that has been attempted in this school; but simply to state what is too often overlooked by those who would put a financial value on child saving work, or who estimate results by arithmetic. Experience amply demonstrates the difficulties inseparable from this class of work. We have our difficulties that are probably not well understood by the public generally. One of these is found in the home-life and social environments of a large number of the boys committed to our care. Few of them have had even fair opportunities. Poverty and drink in the home are responsible for a great deal of the delinquency prevalent in our youth. A life of ten or twelve years in such homes renders our task an extremely difficult one. The degrading influences that daily surround the young life, leave their mark on the character. These do not readily yield to better influences. There is need of a reform in the home. Better the home-life and there will be less need of Industrial Schools.

Another difficulty that to a certain extent retards our work, is the interference of parents on behalf of their children. They make representation to some influential friend, and pressure is brought to bear on the school for the release of the boy. In the majority of instances these petitions are in behalf of boys who least deserve consideration. The officers entrusted with the management of the school should be the best competent to judge when it is desirable to shorten the term prescribed by the statute governing Industrial Schools. Boys are no sooner in the school than petitions are presented for their release. The granting of these petitions results in a weakening of the general discipline, discontent among the less favored boys, and a deterioration in the quality of the work done.

Our most serious difficulties, however, are those which we meet with daily in the character of the boys. From an experience of nearly four years of constant contact with them I find their chief failings are, dishonesty, falsehood and the use of tobacco. This need not be a matter of surprise when we consider the home