

at hand, or that cruel adversity may ere long forever blight our present favourable prospects.

#### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

The number of youths committed to my pastoral care is thirty-five. I regret to say the most of these unfortunate boys have been brought up in a very careless manner, imbibing, at an early age, the most pernicious habits. In some cases these have been acquired at home, and, as it were, directly from depraved parents, but in the greater number have resulted from evil associations and vagrancy.

#### THE PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

In secular instruction, the prisoners, with one or two exceptions, have made great progress; and it is pleasing to reflect that, in this respect, their incarceration here may, in their after life, prove to have been a great blessing. Few at their admission possess more than a very meagre amount of elementary knowledge; and to the credit of most it may be said that their painstaking efforts in intellectual improvement are deserving of the highest praise.

## 2. CRIME AND JUVENILE VAGRANCY IN TORONTO.

[From an important Charge delivered to the Grand Jury, by the Hon. Mr. Justice Hagarty, on the 12th inst., "On Crime and Juvenile Vagrancy in the City of Toronto," we make the following extracts]:

#### GENERAL COMMITMENTS TO JAIL.

As you may consider it a portion of your duty, as grand jurors, to visit and report on the state of the jail and prisoners there confined, I have thought it well to invite your attention to a few facts and figures collected from a brief examination of the annual reports for the last few years, as prepared by the governor, Mr. Allen, with his usual care and precision. The returns for seven years, from 1855 to 1861 inclusive, are before me. The total commitments for each year are as follows:

1855 .....	1,416	1859 .....	2,085
1856 .....	1,967	1860 .....	2,056
1857 .....	1,906	1861 .....	1,815
1858 .....	1,941		

Our city population has not varied very materially the last few years, so that these figures may give us some idea of the state of our criminal statistics. The chief item in all these records is "Drunk and disorderly," as in last year that item was 1,314 out of the whole number of commitments. I have been very much struck by the rapid increase of female prisoners. In the first three of the years above mentioned, the number of females was always less than half that of the males. In 1858 the difference began to diminish. In 1859 the numbers were 965 women and 1,120 men. In 1860, the sexes were about equal—a difference of two only. Last year they stood: Females, 866; males, 949. The items of "Drunk and disorderly," in 1860, amounting to 1,487, shewed 836 females and 651 men; and the last year (1861) the same wretched item was 1,314,—shewing 719 females and 595 men.

#### LARGE INCREASE IN FEMALE COMMITMENTS.

We thus find an enormous increase during the last few years in female commitments, and also that the women form a considerable majority of the multitude annually committed as "Drunk and disorderly." I am not about suggesting any probable cause for this increase, but the fact itself affords grave matter for reflection, inquiry, and exertion among social reformers. It may be well occasionally to present facts like these for public consideration. They point forcibly to the rotten spots in our social state, and must arouse the attention of all who feel an interest in the reformation of their fellow-beings, or in purifying the moral atmosphere of the community.

#### COMMITMENTS OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

But a fact if possible more painful stands out from these records of shame and guilt. We find a large number of children under 15 years of age annually committed to the common jail. Take the last four years, and we find the number thus:

1858 .....	71	1860 .....	153
1859 .....	90	1861 .....	73

Fathers and mothers who read these figures, may realize the probable aggregate of domestic profligacy or misfortune which has produced this amount of almost infant crime, and may appreciate the danger of vicious influences on these hapless children thus swept into the net of a common jail, just at the period of life when the young mind is as wax to the moulder's hand,—ready to receive all impressions, for evil or for good. In this city of 45,000 inhabitants, swarming with clergy and school-teachers of all denominations;

studded with churches and noble school-houses open to all the world;—we find this large number of mere children amenable to jail discipline as well as to jail contaminations. From the age of 15 to 20, we find the commitments amounting to 257 in 1861,—a formidable number of mere youths,—156 lads, and 101 girls, all in the early spring of life, at the age when the character is most surely formed for permanent vice or virtue.

