

make the labour of their little ones contribute to their own pecuniary support ; if indeed they do not carelessly allow them to run hither and thither, regarding the region around them as a kind of common from which their children may pick up what they can towards the satisfaction of their very inconvenient cravings.

Thus their children grow up, as much accustomed to street life as to life at home, and, if they undergo any home training, it is chiefly of an injurious and vicious character. But while for the most part, the parents of such children are highly culpable, it must not be forgotten that there are not a few parents, who, with respect to their arrangements for their children, are rather objects of pity than subjects for blame. Their honest purpose and earnest efforts to provide, by the sweat of their own face alone, enough for themselves and for those who are directly dependent on them, are not always crowned with full success, and thus they are sometimes induced and even compelled to avail themselves of the help which even a child can give towards the solution of the question—How shall both ends meet? I cannot but agree with a recent English writer, that “ It does occasionally happen that a child is receiving the best education, when sacrificing his book and pen for the sake of contributing to family wants.” Such a case, however, is exceptional and extraordinary. And I must also agree with another equally able writer who says, that “ As a general rule, it is not inability that weighs with the parent, but the desire to profit from his child’s earnings. Moral suasion has been the favourite instrument in bringing scholars to school ; but, in these days of great demand for