

of my ability, and the time at my disposal, discharged my duty, it remains for you, who are parents, to discharge yours. Whether you will hear, or whether you will forbear, I shall feel that I stand acquitted. If the testimony of the wisest and most experienced men, both in Great Britain, and on this continent; if your own experience, and every day's observation, will not convince you that the breathing of an impure atmosphere is the chief cause of the declension in health of our children—of those, especially, who spend six or eight hours every day within the soul-sickening atmosphere of our schoolrooms, laying the foundation of ailments and diseases, by which is entailed upon the next generation a miserable, but happily for them a short, existence—I say, if you are not convinced of this, then is your case a deplorable one indeed, and at least another generation of your families must pass away before an amelioration of your condition can be expected.

Consumption, it is said, is hereditary; this is not true in the full sense of the word. A predisposition to consumption is, beyond all doubt, like