

of eight or ten years was sooner attracted by the sight of a book than others twice their age. The newness of the country may partially excuse the alarming deficiency. No class in the community are suffering, or will suffer more the evils of ignorance, than that noble band of youth, just entering upon manhood and womanhood. No Day Schools existed in March or Torbolton except those supported by private subscriptions.

The long winters have much to do in forming the social and moral habits of the people ; to spend half of the year away from the home circle, with no Sabbath but one of drowsy inactivity, to mix with the low vulgarity and profanity around the blazing fire of the woodman's shanty, leaves a dark spot on the soul which the rains of many summers cannot wash out. A man thus exposed, unless arrested by the grace of God, will go further in sin, and be always ignorantly bold and coarse ; the bar-room, with all its filth, intemperance and beastly degradation, becomes familiar. Worse than this, many a noble and generous youth falls into these " traps of the devil," *never to escape.*

In speaking of the religious character of the people, fidelity to the principles of your Society does not allow me to call sects and parties by name. The majority of the people are *nominally* Christian. To know the present religious condition of the Protestant portions of Ireland, Scotland, and England, is to know the main features in the religious aspects of the people. Friends of the Redeemer are everywhere to be found, but what are they among so many hundreds, who with a false hope are going to ruin. Man cannot judge the heart, and yet we are taught to judge a tree by its fruit. Questions in Church polity must soon give place to others more fundamental and vital. Changes in the modes of travel, the rapid increase of population of every habit of mind, general physical improvements in the use of water and steam must produce more information, greater mental activity, and consequent restlessness and inquiry. Strong common sense and practical sagacity, grown on such a soil, will think and act for itself. What the parents *want*, and talk about at their firesides, their children will *demand* ; the heaven is at work, and none can hinder. The simple story of the Cross, the necessity of repentance and faith in Christ, were listened to with attention in public and private. Never will be forgotten those souls hungering for the bread of life, and what is infinitely more, may not the great Head of the Church forget them. Sabbath breaking abounds ; it is seldom