

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS AFFECTING CRIME AND VICE.

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Table with 4 columns: Ratio of saloons to population, Ratio of insane and criminal, Assessed valuation per capita, and Literates 10 years of age and over. Rows for 1857, 1880, and 1888.

The table unmistakably shows a greater per capita of wealth where the fewest literates are enumerated but it no less clearly shows that this augmentation of riches has been accompanied by increased insanity and crime and more widespread vice.

But we need not confine ourselves to the general statistics of the United States for the records of New York present similar conditions, which can be analyzed more in detail.

When it is remembered that the detected illiterate generally finds his way to prison, while the highly educated or well-to-do are frequently saved by friends, who compound the felony to escape exposure and consequent family disgrace.

But if the education of the masses is accompanied by no diminution of vice, crime and insanity, what shall we say of the effect illiteracy may have upon our institutions by the abuse or misuse of the suffrage?

The Rev. F. H. Winsor, who conducted this branch of the "Tenth Census" report, says that, while in 1850 the ratio of foreign criminals to population was five times that of the native born, in 1880 the ratio was only two to one.

An examination of the "Compendium of the Tenth Census" of the United States discloses some novel and threatened facts. The illiterates of the United States comprise seventeen per cent. of the total population.

It, however, is further claimed, and almost universally allowed, that the instruction of our public schools serves to ennoble the emotions and to moderate the passions, to regenerate the viciously inclined, and to correct and subdue the tendency to crime.

If we measure the extent of unrecorded vice by the proportion of saloons to population the showing is no less remarkable. The "Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the Year 1887," page xxxiii., shows that, for the entire country during that year, a retail license for selling liquor was granted for every 329 inhabitants.

The table which follows presents some deliquiting facts, which should serve as a salutary warning to those who expect to find in mental stimulation an equivalent for moral growth and culture.

record the polling of a Union Labor vote. Far from mental stimulation being essential to moral development, the most perfect order and deepest sense of justice are often found associated with the densest ignorance among the lowest races of humanity.

The table shows that where the extremes of poverty and wealth prevail, as in the Eastern States, there is found a maximum of moral and mental derangement, as exhibited in insanity, crime and vice.

The Rev. F. H. Winsor, statistician and philanthropist, who has made questions of crime and criminals the study of a lifetime, was selected by the authorities at Washington to compile the statistics bearing on delinquents in the tenth census.

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