

people is not that which comes within reach of the criminal law. It is very possible, yea probable, that the general diffusion of even bare human wisdom may so increase the cunning of the wicked as to enable them to keep their necks out of the halter, without making them one whit better members of civil society ! From the following extract, however, which I lately cut from one of the United States *liberal* papers, it would appear that non-religious education, notwithstanding its intellectual excellence, is rather filling than emptying their prisons ;—" In one State Prison of our Union are twelve graduates of colleges—a greater portion to the whole number of convicts in the prison than the entire number of college graduates in our country to the whole American population. Everybody knows that the most depraved beings in our country are among those upon whom most is expended for their education ; also, that thieves, midnight assassins, and incendiaries, have come from our schools by hundreds and thousands."

In view of these astounding facts, all must agree that our schools are not so good as they ought to be—probably not so good as they may be. If so, the great question is, how they can be improved."

It becomes not creatures to guide their conduct, in matters of principle, by its apparent results for good or evil. We are under *the law of implicit obedience* to what God commands ; and he has commanded us to begin, continue, and end *all* our works in them, and especially in every possible way and under all imaginable variety of circumstances, invariably, and at *all times* to train our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." But yet, so far as it is lawful for us to judge by *results*, I mourn to think that the United States already afford a melancholy proof of the ruinous effects, moral and religious, of mere secular education ; and that they are apparently, if Providence does not graciously interfere, rapidly sinking into a condition that must for ever silence the advocates of non-religious State education. Indeed, America