

ance of these helpers in the word. Tipple, who dislikes the parson, says that our clergyman has been all his life praying for labourers to come into the vineyard, and now when they are come he is not satisfied. But my neighbour Saunders, who, since his conversion failed, holds them in utter abhorrence, declares that the whole seed and generation of them are under the delusion of satan, and no better than Muckle John Gib and Mrs. Buchan, who tried in Scotland to lead silly people off their feet with their ravings and nonsense; and that Providence has sent them and their erroneous doctrines into our town, not for the improvement but for the destruction of youth. Old fools, he says, gallop about the country after them and their meetings, and in the meantime their children at home have liberty to run into every kind of mischief; and young people, too, who follow them, get into a notion that they are converted, when they are only lazy, idle vagabonds, fit for nothing else but singing hymns and cheating; that if he had got his will when Mrs. Sham bit her husband's thumb to the bone, he would have made her eat her own tongue to the root; and that, as for Howl and Yelpit, fellows as ignorant as his stots, he would send them to the house of correction, where, if they did not learn some sense, they would at least get the laziness squeezed out of them, and be of some use in the world.

How far Saunders' views and plans are correct, I shall not pretend to affirm; nor, indeed, will any of your readers be well qualified to judge, till they peruse that part of the chronicles of our town which directly records the life and ministrations of parson Drone and his helpers. From what I have stated, however, they will all perceive that if the youth among us be not very religious, it is not for the want of public instructors.

In addition to these means of instruction, many of our young people receive also reproof and correction in abundance. Some parents, it is true, do not flog their children at home, nor would they permit Mr. Pat O'Rafferty to correct them; and, indeed, no wonder; for, when Pat was giving Judy her schooling, it cost her many a pair of black eyes. Puff, and others of our gentlemen frequently say that the poor little dears are not sent to a teacher to be snooled and beaten, but to get on with their education. It is certain, however, that all our youth do not serve such an easy apprenticeship. In