

Many of these poor lads are fatherless, with drunken mothers, or motherless with drunken fathers, or, in many instances abandoned by both parents, who have drowned all sense of responsibility, and every Parental feeling in drunken excess. These unfortunate lads are often compelled to seek shelter in some house of ill fame, or gain a precarious living by begging or stealing, or playing the tambourine at some low public house in the upper streets.

The Province is just now being agitated by discussions on education, and the Committee cannot help feeling regret, that whilst the government are concerned in providing free schools for the respectable poor,—nothing has been done to promote the welfare of the outcast poor,—victims of parents' unnatural excesses, condemned for sins not their own. Few are aware of the misery, the cruel neglect, the brutal usage to which these outcast children are subjected. "To leave these children to the care of their parents is to condemn them to certain ruin. Are they to be taught industry by idleness? honesty by theft? sobriety by drunkenness? purity by pollution? decorum by indecency? the fear and love of God by those of whom scripture says, "God is not in all their thoughts." Political economists may preach on the natural rights of parents, and the dangers of abusing charity, but are they to allow parents to sacrifice their offspring to their vices,—to offer them in the fire to Moloch? They cannot stand by without attempting to rescue them. Who could, if they stretched out their hands to them from the windows of a house which had been fired by their father in the frenzy of intoxication? Yet how strange it is that humane, kind, generous, good Christians can smile their way along the streets where so many poor children are perishing in a worse way before their very eyes." The Committee in undertaking the formation of an Industrial School are encouraged in knowing that they are not travelling on an unbeaten track, the principles of Industrial schools have been well tested elsewhere, and have proved under God to be a blessing to many an uncared for and neglected boy. Even in Reformatories which are occupied by those

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