

also in the interest of humanity, to cast our eyes around and see what are the germs from which this rank crop of crime proceeds. Against those who come from distant places to ply among us their criminal vocation we can protect ourselves only by our vigilance in detections, and by inflicting upon the offenders, when convicted, the utmost penalties of the law; but against a band of youths born and growing up in our midst, hardened in vice, other means are necessary, and we may well enquire whether the law itself is not defective, and whether we ourselves are not to blame, in not providing adequate measures for nipping crime in the bud, and for the prevention of its growth.

While we may feel proud of the progress we have made in providing a Common School education for our youth, and of the large sum which we annually devote to that purpose, we cannot but feel that there is a radical defect in the system which permits so many children of both sexes to wander as beggars and vagrants through our streets, despatched upon their daily errand of crime, to bring home to worthless parents, to be dissipated in drunkenness, what they may lay their little pilfering hands upon, or what they may extract from the charity of the simple, by ready tales of orphanage, or of some imaginary calamity suddenly fallen on their parents, instruction in which fictions of misery is all that they receive at home, impressed upon their memories by cruel tortures and privation lest they, poor children, should forget their lessons.

To rescue this class from the evil influence of wicked parents, is an object well worthy the ambition and utmost energy of the humane, and contributing, as every industrious citizen largely does, from the fruits of his industry, towards the educational fund, he would seem to have a right to demand that the law which compels him to contribute towards the education of the children of others, should at the same time compel all to accept the benefits of education thus provided. The interests of the public and of humanity alike justify such an interposition of the law, which some seem to shrink from, as in their judgment an unwarrantable interference with the parental authority.

In such cases as those to which I allude, the parental authority is the greatest evil to which these poor children are exposed; and the evil has grown to so great a magnitude as to make it a Christian duty in those who frame our laws to interpose for its removal.

#### 7. REPRESSION OF JUVENILE CRIME.

The following is an extract from the presentment of the Grand Jury of the city of Toronto, on this subject, dated the 17th instant:

"The Grand Jury desire to refer to those portions of the judge's charge which relate to the efforts that might be put forth for the education of indigent vagabond youth and the repression of juvenile crime. They are aware that the question of compulsory education mentioned by the judge, is one on which a great deal may be said for and against, but they are glad to find that public attention is being drawn to it, and that from the bench and from the professor's chair and other places of eminence, utterances are given which show that the subject is attracting that degree of attention which its importance demands.

"They are aware that strictly compulsory education would be obnoxious to a great number of the best people in this Province; but they think a modification of the system might be devised that would be very beneficial to the community. At any rate, it would be well to give the project a trial, and see how it would work. In some instances a compulsory system might be found to press hardly on children or parents. A discretionary power might, therefore, be vested in the hands of proper authorities to exempt from attendance those children whom they deemed fit to so treat.

"One mode of dealing with poor or uncared for children, would be to place them in institutions similar to the Boys and Girls' Homes; but this, of course, would involve the consideration of many subjects, spiritual as well as temporal, which would render the method difficult of arrangement and adoption; but they think some plan might be arranged by which—in addition to imparting an education to the neglected and unfortunate little ones—there might also be given to them one or more meals a day, and perhaps out of this undertaking a plan would develop itself by which the problem of juvenile education and maintenance would be satisfactorily solved.

"They think that the establishment of industrial schools and farms and workshops, for the benefit of especially the indigent juvenile population, would be a great benefit to the Province at large, and they believe that those institutions properly conducted might be made self-sustaining. Here the boys might be trained to agriculture and other occupations which would result in benefit to themselves as well as to the whole community. And the girls might be fitted to become efficient domestic servants, the scarcity of which is a subject of continued complaint from ladies who have the management of

households. At present there is a great demand among farmers for persons able and willing to work, of both sexes, and a great number of men and women could easily find employment at good wages in various sections of the country. Emigrants recently arrived in the Province at once obtain engagements although it takes them some time to become acquainted with the ways and requirements of the land of their adoption.

"Of course youth trained up in our midst would have many advantages over the newly-arrived emigrants, and in general be better adapted to the labor market. The Grand jury believe that there would be little difficulty in apprenticing to farmers and others, boys and girls who had been a few years in those industrial training establishments. There is no doubt that for years to come there will be ample room in Canada for the laborer and the mechanic, as the resources of the country are great, and need only the application of labor to have them developed.

"It would be well for the community to utilize the material for labor they have amongst them, and train up the young people to habits of industry and morality, especially when by so doing they would not only benefit the recipients of their bounty, but would also prevent the commission of crime which is so costly to the Province as well as so disgraceful and disastrous."

#### 8. JUVENILE PUNISHMENT AND EDUCATION.

From a letter of Prof. Wilson's we make the following extracts:—  
"In Edinburgh, where so much has been accomplished by Dr. Guthrie and others, through the agency of 'Industrial' or 'Ragged' schools, etc., one of the first effective steps was the substitution of summary corporal punishment for imprisonment in the case of young offenders. One of the city magistrates, while presiding in his official capacity in the police court, noted with pain the number of juvenile criminals sent to jail for petty thefts, the great majority of whom ended in becoming hardened criminals. The merciful plan of dismissal, after a solemn admonition was tried—not for the first time—but in too many cases the impression was evanescent; and, on a second offence, commitment to gaol became inevitable. Knowing, however, that he was thereby in many cases, only putting the brand of them on the young offender, and apprenticing him to a life of crime, the benevolent magistrate resorted to the plan of sending for the parents or guardians, wherever such could be found, and, with their sanction, subjecting the young criminal to a sound flogging at the hands of a police officer, and then dismissing him with an earnest admonition, and warning as to what he had to expect if again convicted. There are hundreds of youths of the ages figuring so numerous in our last gaol report, to whom a mere admonition by our police magistrate would be a jest, and incarceration in the gaol a trouble got over long before the briefest term of imprisonment transpired; who would think seriously before they incurred the risk of a second flogging. The result of the experience at Edinburgh was so satisfactory that a clause was introduced into a subsequent act of parliament empowering the police magistrate to substitute summary corporal punishment for imprisonment for all offenders under, if I mistake not, fifteen years of age; and the police tawse has ever since served an excellent reformatory.

Still, this or any other substitute for the jail, leaves the other and more important institution, the school, untouched. We have been talking about compulsory education or some other means of dealing with our street vagrants, so long that meanwhile a whole generation has grown up beyond the reach of any plan we can devise. The "Street Arabs" belong to our cities, and, in Ontario, mainly to Toronto and Hamilton; and here something practical ought to be done without further delay. Mere compulsion, enforcing attendance on our Free Schools, will not meet the case of the hungry, ragged children of poor and often vicious parents. The best of children do not go to school of their own accord, and those of the poor and needy are not likely to be sent, when their services can be turned to account, to hawk, to beg, and perchance to steal. May I be allowed to suggest, such a modification of the Industrial School System of the mother country as seems to me calculated in some degree to meet our own wants, and adapt itself to the system of Free Schools already in operation.

I propose a combination of the voluntary and the provincial system. 1. Let the City School Trustee provide one school house, with the requisite staff of teachers, in the most suitable locality, on condition that a committee of the citizens shall undertake, from voluntary resources, to provide, say two good meals daily, to the children attending the school, and to clothe such as shall be found specially in need of this, owing to the destitution of their parents. 2. It would be necessary to arrange the hours of such a school so as not to interfere with any honest industrial pursuits within reach of the pupils, such as newspaper delivering, office cleaning, &c.,