

DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY,

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ON THE IMPORTANCE

OF

REFORMATORY ESTABLISHMENTS

FOR

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

A PAPER READ BEFORE

THE DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY,

ON THE 20TH FEBRUARY, 1854.

BY WILLIAM HAEVEY PIM, ESQ.

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1854.

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THIS society was established in November, 1847, for the purpose of promoting the study of Statistical and Economical Science. The meetings are held on the third Monday in each month, from November till June, inclusive, at 8, p. M. The business is transacted by members reading written communications on subjects of Statistical and Economical Science. No communication is read unless two members of the council certify that they consider it in accordance with the rules and objects of the society. The reading of each paper, unless by express permission of the council previously obtained, is limited to *half an hour*.

Applications for leave to read papers should be made to the secretaries at least a *week* previously to the meeting.

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The subscription to the society is one pound entrance, and *ten shillings* per annum.

*On the importance of Reformatory Establishments for Juvenile Delinquents.* By W. H. Pun, Esq.

The subject now about to be brought under the notice of the Statistical Society, is one which has of late obtained a good deal of attention in England and Scotland; and the present opportunity is embraced to bring it under the consideration of this influential body, with the hope that the following statement may be at least sufficient to show its importance, to promote a more extended interest in the question, and to induce a spirit of inquiry amongst both the members of this association, and others who may come within the sphere of their influence.

The treatment of the juvenile portion of the destitute and criminal classes appears to be one of the most pressing social questions of the day—one in which our national prosperity and individual welfare are both intimately concerned; and the object of this paper is to show that, notwithstanding acknowledged improvements in the discipline of many of our prisons of late years, our present system of making no distinction between juvenile and adult delinquents, and our mode of dealing with the former class, are great errors in our social policy; that it is not only cruel and unjust, but unwise and prejudicial to the welfare of the community, being utterly abortive, promoting the very evils we wish to guard against, and productive of an enormous expenditure; and that it is due not only to the unfortunate class referred to, but to the community at large, to take steps to remedy this evil, and thus to wipe away the stain which attaches to this country for having so long neglected a paramount duty.

It is gratifying to find that, in consequence of the expression of public feeling in various English and Scotch localities, as well as in parliament, the attention of the Government has been turned to this question, and our present Home Secretary has lately expressed himself as fully alive to its magnitude, and to the necessity of giving it consideration with a view of legislating on the subject. It is, however, important that public attention in Ireland should be aroused, in order that we may feel and be prepared to show the necessity of including this country in such legal enactments; that our representatives may be stimulated to urge our claims in this respect, and that we ourselves may be prepared to judge of the details of any proposed legislation, and also to fulfil the part which will devolve upon the people in carrying the measures of Government into practical effect. I believe it will be found that the arguments in favour of a change in our present system apply with peculiar force to this portion of the United Kingdom, where, in addition to other causes, destitution exists to so great an extent.

In the last Annual Report of the Board of Superintendence for our two City Prisons, at Richmond Bridewell and Grangeegorman, attention was called, in the following paragraph, to the large pro-

portion of juveniles in custody, and to the evil results of juvenile vagrancy:—

"It is a deplorable fact that one-fourth of the number of prisoners in Richmond Bridewell are juveniles, most of those for criminal offences having commenced their career by begging."

We find by the last report of the two Inspectors General of Prisons in Ireland, that in 1852 the committals of all ages and both sexes to our two city prisons were as follows:—

10,159 for criminal offences  
10,971 as vagrants or beggars.  
5,049 as diunkards.

Total, 26,179

The daily average of inmates in both prisons was 949; by far the largest proportion of the committals being for shori periods, varying from 48 hours to one month.

It is also stated by the report of the Metropolitan Police that there were in 1852 upwards of 50,000 cases of persons of all ages and of both sexes, taken into custody within the jurisdiction of that body, and that of those summarily convicted, whether as criminals, vagrants, or drunkards, 11,213 were cases of persons under twenty years of age; and being classified according to their ages, it appears that this number of committals was composed of

1,679 persons under 10 years of age.  
3,259 persons from 10 to 15 years of age.

