

The pendulum of public opinion has swung in the opposite direction, since the old days when flogging, and that of a decidedly severe kind, was considered a sort of universal remedy for all cases of neglect of duty. Of late years the tendency has been the other way, and efforts have been made, and those by persons in high positions, to prevent corporal punishment from being inflicted under any circumstances whatever.

When Wellington College was first established, Dr. Benson, the present Bishop of Truro, was offered the Head Mastership. The late Prince Consort, who took a lively interest in the undertaking, used all his influence to prohibit all use of corporal punishment in any form. I believe that Dr. Benson declined to accept the Head Mastership under those conditions. In my opinion he was perfectly right. If a Head Master is not to be trusted to decide when corporal punishment is necessary or expedient, he is not qualified for the post. I was told that the Prince withdrew his opposition and Dr. Benson was appointed.

Secondly, as to the *expediency* of corporal punishment, Dr. Moberly, now Bishop of Salisbury, published a few years ago some letters on Public School Education addressed to Sir William Heathcote. Very admirable were those letters, and no man who ever lived was more competent to write on the subject in question. Dr. Moberly was Head Master of Winchester for 35 years. Among other matters, he dealt with corporal punishment. Observing an apparent movement in favour of its abolition, he pleaded for its retention under careful restrictions. He was not at all in favour of applying it universally, but only in certain cases. There is, I fear, a class of boys to be met with everywhere, who can only be made to work by the fear of physical pain. You may multiply impositions without effecting any benefit. The only result of these is to diminish the boy's play and exercise, and thereby to run the risk of injuring his health, of weakening his energy, and dulling his brain. It would be far better to apply the counter irritation of a few sharp strokes, which, while they would leave behind a salutary reminiscence of what idleness brings with it, would yet not hang about his neck or burden his back like piles of impositions, but would allow him to make a fresh start. A few words of judicious kindness from his master would materially encourage a fresh beginning.