

vidiously confined to the poor, they have failed to stand against the rivalry of the common system, where no such distinctions are made.

Our system of "Technical schools" must draw their resources from the whole wealth of the commonwealth. They must draw within their reach every child of the land by a compulsory and yet a free education. They must have a "beginning, a middle and an end"—and the end must be the fitting of human beings for the practical conduct of a useful, a noble and a happy life. Peter Cooper, the venerable founder of the Cooper Union, says, in his "open letter" addressed to President Hayes, "Let us promote and instruct industry all over the land, by founding, under national, state and municipal encouragement, industrial schools of every kind that can advance skill in labor. We need the industrial school of art and science, and it should be made the duty of the local governments to provide a practical education for the mass of the people, as the best method of guaranteeing to every State, a Republican form of government."

A writer on this subject, well says, "The increasing poverty of the masses, the decay of public health, the decline of private and public virtue and simplicity of life, the warnings of the truest men and women of the nation—all alike proclaim the necessity of educating the head and the hand together, and that this is the great need of the nation. It will not do," he adds, "to say that children have no time to study and work at a trade; for the success of the 'half-time system' is already too well established. The Hon. Mr. Newell is right in maintaining that the time given to the tricks of spelling, mental arithmetic, grammar and geography, could be applied to much better purposes."

As to the cost of Industrial and Technical education, it can be made the cheapest as well as the noblest investment of the nation. For a small outlay, not exceeding thirty dollars a year on each student apprentice, we can put skill and productiveness in him or her for life; raise labor to intelligence and position, spread industry to every man, woman and child in the community, and strike a destructive blow at the pauperism, drunkenness, vice, crime, disease and insanity that are now undermining the life of the nation. We need an entire revolution in the spirit, the methods and the aims of our common school system.

An eminent educator, near Boston, told the writer a few days ago, that the "High School for Girls" in Boston was proved by statistics to have contributed to the prostitutes of that city to a degree that called attention. Why? One would suppose that their superior education would lift them out of that sphere of life. The answer was: "At their graduation the girls know nothing by which to earn their own living, except to teach in the methods they have been taught. If they have no taste for this, or if they find the market for teachers 'overstocked,' they must earn their living somehow else. Whoever employs them has to teach them also, and lose money at first in supporting them till they have become useful. The girls have learned to despise 'unskilled and servile labor,' and they can practice none other. How can they drop into that class after their education? Flattered by designing men, solicited by bad examples, in the midst of the refinements and innocent pleasures for which they long; pushed on by absolute want and 'hungry for life'—is it a wonder that many of these 'highly educated' but simple creatures yield to the seductions and delusions of vice?"

The chief element in this sad story is the want of any industrial capacity above the "unskilled and servile forms of labor" and the "hunger for life."

Our common school system is fit only for those children whose parents can support them till they can support themselves by some skilled employment which they learn outside of the schools. These schools create a class whose minds are filled with facts, principles and "notions" called knowledge, which can be turned to little or no practical use in "getting a living," and who revolt against any servile form of labor. It is equally true that most children have to leave school before the age of twelve or fifteen in order to earn their own living; the parents cannot support them. These make the ready material for the criminal and pauper classes.

A few statistics will here illustrate the bearing of this remark.

"The statistics of the House of Refuge or Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents, in New York, (1878), show that during the past year, although the total number of children committed to the care of the Society was less than the preceding, the percentage for actual crime was larger. Out of 699 commitments, 344, or nearly one-half, was for crime; while the remainder were vagrants, truants and disorderly characters. The

majority of the offenders were between the ages of eleven and fifteen years, the average of all the children committed being eleven years, ten months and twenty-seven days.

"The statistics also show that among the children committed during the past year, were 78 between the ages of seven and ten years. Of the criminals, the majority were sent from the Police Courts and Courts of Special and General Sessions in the city."

"A careful examination was made of the antecedents of 523 out of 699 cases, and the following results were found: Four hundred and seventeen resided in tenement houses and shanties, 56 in private houses, and 55 had no recognized homes. Of these it was ascertained that in 314 cases the homes were comfortably furnished, while in 146 other cases the homes were destitute of those ordinary comforts which would tend to make the happy ones for children. The social condition of the families is another interesting point. In nearly four hundred cases the parents were living; in thirty cases the parents had separated.

"Of the total cases mentioned, there were 44 whose parents had other property besides that of household furniture, and 333 cases where the parents had only household furniture. The records of the habits of the children before commitment to the House of Refuge show that early influences have much to do with making thieves and other criminals. Of the children in the House of Refuge at the making up of the last statistics, only 82 attended school regularly—forming a very small percentage of the large number who attend public schools—while 405 never went to school, or did so very irregularly. Previous to commitment 129 were habitually employed, while 391 were habitual idlers."

These statistics show that "poverty and ignorance are the parents of crime." But it is not ignorance of "Greek, Latin and mathematics," nor arithmetic, geography and grammar. It is industrial ignorance and want of skilled employments.

The last item in the statistics given above tells the whole story: "Previous to commitment 130 were habitually employed and 391 were habitually idle."

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—Industrial News.

PECULIAR INDUSTRIES.

Among the many peculiar industries ferreted out by the special agents of the Census Bureau, one of the most curious is reported to have been discovered in Boston, where a firm is reported to be doing a large business in making an imitation honey in the comb. Singular as this statement appears, there seems to be no reason to doubt it. According to the account given by the special agent to whose knowledge the case was brought, the comb is molded out of paraffin wax, in good imitation of the work of bees; the cells are then filled with simple glucose syrup, flavored doubtless with some genuine honey, and sealed up by passing a hot iron over them. The product is sold for the best clover honey, and much of it is said to be shipped to Europe.

Other observations of interest which were made, were that the confectioners, besides using glucose very largely as a substitute for cane sugar, likewise employed immense quantities of white earth (*terra alba*). It is practically harmless, and being very cheap, is used by the trade to make weight and bulk.

Great quantities of tomato casing, it has been ascertained, are made without outlay for the raw material, the ingenious manufacturers gathering the skins and refuse of the great tomato canning establishments.

Another industry, the magnitude of which would certainly not be suspected, is the manufacture of paper patterns for dresses and wearing apparel. In New York alone, there are reported to be no less than ten such establishments, which consume many tons of paper and dispose of many thousands of dollars' worth of such goods all over the country.

The manufacture of artificial flowers and feathers is reported to be a rapidly growing industry.

The work of the Census Bureau seems to have been planned in a far more extensive and systematic manner this time than on previous occasions, and the results when published promise to be of the utmost value.

ONE THOUSAND MILES OF PAPER A WEEK.

The readers of any of the metropolitan dailies may well be prepared for large statements as to the tons of paper used by those of great circulation, but a correct appreciation can probably best be had, as to the extent to which white paper is devoured regularly on daily newspapers, by the simple announcement that the New York *Herald* uses over a thousand miles of white paper, five feet and three inches wide, every week of the year.