

furnishing and maintenance of School houses, for the employment and payment of competent teachers, in a word, for all the machinery for useful education ; but much of the material to be educated is withheld through parental indifference or parental cupidity, or, it may be, in some few instances, by parental poverty ; and the obvious and painful consequence is, that juvenile idleness, vice, and crime, abound, and numbers of children who should be in the School house, are on the streets, or prowling about the lanes and yards of the city, or on the watch for mischief and plunder ; objects of mingled pity and dread to the citizens, thorns in the flesh of the Police Magistrate, rising candidates for the gaol, the reformatory, and the penitentiary ; and a reproach to our vaunted civilization and professed Christianity.

It may be well that I should add, that during this very month (December) at a meeting of the citizens of Manchester convened by the Mayor, in accordance with a requisition, signed by a large number of the most influential men in that city, of all political opinions, and belonging to almost every religious denomination, chiefly also large ratepayers, it was, on motion of Mr. Alderman Bennett, the President of the Education Aid Society, resolved by a large majority, "That it is desirable to provide for primary instruction by means of local rates, with legal power, in cases of neglect, to enforce attendance at school. From Mr. Bennett's address in support of the motion, I make only the following brief extract : " He thought it only fair that if payment was to be made compulsory on the one hand, attendance should be made compulsory on the other hand. The Education Aid Society gave it as their deliberate and unanimous con-