

blunder which might probably involve expense and loss of time to repair.

But again, a sound moral and practical education is the best legacy to bequeath to their children; and far better were it for some of the children of wealthy parents if they had received only fifty acres instead of one hundred, and the value of the remaining fifty been given to provide them with an education. Their education could not be thrown into the pockets of the tavern keeper and grog seller as their property can. It is something which they could not absolutely squander were they inclined. But what a lamentable sight it is to see large numbers of our population squandering their valuable properties in profligacy, debauchery, drunkenness and licentiousness, until they bring themselves and families to wretchedness, starvation and disgrace. Had they got a sound moral and practical education, probably they would never have reached such a deplorable condition; and if they really wish to get out of such a condition, education would stand their friend. I do not deny the fact that many of our confirmed debauchees are educated men. I admit such to be the case, and feel grieved to think that such is the fact; but I also believe that the majority of these men have simply a secular education, which was not begun on a religious or moral basis. Seldom do you find the man with the latter education who has his name inscribed in the catalogue of the drunkard or gambler, and remains such for lifetime. But again, when parents consider for a moment the fact that our present generation will, in the course of twenty, thirty, or forty years, be the governors and rulers of our land,—that these little minds, whose welfare troubles many of them very little now, will, by and by, fill our legislative council and assembly, our halls of justice, our pulpit, our noble colleges and universities—not to be taught then, but to teach—our municipal councils, and our glorious common schools, they should be very careful about the channels which they steer these little minds into. They should be careful that the twigs are bent in the right direction while they are twigs; that they shoot forth luxuriantly into the paths of religion, virtue and truth, and not ground on the sands and quicksands of infidelity, ignorance, bigotry, superstition and vice.

Another reason why parents should furnish their children with a sound education is, that education is one of the best remedies for the decrease of crime, in fact

it is the best and only one. All the pages of history bear witness to the fact that nations have degenerated, and crime decreased in exact proportion as sound moral and practical education increases. Four-fifths of our drunkards, criminals and assassins, come from the ranks of ignorance and bigotry; and if these classes were reduced what a vast amount of expense would be saved to our country?

The last reason which I will allege in favour of education is, that the cultivation of the moral and intellectual faculties is the true standard of manhood, and the true source of a nation's greatness.

We have a fertile soil, and a salubrious climate; we have scattered around us the countless blessings of a bounteous benefactor; our country is full of hope; we look to a glorious future in regard to wealth and prosperity; we live under one of the best constitutions ever framed by man, and under the reign of one of the most benign sovereigns which ever sat upon a throne. But what will all these avail if we permit our moral and intellectual faculties to wither and decay. Our national greatness will never consist in our fertility of soil, salubrity of climate, or boundless wealth.

Cast your eyes around our globe and you will find some of the most fertile spots upon its surface, with a climate the most congenial to the habitation of man—once the seats of civilization and refinement—now sunk into the lowest depths of ignorance, vice and superstition; and the national mind corrupted and depraved by indulgence in sensuality and licentiousness. Look at Italy, Greece and Spain. What have they become owing to neglect in the cultivation of the moral and intellectual faculties? The abodes of despotic rulers, vicious profligates, herds of banditti, and mid-day assassins.

Look again and observe how the desert island, and the pestilential swamp have become the abodes of civilization, the arts and sciences. Look at Holland with its swamps, and Scotland with her mountains: observe the contrast. Their populations are industrious, moral, contented, prosperous and happy. Look at the past history of these and many other countries, and at their present state; then examine the glorious past history of Italy, Greece and many other countries, and also at their present state, and then inform me whether the contrast is not owing to their cultivation of the moral and intellectual faculties? So surely as the cultivation of these faculties is neglected, so surely will that

nation begin to decline, until, by following an incontrovertible law of nature, it sinks to the level of the brute creation. It is sometimes said in the language of one of our great poets, that

"A little learning is a dangerous thing,  
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring;"

but that idea was exploded long ago. The more knowledge a man has the better, and if parents cannot give their children a great education, let them give them a small one; a little is far better than none.

The ignorant man knows no other country but his own, and he knows very little about it. Often his knowledge of geography &c. lies all within a circuit of ten miles around him. He knows no other planet except the one he lives on. The sun he supposes to give light and heat only to this earth; and the stars he sees—besides countless millions he cannot see—are simply little lights to amuse him in the journey. But when his faculties become cultivated, and he is led to behold some of the beauties and discoveries of science, he becomes altogether changed in his notions; his views become enlightened and liberal; his idea of God and His handiwork are sublime and elevating; he is taught to behold the works of creation with an awe-inspiring, and yet pleasing delight; and if he studies the structure of his own wonderful frame, his ideas of men and things become totally changed; he looks upon himself as created for nobler purposes than some of the grovelling pursuits of life, and begins to try and fulfil some of the duties for which he was created.

Parents, in view of these facts, if you have neglected this all-important subject, neglect it no longer. Trifle not with the mind, delicate in structure, transcendent in value, and immortal in destiny. Trifle not with the education of your children, seeing that it is so intimately connected with their welfare both in time and eternity. Do you wish to see our beloved Canada rise in the scale of nations?—Then neglect not your duty. Especially would I say this to mothers. The mothers of our land exert a powerful influence on our future welfare, and that of the world, through their children. Remember our future progress and prosperity, not in wealth alone, but in all that makes a nation great, annihilating, exalted and influential, depend on education. Sacrifice something in order to accomplish your children's education. They are part of the nation, and a whole is made