

in which they swarm by thousands in great cities. The children of this world have ever been wiser than the children of light. Were Christian philanthropists found using but a tithe of the shrewd foresight and judicious adaptation of means to ends which are everywhere conspicuous in the struggles for wealth and position, much greater success could scarcely fail to attend their labours of love. If in the case of children even of virtuous parents, it is often true that

“The springtime of our years
Is soon dishonoured and defiled, in most,
By budding ills which need a prudent hand
To check them ;”

what can be expected in the case of those whose eyes first open on scenes of filth and misery, who are swaddled in cradles of infamy, and educated in streets and cellars dark, damp and foul with human depravity? Prevention is ever not only easier, but infinitely better than cure. The strength of manhood redeemed from shame and crime to virtue and God, is an excellent trophy of the power of Gospel grace, but alas! almost as rare as excellent. Hoary hairs are ever a crown of glory if found in the paths of righteousness, but how much more glorious when they adorn the brow of a victor whose whole life has been spent in the race—whose retrospect from the long-desired goal falls upon no wasted or worse than wasted years, of wandering in by-paths of vice, or wallowing in sloughs of degradation.

More is perhaps being done just now in the way of preventing crime, by saving those who are in process of training for criminals, than at any previous period in the world's history. Christian men and women; moved by Christ-like compassion, are treading the narrow lanes of such cities as London and New York on missions of the truest love: full of noble zeal, like their Master—like Him, too, shrinking not