

house, with two others to be dedicated within a week, will have cost \$25,000. Last week, in the neighboring city of Charlestown, a new high school house of a most splendid and costly character, was dedicated by the Mayor and city government, by clergy and laity.

But it is not the Mayors of cities, and Presidents of colleges alone, that engage in the work of consecrating temples of education to the service of the young. Since I have been here, the Governor of the Commonwealth, Mr. Briggs, went to Newburyport, a distance of forty miles, to attend the dedication of a school house which cost \$5,000. On a late occasion, when the same excellent Chief Magistrate travelled forty miles to attend the dedication of a school house in the country, some speaker congratulated the audience because the Governor of the Commonwealth had come down from the executive Chair to honor the occasion, "No," said he, "I have come up to the occasion to be honored by it." Within the last year \$200,000 have been given by individuals to Harvard College. Within a little longer time than this, the other two colleges in the State have received, together, a still larger endowment, from individuals or the State.

These measures are a part of a great system which we are carrying on for the elevation of the race. Last year the voters of Massachusetts, in their respective towns, voluntarily taxed themselves about a million of dollars for the support of common schools. We have an old law on the statute book, requiring towns to tax themselves for the support of public schools, but the people have long since lost sight of this law in the munificence of their contributions. Massachusetts is now erecting a reform school for vagrant and exposed children—so many of whom come to us from abroad—which will cost the State more than a hundred thousand dollars. An unknown individual has given \$20,000 dollars towards it. We educate all our deaf and dumb and blind. An appropriation was made by the last legislature to establish a school for idiots, in imitation of those beautiful institutions in Paris, in Switzerland, and in Berlin, where the most revolting and malicious of this deplorable class are tamed into docility, made lovers of order and neatness, and capable of performing many valuable services. The future teacher of this school is now abroad, preparing himself for his work. A few years ago, Mr. Everett, the present President of Harvard College, then Governor of the State, spoke the deep convictions of the Massachusetts people, when in a public address on education, he exhorted the fathers and mothers of Massachusetts in the following words; "Save," said he, "save, spare, scrape, stint, starve, do anything but steal," to educate your children. And Dr. Howe, the noble hearted director of the Institution for the Blind, lately uttered the deepest sentiments of our citizens when in speaking of our duties to the blind, the deaf and dumb, and the idiot, he said: "The sight of any human being left to brutish ignorance, is always demoralizing to the beholder. There floats not upon the stream of life a wreck of humanity so utterly shattered and crippled, but that its signals of distress should challenge attention and command assistance"

Sir, it was all glowing and fervid with sentiments like these, that a few weeks ago I entered this House—sentiments transfused into my soul from without, even if I had no vital sparks of nobleness to kindle them within. Imagine, then, my strong revulsion of feeling, when the first set, elaborate speech which I heard, was that of the gentleman from Virginia, proposing to extend ignorance to the uttermost bounds of this Republic; to legalize it, to