

ate whites. Our total white illiterate is 2,852,000—a number larger than the total colored by 62,000. There is another view of facts which is of deep interest. Of our illiterate, 1,943,000 are between the ages of ten and twenty-one years. Of these, about half are below fifteen and about half above that age. For the latter something might perhaps still be done; for the former, much, if prompt and efficient measures could be taken to instruct them. Again, of our illiterate, 1,619,000 are male adults. Of these, it is estimated that one million and a half are legal voters. This is nearly one-fourth of the whole number of persons who voted at the presidential election of 1872, and is believed to be more than one-fifth of all the voters in the United States when the census was taken. It can not be doubted, 'hat, at least, one-fifth of all who will vote at the presidential election next year, will be persons unable to read or write."

In commenting on these figures he makes the following pertinent remarks :—

"Ignorance is not only a great evil in itself, but it is the fruitful mother of many evils. There is not one of the great evils of society, and the state which good men deplore, that ignorance is not prolific in producing. It would be interesting to inquire, did time permit, how far these disorders in our country which have been so much discussed of late, may be traced back to the want of education among the people, as their source. It is plain, that to this cause, directly or indirectly, they are largely due. As slavery formerly, so ignorance now, is the skeleton in our national closet—the one subject which we least like, but most need, to discuss. You certainly do not wish time occupied, on an occasion like this, in asking the clergyman, the physician, the lawyer, the judge, the statistician, the historian, the philosopher, and the statesman, for their united testimony as to what ignorance is in its relations to society—to government—to Republican government. We know that

the ignorant man is more apt to be a poor soldier in time of war—a poor neighbor, a poor member of society in time of peace—that he is more likely to be idle, disorderly, vicious, criminal, a pauper. How ready a tool is the ignorant man to the hands of designing men! I have called attention to the fact, that between one-fifth and one-quarter of all the voters in this Republic are unable to read and write. The fact is fraught with danger to the very life of the nation. These illiterate men are numerous enough to hold the balance of power, in some great national exigency, between right and wrong—between the forces of light and darkness. At some moment of great excitement, a cunning appeal to passion, to prejudice, to selfish instinct, to terror, might impel this strong, blind Samson to pull down the temple of our liberty upon himself and upon us. Is it wise to leave him longer grinding in his prison? Is it not time to bring him forth, restore his sight—for, thank God, we have not yet quite put out his eyes—and set his broad shoulder as a pillar under the fair fabric of civil order, rather than leave him to pluck it down?"

The question of the connection between ignorance and crime is now no longer a matter of dispute. True, there are some who do not attribute to education the value, as a factor in the moral regeneration of society, which we have claimed for it in these columns. Although we believe the figures furnished by the statistics of crime and illiteracy fully sustain our argument, yet in a limited sense we must admit there is some force in the remarks of Herbert Spencer on this subject, who takes the ground that education is not a preventive of crime. We quote his own words :

"With all respect to the many high authorities holding it, the truth of this belief may be disputed. We have no evidence that education, as commonly understood, is a preventive of crime. These per-

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