

depreciate its character, and, by their conduct, lessen its influence, are they thereby released from all obligation of contributing to its support? Not one whit; and that simply because the support of the education which is essential for the good of all, should be made obligatory upon all.

OBJECTION 4th.—*Others object to our principle and maintain that it is unfair to be obliged to contribute towards the maintenance of schools from which they derive no immediate benefit.*

If this objection is well founded, let it be carried out and made of universal application, and what would be the result? To maintain and act out such a view, would render the impost of taxation for any object whatever next to an impossibility, and, by consequence, sap the very foundation of civil government. On the same ground, might one and another come forward and plead exemption from paying for the support of the administration of justice, for they do not patronize either the civil or the criminal courts; another, for the erection of a jail, because he derives no direct benefit therefrom; and another, for the upholding of a Lunatic Asylum, because neither he nor his relatives stand in want of any such place of protection. In all good governments, the interests of the majority are the rule of procedure; and in all free governments the voice of the majority determines what shall be done by the whole population for the common interests, without reference to isolated individual cases of advantage or disadvantage, of inclination or disinclination. Surely the common schools involve the common interests of the nation far more than Jails, or Bridewells or Penitentiaries, and, therefore, it is perfectly justifiable for the state to impose a tax upon all for their support.

But the objection is groundless because it proceeds on an assumption in direct antagonism to the truth. It assumes that none are benefited by common schools save those who patronise them, by sending children to them. This is the lowest, narrowest, and most selfish view of the subject, and indicates a mind contracted and grovelling in the extreme. It is quite true that Bachelors, Parents whose children are already educated, and such like, do not derive any immediate benefit from the common schools of the District; but to argue from this that they do not derive any benefit, is just as absurd as to suppose, that none derive any benefit from the administration of Jurisprudence but those directly engaged therein, such as Judges, Lawyers, Jailors, Police, &c.; or that none get any advantage from a Railroad passing through a country, but the Car Manufacturers, Engine Drivers, Station Masters, and other officials of the establishment. We reiterate the sentiment which we have