

four of those, with the hearty consent of the committee, to go to good situations where they are now doing well; another to go to employment outside; two because their parents applied for them: and one expelled for insubordination. We have now with us 20 of the old 28; and 19 of the new 21; in all 39, their ages ranging from ten to twenty years.

It is easy to write or read those sentences, but it requires a good deal of imagination to conceive all that they imply. Any parent or teacher will confess that in bringing up to manhood boys naturally well disposed, all his patience, wisdom, and love are required; and notwithstanding the exertion of all those how many of our youths who have had every circumstance in their favour, go astray! Think then of the problem before us. Here are some lads, whose education has been on the streets, the wharves, the Police Station, Rockhead, the rumshop, the brothel. Here are boys young in years, but old in the ways of deceit, and hardened in depravity. Details as to thought, speech, and behaviour, we cannot give. He that knows what effect on the whole nature habit and associations connected almost wholly with dirt, discomfort, rudeness, blaspheming, lewdness incredible, must have, he only can do justice to the difficulty of the work that has to be done before such natures can be redeemed from the power of evil. But though it were ten times as difficult, and the failures far more frequent, it must be attempted. How can any parent ask God's blessing on his boys, if he will not stretch out a hand to save those who are just as much God's dear children, as his own are? And poor fellows! it is but common justice to them to acknowledge that it is wonderfully easy to touch their better natures though the formation of good habits is necessarily a slow work. And though we have no wish to paint things rose-colour, and though we dare not boast, yet there are facts which encourage us and which we ought not to hide. Last April, nine of the bigger boys were confirmed at their own request, in St. Paul's Church, and five of those sat down at the Lord's table. And we get still greater encouragement from the manifest improvement in the tone and conduct, of the smaller boys. Mr Grierson has often to sow in tears, but he sometimes is enabled to reap, and then it is with joy.

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