

source and value of certificates, provincial or otherwise, for teachers, is under review. More than one influence is at work tending to awaken renewed attention to the demand for greater facilities for the higher education of girls throughout the province. and here, at least, and probably in other large cities, the question of what is to be done with our young pariah population, is forced upon us with an imperativeness that cannot long be resisted. Our common schools are free. The education they offer is the passport to future success in life; and yet hundreds of our city children roam idly through its streets, heedless of the inestimable advantages placed within their reach; training too frequently in vice and crime; candidates for the jail, the penitentiary, and the gallows. Have we, then, done all our duty to these wretched children, in opening schools, the value of which they cannot appreciate, and which their dissolute and criminal parents regard with indifference or contempt? Is it not a wrong done to the community to allow a child thus to be trained in our midst in ignorance and crime; to grow up to inherit the privileges of a freeman, and yet wholly incapable of exercising them except for evil? We may doom that child to a police cell or the dungeon of a jail; and it is a melancholy fact to see how many children of tender years annually expiate their first petty crimes in this manner, and are thus, as it were, indentured to a life of shame. We may employ the constable, the jailor, ay, even the hangman, to do his wretched work on these children fashioned in the image of God, and born to the inheritance of a freedom as ample as any people ever enjoyed. Is it incompatible with our duty; is it not even urged upon us by every motive of interest and self-defence, to employ a like compulsion while it is still time, and train these infants, while yet they can scarcely discriminate between right and wrong, into cultured, virtuous, God-fearing members of society; rather than abandon them, like noxious weeds, to grow up as pests of the community, and swell the charges of our criminal expenditure to an amount that might endow with scholarships every grammar school in the province?

These are some of the questions calling for your earnest deliberation, and others no less interesting to you in a professional point of view will immediately be brought under your notice in the reports of the committees appointed at last meeting. I recommend them to your consideration; and trust that in all your deliberations you will be under the guidance of the Great Teacher; and be so directed that you may be able to develop the educational resources of this Province into a system adequate for the training of a loyal, an intelligent, and a happy people for the full enjoyment of all the blessings we inherit. And if it be, that, in the fulness of time, England, the ark of Europe's liberties, is destined to become the mother of nations, where she has already peopled new worlds with her sons,—may it be your proud distinction to have imbued the minds of those who are to work out the destinies of their country, with refined culture and high-toned christian principles, that as it widens its boundaries, pressing westward in the path of the setting sun; it may find its fittest emblem in the glory and beauty of that western sky.