

large and the population so sparse, that the endeavour to bring the schools within easy reach of all, has tended to increase their number beyond what a just economy or wise management of the schools themselves would allow. This process of sub-division has been carried to such an extent as not only to reduce the schools themselves to a very low grade, but also to impose a heavy burden of taxation in order to maintain them for the period required by law. In a majority of the towns of this class the per centage of taxation for the support of their schools ranges from two to three or four mills in the dollar, while the munificent, not to say magnificent, system of schools of the City of Boston is maintained by a rate of taxation but little exceeding one mill in the dollar."

### 3.—THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTORIES.

The last Act of the Massachusetts Legislature on this subject, passed in 1866, is so brief, comprehensive and benevolent that I give it entire, as follows—the counterpart of similar humane Factory Acts in the British Isles:—

"An Act in relation to the Employment of Children in Manufacturing Establishments.

"*Sec. 1.* No child under the age of ten years shall be employed in any Manufacturing Establishment within this Commonwealth, and no child between the age of ten and fourteen years shall be so employed, unless he has attended some public or private day school under teachers approved by the School Committee of the place in which such school is kept, at least six months during the year next preceding such employment; nor shall such employment continue unless such child shall attend school at least six months in each and every year.

"2. The owner, agent or superintendent of any manufacturing establishment, who knowingly employs a child in violation of the preceding section, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars for each offence.

"3. No child under the age of fourteen years shall be employed in any manufacturing establishment within this Commonwealth more than eight hours in any day.

"4. Any parent or guardian who allows or consents to the employment of a child in violation of the first section of this Act, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars for each offence.

"5. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, may, at his discretion, instruct the constable of the Commonwealth and his deputies to enforce the provisions of chapter forty-two of the General Statutes, and all other laws regulating the employment of children in manufacturing establishments, and to prosecute all violators of the same."

(Approved May 28, 1866.)