Total, 4,938 under 15 years of age.  
6,275 from 15 to 20 years of age.

Total, 11,213 under 20 years of age.

It should be borne in mind that these numbers are not to be considered as of separate individuals, a large proportion being recommittals of the same person. For instance, it appears by the report respecting Richmond Bridewell, in which male prisoners only are confined, that of 1,314 persons confined for thefts or misdemeanors, whose course of recommittals in 1851 and previous years was traced,

557 had been twice in prison.  
227 " 3 times in prison.  
170 " 4 " "  
111 " 5 " "

And 249 had been committed from 6 to 27 times.

Total, 1,314 persons committed for criminal offences.

Thus these 1,314 persons actually represented the number of 5,225 committals. At Grangegorman, the prison for females, it appears that including both those committed to that jail for vagrancy and for criminal offences, there were 1,489 persons committed more than once during the same year, and representing the number of 5,521 committals; some of the criminal class having been in jail nineteen times during the same year, and some of the vagrants as many as thirty-six times. On this subject, the report observes

that " the entire failure of the existing system as a deterrent cannot be more strikingly illustrated than by these figures." A return is also furnished in the same valuable report, of the names of twenty-five adults of both classes who were in Grangegorman Jail when officially visited on the 15 th of January, 1852; and depicts very fully the extent of re-committals, in the case of these persons who had grown up in habits of crime and vagrancy. The lowest number of committals of any person named in this list is twenty-five; and two women, aged thirty-five and thirty-eight years, were found to have been imprisoned the almost incredible number of 112 and 113 times respectively. These twenty-five individuals, whose ages average thirty-one years, appear to have been imprisoned on an average seventy-seven times each. If the report had likewise furnished us with a calculation of the total expenditure on each of these females, for support and maintenance in prison during these numerous imprisonments, it would have been a striking illustration of the enormous cost to which the ratepayers are subjected, on account of persons who, from the period of their first juvenile imprisonment, continue to run such a career.

We further find, on reference to the committals at Eichmond Bridewell in 1852, that of 4,308 committals for criminal offences,

	80	were under	10	years of age.
	738	"	15	"
And	2,116	"	20	"

And, including 3,481 committals for vagrancy, it appears that of the total number of 7,789 committals of both classes,

	315	were under	10	years of age.
	1,874	"	15	"
And	4,019	"	20	"

Another very striking statistical table is furnished in the same report with respect to persons in prison on the 1st April, 1853, when officially visited by the Inspectors General. On that day there were in Eichmond Bridewell and Grangegorman, including both the criminal and vagrant classes:—

	149	persons under	15.
And	248	peisons from	15 to 21.

Making a total of 397 persons under 21 years of age,

(211 being criminals and 186 vagrants) which was considerably more than a third of the total number of all ages confined. Of these 397 persons under twenty-one years of age,

	68	had been twice	imprisoned.
	43	"	3 times "
	33	"	4 times "
	152	"	5 times and upwards.

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Leaving only 101 then in prison for the first time.

Total, 397

And the report further informs us, that of these 397 juveniles,

135 had no parents, 151 had lost one parent, 31 had been abandoned by their parents, and 92 had absconded from their homes.

Since these figures were set down here, Mr. Marquess, the present Governor of Richmond Bridewell, who takes a warm interest in this question, has kindly furnished statistical information for the year 1853, similar to that herein set forth as extracted from the published reports for the previous year; as also a return of the prisoners actually in custody on the 24th January, 1854, by which it is evident that about the same proportion between juveniles and adults, and also as regards the number of recommittals continues to exist. For instance, the total number of prisoners in Richmond Bridewell on the 24th of January this year was 489; and of these the enormous proportion of 138 were under 16 years of age, 84 of them being criminal offenders, and 54 vagrants. Of this number of 138 boys, only twenty-four were inmates of the jail for the first time—seventy-two, or more than one-half of them, having been imprisoned five times and upwards. Mr. Marquess has also added some valuable observations, which, as coming from such a quarter, must be considered as highly important; and, as shewing an increase of juvenile committals, his remarks are deserving of serious consideration:—

" *Richmond Bridewell,*

" 17th February, 1854.