#### FAILURE OF THE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM TO PREVENT JUVENILE VAGRANCY.\*

Few residents of Toronto can have much difficulty in ascertaining the class from which, from all human probability, their jail is recruited.† That we provide munificently for the education of all our youth, "without money and without price;" that we have amongst us a most admirably organized body of teachers, offering a very superior education to every one who will accept it; that the property of the city pays many thousands of pounds per annum to maintain this system;—is notorious to all. The grave question remains, whether this admirable system and heavy expenditure answer the end for which they were apparently designed.

#### NUMBER NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL IN TORONTO.

I find it stated by one of the oldest and most experienced of our school trustees—Mr. Henning—in a speech reported in the newspapers, that, by the late census, the school population of Toronto, of school age from 5 to 16 years, was 11,595. Of this number attending school, public or private, for some portion of the year, there were 8,818, leaving 2,777 of school age not attending any school. He adds, "That of this last number may probably be deducted 1,000 as employed at trades or work of some kind, and still there are 1,777 unaccounted for." And again: "How many of these children are engaged in vagrant or criminal pursuits? How many of them are growing up in idleness and ignorance, and thus on the road of sure guilt and crime?" Mr. Allen's jail report may be read in connexion with this. It exhibits out of this year's committals 640 prisoners unable to read or write. Making all reasonable allowances from Mr. Henning's estimate, it is beyond question that a vast number of children are growing up amongst us, infesting our streets, polluting the ears of passers-by, male and female, old and young, with blasphemy and filth,—rapidly qualifying themselves for appearance at police courts, and repeated imprisonments in jail or reformatory.

#### REFORMATORY OR OTHER SCHOOLS REQUIRED.

Two points are especially worthy of notice. First,—The proved impossibility of inducing this large body of vagrant children to avail themselves of the free education so generously pressed on their acceptance by the public; and, secondly,—The strong necessity that exists of providing some house of correction or separate place of confinement, where the seventy or eighty hapless children committed during a single year can find shelter, and probably reformation, under the gentle hand of judicious managers, instead of the necessarily rough discipline and contaminating associates of the common jail. In every town where poverty and intemperance prevail to any extent, it is always found next to impossible to get hold of that class of children most peremptorily requiring the softening influences of education. They undervalue the blessing offered to them, and continue their life of mischievous idleness. In Toronto, especially, the benefits of free education seem to be little appreciated. I find in the report of our school trustees a startling proof of this. The last year in which the rate-bill system prevailed, before the final adoption of the free system, was 1850. The population was then stated at 25,766. The average daily attendance at the common schools was 1,259. In the three next years the population is set down as increasing about 15,000; but the daily attendance was only increased by 106 in 1851, fell off again 1852, and rose 36 more in 1853. In 1858, the population is put down at the highest point yet reached, and the daily attendance was 1,937,—all these figures appearing in proportion to the increased population, as indicating a less attendance at the free schools than under the rate-bill system. In 1860, the latest year for which I have seen a return, the daily attendance had risen to 2,260. The large number attending the Roman Catholic separate

\* The present common school law invests the Board of School Trustees in cities, towns, and incorporated villages, with the power "to determine the number, sites, kind and description of schools to be established and maintained in the city, town, or village." This comprehensive provision includes permission to establish schools specially for boys, girls, and coloured children, as well as high schools, denominational schools, &c. It has, however, never been acted upon in Toronto, so as to embrace the comprehensive system of schools for the city which was intended.

† EDUCATION OF PRISONERS IN THE TORONTO JAIL.—From a recent report of the Governor of the Jail, we learn that of the 949 males and 865 females confined therein from time to time during the year 1861, 296 males and 344 females could neither read nor write; 149 males and 246 females could read only; 452 males and 236 females could read and write imperfectly; 52 males could read and write well; but no females. Five of the males were reported as schoolmasters. There were 600 males and 736 females (or 1,346 in all) of intemperate habits.