school pence paid by the parents of scholars. This outlay is gradullly to increase until the 4,000,000 of children within the school age receive adequate instruction in the day-school, and are then carefully trained in night-schools until they enter the Mechanics' Institution, there to complete their education. The most momentous question therefore is—whence is this vast increase of annual income to be derived? Some of our politicians propose to remodel our whole system;—to make all schools free, and thus to give up half a million of school-pence;—to take the schools out of the hands of the religious communions, and place them in those of county or borough boards, and thus to abandon three quarters of a million more. Even their jealousy of centralization would have led them also to charge on local rates the £700,000 derived from the Committee of Council on Education. Parliament is much more tolerant than the parish—much more liberal than the borough—much more comprehensive in its legislation than the county;—and the Committee of Council is much more impartial in the administration of the public grant than any local board would be. Though, therefore, the Parliamentary grant has increased to proportions which excite anxieties as to its further augmentation, and cause a continually accumulating strain to secure a pure and efficient distribution, the risks and embarrassment of any plan yet proposed for decentralising the administration of this fund, have on mature reflection appeared greater than its advantages. Those plans have been most practicable which provided for the growth of the expenditure from the local rates, without interfering with the present school organization, or cutting off any of its present success of support. The school pence paid by parents are, under the Factories' Regulation Act, charged on the wages of the children and paid by the employer. The regular attendance of the scholars from the age of eight to that of thirteen, is secured by the half-time system; and its extension, together with the increase of the charge, might also be considered as one source of an increase of income. The children of the indigent who receive out-door relief may be sent to school, if not at work, by the guardians of the poor, under an Act introduced by the Speaker of the late House of Commons, and their school pence may be charged on the poor-rate. This arrangement might be rendered compulsory. Though the local adoption of a permissive school-rate would now be generally impracticable, the growth of the present system of national education is itself an evidence of the increasing force of an intelligent public opinion in favour of the early training of the masses of our fellow countrymen in efficient schools.

£15,000,000, THE COST OF PUNISHING CRIME AND RESTRAINING TURBULENCE.

We know that we lose *nine millions* in the plunder of thieves; in the force required to protect property, to detect, prosecute, and punish crime, and restrain turbulence: *six millions* annually are swallowed in the gulf of pauperism:—beer, spirits, and tobacco, cost about *sixty millions!* There is a steady progress in the conviction that property would be more secure, indigence more rare, and the whole people more provident and contented, if they were better educated. The old-fashioned alarm of the tyranny of the mob, if they learned to read and write, has changed into a dread of the ignorance, brutality, and misery of an untaught people. We have lately emerged from a General Election, in which every party in the State is agreed to grant some extension of the elective franchise. All agree that if the intelligent, sober, and thrifty members of the working-class could be sifted from the mass, they ought to possess the franchise. There is no dread of confiding this privilege to any man who as a child attended the day and Sunday-schools, and as a youth was diligent up to manhood at the evening school and Mechanics' Institution. Much more would he deserve the privilege if he had also entered the classes of your congregation. The freedom of the press; the rapidity and cheapness of political intelligence; the increase both of the power and of the disposition to use these advantages, appear not to have been followed by any of those evils which were apprehended. The press is less licentious; it pays an increasing respect to public order. Cheap literature is more moral and useful, and the good has greater vitality than the bad. "Strikes" are not made for anti-social or irrational objects, and are not supported by personal outrages or injury to property. Educated workmen are more trustworthy, intelligent, and reasonable than ignorant men. There is a decrease of political discontent; an increase of respect for the law, and of security for property. No political change is sought by conspiracy, but only by discussion. With such facts to guide it, public opinion gathers strength in favor of national education.

AMELIORATING EFFORTS OF THE LAST CENTURY—HOW THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED UP.

