

No. The city makes an appropriation, and the citizens put their hands in their pockets, entertainments are given etc., and a fund is raised to meet the immediate necessities, and so it goes on, each year the same old story, varied only by the death of the old stagers and the birth of new paupers to take their places.

Now this same money, rightly expended, would educate these children out of pauperism and make them a help instead of a hinderance to a community, and the State should *compel* every child to obtain this education.

What are the obstructions in the way, at present, of their receiving an education?

1st. Poverty, which interferes in three ways:—

The children cannot be provided with proper clothing.

They are not able to buy books, etc.

The services of the children are required to earn their daily bread.

2nd. An unwillingness on the part of children to attend school, and a carelessness on the part of parents as to whether they do so or not.

3rd. Total depravity, (we might term it) on the part of a certain class of paupers, who would mutilate their own bodies in order to gain the sympathy of the benevolent and thereby live without working; and who would, as a consequence, think very little of keeping their children in rags and filth in order that they might beg for them with better success.

4th. Helplessness from disease or bodily infirmity, on the part of parents which makes them dependent on their children's labor.

Now, how is the case to be dealt with? It looks formidable at first glance, but if we will only combine our efforts and look the matter squarely in the face, many of the difficulties (like goblins bravely met) will disappear when the light is turned full upon them.

The laws of our state already do, and have for some time provided books

for those who were unable to buy them.

The unwillingness on the part of children to attend school, and the disposition of parents to train them into vagabonds and beggars I think all will agree, should be met with the stern voice of the law.

Now, we only have left the provision of clothing for the poor, and the case of those children whose services are really needed to provide the necessities of life, and it seems to me that it is only necessary to consider how much help these families already receive, to see that it would be cheaper from a financial standpoint, to train these children to be self-supporting, even if, in the mean time we are obliged to give more assistance to the parents.

It has for a long time been my opinion that systematic, organized Charitable Associations should be formed to help people to help themselves, and that in so doing much more good could be done and with less expenditure of money than is now being made for charitable purposes.

Students and others have proved it to be a success to "club together" to reduce living expenses to the lowest minimum. With the assistance of benevolent associations it would be possible for poor families to club together and enjoy the same benefits. I will not enlarge upon that phase of the subject now, but hope it will be brought up on another occasion.

Certainly all citizens of the United States should be required to receive an education in the practical branches of an English education, some manual training, good moral habits, and the ability to support themselves.

Where a child showed a natural ability to go beyond this in any direction that would make his services of more advantage to himself or the world, there would no doubt be some friend of humanity who would put it in his power to do so.