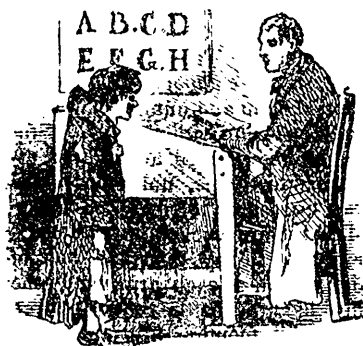


ed boy. Such is moral power.—Such is the strength by which evil may, sometimes at least, be overcome with good.—*American Paper.*

### An Argument for Sabbath Schools.

The author of the "Convict Ship" says, "of 1065 prisoners who have in five different voyages, been conveyed under my superintendence to the penal colonies of Australia, fourteen only had been educated in a Sunday school."



### RAGGED SCHOLS.

WE ARE ALL WRONG.

One day, a little boy came to the ragged school to have his name put down as a scholar. His dress was a very old coat, which had been made most likely many years before for a man, and now, when worn by the boy, its skirts dragged along the ground as he walked. He had no shirt, no shoes, no stockings; and instead of trousers, an old dirty apron was tied around him, outside the coat. The poor little fellow was covered with dirt from head to foot; plainly showing that his home was one of great neglect and discomfort as well as poverty.

The parents of this poor boy were not generally reckoned dishonest people; but they were well known as being very careless about their family, and very profligate. Their occupa-

tion was that of selling vegetables and fruit in the streets; and they might have obtained a comfortable living in this way, but for their sad habits of drunkenness. As it was, almost all they earned they spent at the public-house, leaving their children to wander in the streets, and to obtain food for themselves as they could.

You may think what a wretched home they had. A few shavings served for a bed; an old basket, turned bottom upwards, was the only table, and two old saucepans were the only seats the room contained. The parents themselves were always dressed in tatters, and covered with filth; and the neighbours around them—though, alas! many of them were very ignorant and debased—looked upon this family with pity and contempt.

It was hard work, no doubt, to make the son of such parents pay any regard to cleanliness, and to take any real pleasure in learning. After a time however, he was more decent in appearance, and in a few months was able to read. His teacher then gave him, as a reward and an encouragement, a New Testament; and he was told to take it home and to read it to his parents, if they would like to listen to him. He was to read to them the third chapter of John.

The boy had soon an opportunity of doing this; for, degraded as his parents were, they were proud of the success of their son, and pleased with the gift he had brought from school. They sat and listened and the child read:—

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."