" I beg to draw your attention to a few remarkable facts which appear to me deserving of notice, as demonstrating the fearful condition of the juvenile poor of Ireland, and proving the necessity of measures being adopted to remedy so fruitful an evil.

" In the year of the famine, 1847, the aggregate number of committals to this prison increased from 4,693 to 5,279; and the average in confinement, from 259 to 275. From that year a gradual increase was annually experienced until the year 1851, when the number of committals reached 15,138, and the average number in confinement was 516.

" Since the spring of 1852, the number of committals has been gradually reducing; but whilst the annual aggregate number of committals has decreased, a progressive increase has been experienced in the number of juveniles under sixteen years of age; not only in the committals, but in the number daily in confinement, which is a very remarkable circumstance.

" In comparing the number of committals of the last two years<sup>^</sup> we find that there was a decrease, in 1853, of 428 criminal committals; and that whilst the total number of prisoners decreased so considerably, the juveniles under sixteen years old increased to the extent of 60. In the number of the vagrants, the result is still more extraordinary, the diminution being 2,410 in the total committed, but the juveniles under sixteen years of age having increased 373.

" Signed,

D. MARQUESS, *Governor*"

It further appears that of fifty-one persons sentenced to transportation in this city in 1852,

8 were under	16 years.
26 from	16 to 20 years.

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Total, 34 under 20 years of age.

Of the 51 persons sentenced to transportation, only three were convicted for the first time; the remaining 48 having on the average been convicted of previous crimes seven times each, and some of them as often as fourteen or fifteen times.

These figures are brought forward principally to show the great extent of committals and recommittals for crime and vagrancy amongst the juvenile portion of our population; and it must be evident to all, that the existence of such a state of things is a subject deserving of serious attention, the consideration of which should not be deferred. It is not needful to trespass on the time of the Society in endeavouring to prove by similar returns from other places, that Dublin can claim an unenviable comparison with any other locality in the United Kingdom in respect of juvenile committals for petty offences and vagrancy. A more agreeable duty will be to endeavour to show what may be done to meet this appalling state of things, by means which, whilst effecting the reformation of a large proportion of these offenders,—thus making them useful members of society, and contributors to the wealth of the state,—will also save the monstrous expense to which the industrious members of the community are now subjected for the support of this unhappy class in a career of crime.

The subject of Juvenile Delinquency may be considered both in its preventive and reformatory character; and although the latter is now more immediately under view, it may be well to turn our attention, for a few moments, to some of the causes from whence the liability to crime on the part of children and young persons arises. I believe it will be found, that the want of care or the misconduct and bad example of parents is one of the principal causes to which the errors of the children may be traced, whether that want of care arises from intemperance and its many baneful consequences, or from the difficulty of attending to their children inseparable from the mode of life in which many of the poorer classes are compelled to engage. It is also a melancholy fact, that depraved and profligate parents often instigate their children to petty thefts, or at least to a life of vagrancy, so frequently the preparation for actual crime. In such cases, we can scarcely consider the child as a responsible being; having no other guide or instructor, he simply obeys that feeling towards his parents, so natural to early childhood—in his case the source not of good but of evil, not of virtue but of ruin. Much may also be said of the lamentable state of destitution to which so many are reduced; and of the dwellings of the poor, which, especially in our large cities, are both physically and morally injurious, and in which too many of our juvenile population are brought up under circumstances that almost amount to a compulsory state of crime. Can it

be any matter of surprize that such children should fall into evil habits who are either without parents (and it is calculated that the jails of England usually contain upwards of 2,000 orphans), or who, from the neglect or wilful misleading of their parents, may be considered as still more morally destitute—brought up, as they are, in scenes of intemperance and depravity, herding together on the streets in habits of idleness, educated not for good but for evil, often unkindly treated, and cared for by none.

In reference to such it is our duty, when, by having rendered themselves amenable to the law, they become, as it were, "children of the State," to act towards them in such a manner as may most effectively tend to correct the evil influences under which they have laboured, and, instead of hardening them in a career of depravity, may lead them into the path of honesty and industry.

