

the ability of all they admit to share in their adventures. The clever lads, of course, are selected first; others, as they grow up, follow various branches of the art of thieving, just as they can form acquaintances for confederacy and unity of action. Some go to starrng (working out a square of glass in a peculiar manner); others continue sneaks, only varying their objects of attack, by which they obtain more money (vide under the head of sneaks); others get into the service of housebreakers;—all either meeting with employment as they rise in years, or transportation, except a few rescued for a time by the Society for the Refuge of the Destitute. From this statement, it appears that there is always in society a certain and a larger number of boys, born of low parents, who are uneducated, and who either by the early death of their parents, or their neglect, are thrown almost in infancy into the streets, either to pick up a living by stealing, or to starve,—

‘With none to check, and few to point in time,
The thousand paths that slope the way to crime;’

and that these, as is the custom in all grades of the community, associate together, and enter into mutual compact for their general defence. Talk of schools! The world is their school, and every hour of their life spent in passing from one probation of crime to another; for the commencement of which no one but their God can, morally speaking, hold them responsible.

“As they appear over and over again before the seat of justice, they are booked hardened offenders. This a great mistake; they are offenders, but not hardened. The generality of them, when young, are highly sensitive; and among themselves, they entertain all the amenities of which our natures are susceptible. They are deemed hardened because they resort to crime over and over again: the truth is, they have no other alternative. I have known many make serious and sincere resolutions of reformation; but the abhorrence of inanition, so intimately interwoven with our natures, enforces the necessity of having recourse to the only mode to them open of supporting life. It is ludicrous to hear the talk about nurseries and places of tuition, as if establishments of this kind were instituted as boarding-schools are, as public. The nurseries and schools are the places where

they meet; and they must congregate somewhere, unless, like the late Lord Barrymore, each member of our aristocratical body will take one for a tiger. I will answer for there being quite enough on the town to supply them, and undertake to find them out too, in mere charity to the boys. To sum up all, they are placed in society just where they are by accident of birth, as almost the whole of its members are. When I say they from birth are placed in a situation so as to leave them no alternative but to steal or starve, I speak of them as a body; there are exceptions; and I am sorry to add, that many cases have come to my knowledge of parents teaching and sending out their children to rob; and of others who, though they do not urge its commission, connive at it. I will adduce one instance, striking enough, and the truth of which I can safely avouch; it was told me by the boy's uncle, who, one morning, being at the lad's father's lodgings, when the boy came into the room, and seeing nothing to eat for breakfast but bread and butter on the table, he said,—‘What! nothing for breakfast? Ah! wait a bit.’ He then went out, and in a quarter of an hour came back with rump steaks and a pint of rum, besides having money in his pocket. He had gone out and stolen a piece of Irish linen from a shop on Ludgate-hill took it to a buyer of stolen goods, and bought the articles he had brought home, all in the short space of fifteen minutes; and this was not an uncommon thing for him to do, although his parents were not in need. The boy was at length transported when he was only fourteen years of age. He subsequently detailed to me all his practices, and how he got into crime. His parents resided in a court running out of the Old Bailey, and he had witnessed every execution which had taken place during his short career. So much for the effects of executions, as supposed to deter from crime; indeed most of the boys engaged in crimes appear to have a great pleasure in attending them.

“These boys are capable of receiving impressions, and are as susceptible of sentiments of gratitude as my lord's son, if the proper treatment were used to draw them out. It is only by cultivating the better feelings of our nature