

and that they richly deserve it. Laws executed in this way are a preservative of public morals; as for laying hold of the small fry, the miserable followers of the pugilistic ring, the betting mania, or the elections bribery, and letting the gentlemanly and lordly ring-leaders go free, it is not only useless, but cruel.

I visited the public schools at New York, and found them much the same as at Boston, with this exception, that now and then there were three or four badly-dressed and dirty children in the room, which showed, at any rate, that their parents took no interest, nor any decent pride, in seeing them as well-clad as their richer schoolfellows. Here also I observed, as at Boston, that the boys had the habit of folding their arms, and assuming a perfectly independent air when they answered the master; a thing of no consequence, perhaps, but I took it as part of the system of perfect equality which is inculcated here. With us, one great object of the pedagogue appears to be to put the child into a constrained position of humility, and to make him a servile creature from his cradle upwards.

They have a large house of refuge here for vagabond children, where above 200 are received annually. To this place they send those who are caught pilfering, instead of treating them as we do, like criminals; and also those neglected by their parents. For they have a rather stringent law, viz. that if a child be neglected by its parents, on the neighbours deposing to the fact before a magistrate, he may order it to be placed in the house of refuge. Such are the powerful means adopted by a republican Government to ensure the training of its future citizens. In