The chief error in our present system is, that with this class of offenders it proceeds on the principle of retribution instead of reformation; and, I would ask, is it just or expedient to make no distinction in treatment between the young victim of circumstances—for the first time straying slightly from the path of honesty—and the hardened offender of maturer years? A young person, when first committed for a short period, may feel some degree of terror when appearing in custody of a policeman before the magistrate, and on first entering the gloomy portals of the jail; but within twenty-four hours his fear begins to evaporate, he meets older criminals than himself, and a fraternity of crime is established. He leaves the prison after a short detention (altogether too short for any benefit, even if the discipline were of a reformatory character), feeling the brand on his brow, with a soured spirit and with his evil propensities still more strongly developed. He gradually becomes more hardened and callous, and more daring in crime—his recommittals, as he grows older, being for heavier and for heavier offences—until at last the poor irresponsible child, who trembled at his first committal of seven or of fourteen days, grows into the daring ruffian, himself a terror to society, until the country is relieved of his presence by transportation or otherwise, to make way for others following in the same track.

Can we wonder that a boy, discharged from a short confinement in prison, should continue his course of delinquency? No good impressions are formed there, but rather an antagonistic feeling against society. He is thrown on the world an outcast, friendless, without character, completely destitute, and again exposed to temptation; his old associates frequently wait to greet him outside the prison walls: he must have his "daily bread;" he resorts to his old haunts; and, being thus trained up in the way he should not go, "when he is old he will not depart from it;" and the probability is that, when he himself becomes a parent, he will bring up, in the same course, an hereditary race of criminals!

Our object should be to take timely and effective measures to root up, in each individual case, the seed-plot of crime, and thus



prevent the growth of the whole tree of adult criminality. It appears from a statement made by Lord Shaftesbury, that but a small proportion of the adults confined in our jails have become, for the first time, inmates of a prison after twenty years of age. Our efforts should, therefore, be directed to that period of life when reformation is comparatively easy, instead of leaving the juvenile criminals to continue their career till it is so much more hopeless. Although the amount of crime is now of so appalling a nature, yet, by striking at its source, we shall find it to be much more limited in extent than it now appears; we shall reap immediate advantages for ourselves, and, by training up future patients, in honest, industrious, and moral habits, shall confer great benefits on a community still unborn.

The example of providing a remedy has been shown us by other countries; and in most of the European Governments, as well as in the United States, institutions expressly adapted for the moral and industrial training of destitute children, and for the reformation of juvenile criminals, have been established with the happiest results; and private benevolence has also led the way in England and Scotland with much success, although hitherto-unassisted by the legal enactments which are absolutely necessary for the proper carrying out of the system.

Pestalozzi appears to have been one of the first who drew attention to the impropriety and danger of neglecting destitute children. Fellenberg recommenced his work at Hofwyl in 1799, and their views are still perpetuated at several establishments in Switzerland. The first institution in that country, exclusively intended for the reformation of those convicted of crime, was opened in 1840.

The first of the continental reformatory establishments was commenced in Wirtemberg in 1820; and, in 1843, there were in that kingdom nineteen institutions for neglected and criminal children, each containing about fifty inmates. Prussia entered on this good work in 1825, Baden in 1833, and Denmark, Norway, and Sweden have followed the example. The movement has extended especially in Northern Germany to a considerable degree within the past few years, and there are now altogether in the above named countries about ninety of these institutions for juveniles; including in that number those intended for destitute children, as well as those more especially applicable to children convicted of crime. The greater part of these institutions are of an agricultural character and on an humble basis, and most of them receive Government aid and encouragement.

The Belgian Government has given its assistance on an extensive scale; and in France several establishments have been formed under the name of "Home Colonies;" of which that at Mettray, near Tours, was the first established, and is still the most extensive and distinguished in that country. It was founded by M. De Metz, an eminent French judge, who, after he was raised to the bench, became so impressed with the cruelty and impropriety of the law as regarded juveniles (who, up to that period, were usually subjected to long

terms of imprisonment without discipline or training), that, actuated by benevolent feelings, he sacrificed his judicial position, and, assisted by a few friends, devoted himself to the formation of the invaluable institution of which he is still the head, and which has proved so eminently successful. It is now provided by the French law that young persons under sixteen years of age, convicted of crime, may be considered as irresponsible, and found guilty accordingly, as having acted "sans discernment," in which case they are sent to one of these reformatories.