At the very foundation of all this improvement are the labours of John Wesley and and his faithful followers. I have just read an account (by Mr. John Robertson of Manchester, in the "Transactions of the Manchester Statistical Society,") of the results of his work in the present moral and religious condition of the Cornish miners, prematurely perishing from scrofula and chest disease. They are described by Mr. Robertson as singularly temperate, chaste, domestic in their habits—with households in which "a spirit of thrift and good management prevails." Their women are cleanly and neat in dress; scrupulously careful of their clothes, but somewhat "finely dressed" on Sundays. Many of the working miners are lay preachers. Privately, Mr. Robertson has informed me that he found Bibles, Hymn-books, and Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," in almost all the cottages, and family worship a prevailing habit. The preaching of John Wesley from his father's tomb at Epworth to the farm labourers—on the open heaths, to the handloom weavers of Lancashire and Yorkshire—in Moorfields, to the debauched, wretched, and turbulent population of London—at Kingswood, to the colliers of Bristol—and throughout Cornwall to its miners—was a great example which aroused every religious communion in Great Britain to a consciousness of the import of those words with which our Saviour opened his mission when he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath-day, and read from the Book of the Prophet Esaias:—"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor." The teaching of Wesley and Whitfield must be acknowledged as the first sign of that motion of the "power from on high," which roused the Puritan and Presbyterian remnant of the Commonwealth to devoted efforts of Christian charity, and offered to the Church of England the loyal aid of a new Missionary Church founded by one of its most faithful pastors. These efforts have made the last century an era in the religious history of this country. Unless the teaching of Wesley and Whitfield had preceded the French Revolution, we might have had to struggle with domestic confusion as well as to confront a revolutionary propagandism and the idea of a universal European monarchy. But Wesley and Whitfield were followed by Raikes and the Sunday-school; by Bell and Lancaster, and the day-school; by Dr. Birkbeck and the Mechanics' Institution; by Lord Brougham and the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; by the Tract and Christian Knowledge Societies; by Charles Knight and Chambers, Bohn and Cassell, and the cheap literature. The Church of England has in the present century restored her decaying religious fabrics, expended millions in erecting and endowing new churches, created new parochial districts, has outstripped every other communion in building and supporting efficient schools for the poor, in founding Training Colleges, and in adopting every improvement in organization and method. Let us hope that the spirit whfch has caused this vast improvement will wipe out the scandals of a defective discipline jealous of the laity, who bear the burdens of the church, without participating in its authority.

EFFECTS OF THESE INFLUENCES ON THE ARMY AND NAVY.

We are not at liberty to be silent on the great perils of the day. We have been warned by the class of statesmen who formerly defended prize fighting, that by our efforts for civilization we were enervating the people. The coarseness and the sensuality of the common people were deemed to be inseparable from their valour. And it is true that even the sottish vices of an ignorant populace failed to make the rough sailors of Nelson less eager to place their ships, porthole to porthole, alongside the enemy, where they could spring with their boarding pikes upon his deck; or to shake the solidity of those squares which never quailed under the volleys of grape which hailed upon them at Waterloo, nor broke before the repeated charges of the cuirassiers. But that the population is not enervated let Alma answer, and Balaklava, and Inkerman, and all the heroic deeds of the advance of Havelock, the defence of Lucknow, the assault of Delhi, and the conquest of Oude. To such gross conceptions of the true consequences of civilization on the mass of the people must be opposed the fact that in future wars men will act less in masses. We need more steadiness, intelligence, and skill, in the soldier whose rifle strikes its mark with precision at 1,000 yards, than in the man who never fired his musket except from his rank, with a success so doubtful that it is disputed whether one in 300 or one in 1,000 balls hits the mark. In the arts of peace we require men on whose sobriety, intelligence, and skill, we can depend, to take charge of the steam engines of our ships, factories, and mines; of the locomotives of our railways, and the complicated arrangements of their stations, telegraphs, and points; and of all the new applications of science in mechanical combinations and inventions. In war we shall have an artillery, the range of which is to be computed by miles, but with a precision of aim and a momentum of force with which no former ordnance can be compared. We shall have vast ships moved by steam engines of unprecedented power, cased in a mail of iron scales, and armed with rifled cannon. Is it not clear that these costly engines of destruction cannot be confided to the brave but rude and dissolute Jack Tars who won the battles of the Nile and Trafalgar? Let any intelligent officer say whether