

their hands. There is also a fascination in social stir and excitement. In their search for chances some succeed, others have not the faculties that win success; some are weak in will, some are weak in principle, some are lazy. They are set free, in a strange place, from home restraints. The men and boys hang about inferior taverns and low boarding houses and dubious places of amusement, hoping that something genteel and pleasant will turn up for them. They would like to handle other men's money or business, and get a share of it without any other manual exercise. The girls seek situations in shops and "offices." They are glad to be rid of house-work on the farm. Their lives are dangerously exposed, at almost every turn. When off duty they are in a tempting liberty or else a perilous solitude. Dress is never long out of mind. The social instinct never dies. Christianity has made no very thorough, attractive, or genial arrangements for them. From this large and increasing class, male and female, society has something to hope and much to fear. Crime and poverty are far more likely to be replenished from it than from a community of homes. Meantime, what is the condition of the agricultural towns? Very little of the pauperism complained of is found there. The few needy persons, feeble in body or mind, mostly females, are easily and comfortably provided for in a "town-house," generally partly supported by a farm attached to the premises, where the healthier paupers must work. Beyond these there is scarcely a pauper to a town. Tramps seldom originate there; they stroll there from the scum and mire of thicker populations. Yet in all these inland towns there is uncultivated or illcultivated land enough to support double the existing population. Common labour is in demand. The present writer searched

four of these towns in the last season in vain for a domestic, to receive every comfort and three dollars a week. Skilled labour is scantier yet. If you want a carpenter or a mason to repair your buildings, you must wait a month for him. Propose to any one of a hundred thousand commercial travellers to work on a farm where two or three dollars a day, five or six hundred dollars a year, can be earned, what would his answer be? Offer one of the city girls every comfort and eight or ten dollars a month in cash for house-service in a good family, what would she say? Within the current week application has been made, without success, at nineteen well-kept houses of working people, in three villages, for board, at a good price, for two ladies. A farm in New Hampshire, yielding fifteen tons of hay and other crops each season, is reported to have been lately sold for fifty-two dollars, with a house and out-buildings. This is not a poor country. It is a country of abundance, where—except foreigners, by whose side natives are ashamed to work—everybody believes he ought to be rich with little manual toil and in handsome clothes. In nearly every New England rural town society would be stronger and happier in every element of a useful, intelligent, and virtuous citizenship, if the young men and women had been content to live and die there, not accumulating fortunes, but creating a more and more elevated and profitable husbandry; superior to want, voting against all needless taxation, and producing the necessities of life, which will never fail of a market.

A correction of some of these false ideas and delusive estimates of welfare might be expected of a right system of general education. When public schools themselves have a just conception of what education is, that is, of what human life and character