

that might, and ought, from such an expenditure of means; and that mainly, we apprehend, because of the all but universal determination to act on the *restorative* in preference to the *preventative*. What, we may ask, is the object contemplated by the great majority of these Associations, or the most public Provincial and National Institutions, such as the Houses of Refuge, the Reformatories and the Penitentiaries—Is it not the effecting of a cure upon the distressed or oppressed either in body or mind—is it not by a course of careful external treatment and the application of sanatory means to endeavour to bring about a reformation upon those who by illness, improvidence and dissipation have landed themselves in misery, criminality and insanity? And do they really accomplish their object? In some cases, we admit, they do; and these, their advocates say, are a sufficient compensation for all the efforts they put forth. And so, perhaps, they are; and, on this ground, we would urge to a yet more cordial support of these Institutions, to yet more persevering efforts in rendering them more extensively useful. And, whilst we do this, we would also, in addition, urge the adoption of a course far more excellent in itself, as it elevates to a platform more lofty and commanding,—a course, too, far more likely to be attended with beneficial results. We here refer to that which has for its object the use of all sound and legitimate means, by which man shall not only be kept from the contracting of those habits which shall entail upon him vice and crime, and suffering and wretchedness, but by which he shall be trained to those habits of virtue and industry and perseverance which instead of rendering him a burden to society and a besitting object of commiseration, will elevate him to a decent competency, and to a sphere of respectability and usefulness. And surely no one who is possessed of ordinary sagacity can fail to perceive that such an instrumentality cannot fail to be productive of the most beneficial results. True, it demands the exercise of a high-born principle; but this very circumstance is what is most likely to crown it with success and to render it more extensively useful. But it is also the most economical. The *restorative* species of instrumentality, however well devised and perseveringly worked and successful in its operation, does not diminish the objects of our sympathy. If it should be effectual in performing a cure,—and in not a few instances it may be so,—there is always a fresh supply in readiness to take the place of such, and that supply is ever increasing at the same ratio as the population. How different is it with the *preventative* species of means! Not only are the results immensely greater, and much more numerous, and much more to be depended on; but they are gradually diminishing the necessity for the curative, and will continue to do so till the ushering in of a brighter day than our world hath ever seen since the period of man's pristine dignity and glory.

In the foregoing remarks we have had a special eye to the subject of Education. Here pre-eminently should the *preventative* system be carried out into full and vigorous operation. Reformatories and Ragged Schools have done much, and are destined, we believe, to do a great deal more, in reclaiming the vagrant and the vicious among the young. But what are they, after all, but so many substitutes—oftentimes poor and unsuccessful substitutes—for a sound and thorough education ere bad habits are acquired. Would that statesmen and Legislatures but considered this subject in all its length and breadth—would that Provinces and States, but saw and believed that, irrespective of their obligations to the

Great Moral Governor of the Universe, to provide a suitable education for every schoolable child within their borders, it is vastly cheaper to build commodious school-houses, to equip them with proper furniture, and adequately to remunerate the living agent, than it is to erect Jails, Bridewells, Hospitals, with all the paraphernalia of military and police and convict establishments, judges, lawyers, &c., &c. In a thoroughly organized system of National Education, the estimated cost of the education of every child is not more than £4 or £5 per annum, and that of the support of every criminal to the nation is about £100 per annum. Did nations, as such, but apprehend this fact—that it is their highest interest to enact and endow a sound system of Education, then would the statesmen who devised such a system be accounted the best patriot, and the teacher the truest benefactor in the settlement. When will some great reformer arise to expose and denounce the grand practical plunder that is now perpetrated in the distribution of charity, and in the allocation of national funds—a man possessed of that moral courage by force of which he shall burst asunder the manacles by which the popular mind is now enslaved, and bid the christianized nations go forth on the royal pathway of prevention.

#### COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

ONE grand impediment in the progressive advancement of universal education, is the apathy and indifference that reign in the popular mind regarding it. In the most enlightened communities there is not, perhaps, a third in the population that realize its importance to any extent;—indeed, the general notion seems to be that none but parents can appreciate its value, that none but parents can feel any real interest in its promotion. Bachelors, parents whose children are educated, and the great mass of those who are either in a condition of heathen ignorance, or but partially educated, seem to imagine that they have little or nothing with the whole cause of Education. Need we say that so long as this state of things continues Education in any country can never be in health or vigor, that until all and sundry in every community are awakened to a due sense of the magnitude of the interests involved, never will Education assume that position to which it is so justly entitled. And how, it may be asked, is this to be effected? Is it by an earnest appeal to our fellow-countrymen on the ground of our common patriotism, or of our common philanthropy, or of our common Christianity? Alas! we fear, from the imperfections of humanity, that if we are compelled to wait until we receive a suitable response to one or other of these appeals, we shall wait for an indefinite period of time, and the evils all the while are growing apace and increasing at an immensely rapid ratio.—To meet these evils, as they now exist, we must descend to a lower platform and make an appeal to the pockets of all, according to their means; in other words, a modified system of direct taxation for educational purposes must be resorted to. This, we believe, will operate more powerfully than any other expedient that could now be tried in bestirring the public mind, and making all realize a direct interest in this cause.—But even this will not suffice in securing a universal education in any country. Though the school-doors were thrown wide open for the free education of all, there are, we believe, hundreds of our youthful population, and these the very par-