

of Upper Canada, of the principle of compulsory attendance, will assist the solution of the difficult social problem before us, remains to be seen. The Chief Superintendent, when announcing in December, 1865, his intention to hold a School Convention in each county, early in the present year, states, as among the subjects to be considered in such Conventions, "It is proposed to consider whether each Municipal Council should not be invested with the power to bring to account and punish by fine, or requiring to work on the roads, parents who do not send their children, between seven and fifteen years of age, to some school, at least four months in the year." And in the *Journal of Education* for March last, it was stated that "of forty County Conventions, thirty-four affirmed the principle of the duty of the state to render penal the neglect of parents to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded for the education of their children." Two Conventions declined to take action in the matter, and a few had not then reported their minutes.

The legal provision here contemplated appears to consider especially the wants of rural sections, but surely it will not overlook the case of untaught children in cities and towns. The following is an instructive extract from the laws of the State of Massachusetts which provide for compulsory education in certain cases :—

"Each city and town may make all needful provisions and arrangements concerning habitual truants and children not attending school, or without any regular and lawful occupation, or growing up in ignorance, between the age of five and sixteen years ; and also all such by-laws res-