

many, should become the subjects of school discipline and teaching, rather than continue, as they are, the occasion of painful anxiety to philanthropists, legislators, and all the friends of social order.

Probably, little can be done on their behalf, until their numbers and the causes of their non-attendance at School are more accurately known. In order to the attainment of such knowledge, a special annual or frequent census seems indispensably necessary. The information which would result from such a census is asked year after year by the Chief Superintendent of Education, from all local school authorities. They, however, have no power to compel parents or guardians to communicate the facts required, though much, it is not unlikely, could be done towards the collection of such facts by a proper combination of courtesy and skill. Here, then, this important matter at present stands.

It will be seen in a subsequent portion of this Report, under the heading "Special Matters worthy of Record," that a renewed endeavour towards procuring the important statistics referred to has been purposed and may yet succeed. Meanwhile I feel it to be alike a duty and a pleasure to solicit attention to the following extracts from the Separate Report of E. A. Meredith, Esq., Prison Inspector for the year 1861, relating to Homes or Houses of Refuge for destitute and neglected children. Speaking of the "Necessity of Homes" and "the classes of children for whose benefit they are