

erature and science are employed in University education in this Province. We need not go beyond our own ranks to find several who are justly esteemed as authorities in the departments to which their attention is devoted. But in the schools in which preparation is made for a course of University study, it appears to me there is room for improvement in this particular, and I am sure you will concur with me in expressing a hope, that whatever may be found wanting in this important practical department of education may be speedily supplied.

The other branch of the question is of still more serious consequence. We yet, happily, have the opportunity of endeavouring to anticipate and to prevent evils which older communities are striving to mitigate and to cure. The increase of offences committed by the young, forces itself on the attention of Statesmen as well as of Philanthropists. Lord Stanley, not very long ago remarked, in reference to it: "The only means for diminishing crime consists in the detection and training of criminal children to habits of honest industry:" a sad but pregnant admission, not only of the absence of right education, but of a training in the paths of vice and crime. Our young country has not yet sunk to that stage of demoralization; we may yet, I trust, look with hope and confidence to the prevention of guilt, by training children before they have become initiated in vicious pursuits; and this is the object attainable, as appears to me, through our Common School system. If it requires any change—any new powers to make it thoroughly efficient in that respect, such change should not be delayed, such powers should not, and I believe, could not be long withheld! No man who seriously reflects on the subject will pay grudgingly the amount he may be taxed to render our Schools accessible to those whose parents or guardians are unable or even unwilling to pay for their education. Every farthing thus expended, will save pounds of the cost attending the detection and punishment of crime. But many will think the taxation neither wise nor just if they see free schools with a comparatively slender attendance, while the streets are filled with idle and vagrant children, ignorant, uneducated, if not already vicious, in danger of falling before the first temptation. It is the office of the Legislature to consider and determine what amount of interference with the rights of parents who neglect this duty to their children should be sanctioned—to what extent and in what manner a needful compulsion should be brought to bear both upon parents and children. It may not be a problem of easy solution, but, I think, it is one that must