

sent to the Cape of Good Hope. The total number of children received from November 1830, to December 31, 1837, was 1,538; the total expenditure during that period was 21,880*l*. The number provided for in the colonies to October 31, 1838, is as above, 1,070; provided for by friends, &c., 570; died, 4; now in the asylums, 157; total number admitted since the first establishment of the institution, 1,801. It were much to be wished that Her Majesty's Government would extend the benefits of this institution by a parliamentary annual grant and by allotting a portion of land in Canada and other agricultural colonies for the formation of branch asylums. Into those branch asylums the children would be received on landing; they would be instructed in colonial farming, in the management of a dairy, and in every pursuit advantageous to a settler in a new colony. On proof of long-continued good conduct, the adult should receive ten acres of land, a horse, cow, and some farming implements; and, on the marriage of one of the girls of the institution; her dower should be five acres of land, a cow, &c. The advantages of such an institution, both to the colonies and the mother country, would be incalculable. The former would have a constant influx of a young healthy population morally and usefully trained for the good of society; the latter would be checking crime in the bud. Our prisons in 1838 are filled with the neglected children of 1828 and 1818. It is seldom that a man becomes a criminal; the seeds of vice are sown in youth, and produce, in dense and civilized communities, like England, a fatally abundant crop of the elements of general misery and national decay.

A society like the one now in existence, managed by a highly respectable committee, would be better adapted for carrying this plan into effect than Government. Zeal seldom or ever pervades the officers paid and appointed by Governments (such as they are now constituted), and, although integrity may be secured, apathy predominates. Moreover, if Government were to carry the plan into effect, the children might be considered as "transported," and the good effects arising from their feeling that they were earning their own livelihood would be lost. I would earnestly urge on those who look to the welfare of the rising generation as essential to the future happiness and prosperity of England, to consider this subject, and, instead of building penitentiaries for male and female infant criminals, to take them out of crime unstained by the contamination of a prison, and without affixing an indelible stamp of infamy, which clings like a curse through life to the unfortunate being whom parental neglect has subjected to temptations, ere their sinfulness was apparent, before there was moral strength to resist them, and long prior to the mental consciousness of the misery which inevitably ensues from a downward course of guilt. When, alas! will Governments act on Christian principles, and endeavour to prevent crime, instead of punishing it when committed.