As regards the attainment at Mettray of the object which its philanthropic founder contemplated, it may be sufficient to say that its inmates number upwards of 400, and the effect of substituting kindness with firmness for severity, and a course of constant cheerful industry for the dull discipline of a prison, has been the reformation of about 85 per cent, of those who have quitted the institution. The annual expenditure has been at the rate of about £20 per head, or, after deducting the value of their farm labour, about £12 each; and on dividing the whole expenditure amongst the proportion stated to have been reformed, it will be found that the total annual cost of stopping a boy at the commencement of his career of crime, and converting him into a useful member of society, has been about £14 per annum.

Another remarkable continental institution is that called "Kauhe Haus," or the Kough House, about three miles from Hamburgh, founded in 1833 by Pastor Wychern, who commenced by receiving three outcast criminals into his own house. So great has been his success, that about 150 inmates are now maintained in this Reformatory; and a small hamlet of houses (the family principle being carried out here as well as at Mettray) has been raised by their hands on his farm of 30 acres, which they cultivate by spade-labour; they are likewise employed as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, &c. It is to be observed that in addition to the juvenile inmates of this institution, it is likewise the residence of several young men who, without pecuniary reward, devote themselves to this good work, and after being trained up for the service, proceed as masters to other German reformatory establishments. Such is their devotion to the cause, that some of them have been known voluntarily to take up their abode in prisons, clothed in the prison dress, in order to have an opportunity of associating with the criminals, and thus to endeavour to rescue them from a continuance in crime. It should be stated that the juvenile inmates of the "Rauhe Haus" are all of the unruly or criminal class, the worst cases getting a preference; and as an exemplification of this fact, we find it mentioned that one boy, only twelve years of age, confessed that he had committed 93 different thefts before his reception into that establishment. The expenditure is rather less than at Mettray, and the proportion of reformations is said to be fully as large, although the inmates are exposed to the temptations afforded by the institution being in the immediate vicinity of a populous city, where many of

the young persons who have received the care of this Reformatory are willingly received as apprentices on leaving it.

If we turn to the United States, we shall find, in addition to some farm schools, houses of refuge in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, all accompanied by the same happy results, both as respects the salutary effects on the youthful criminal, and economy of the public expenditure. In the three first-named cities, they have been opened for more than twenty-five years; and it is stated that there are many instances of persons who as boys had been inmates of these asylums, having since proved themselves to be men of uprightness and respectability of character, enterprising as men of business, and contributors to the welfare and advancement of the community. The establishment of such institutions in America, must be considered as a strong proof of their value as regards practical economy; for it must be acknowledged that the citizens of the great Transatlantic Republic are not likely to expend their resources on visionary or unproductive schemes.

The New York asylum is the most extensive, and appears to be principally supported by contributions from the "Immigrant Tax," and from spirit and theatre licenses. It contained, in 1852, 410 inmates; and 5318 young persons had, up to that date, been committed to its care by the authorities of that city since its formation.

Now, with these examples before us, it may be asked, What have we been doing in this great country? The reply must be: As a State almost nothing; but in London and certain other localities private benevolence has evinced itself, by the formation of establishments for the reception of destitute and criminal juveniles—those at Redhill in Surrey (founded by the Philanthropic Society), at Kingwood near Bristol, and at Birmingham, being conspicuous. Scotland has also taken a leading part, both by the formation of Industrial Feeding Schools at Edinburgh, Aberdeen, &c, and by its most populous city, Glasgow, having obtained a local Act enabling the Town Council to levy a special rate for the establishment of a juvenile asylum; which, it was expected, would both tend to the advantage of its inmates, and to the relief of the citizens of that municipality from a portion of the prison expenditure.

Many of the reformed inmates of these institutions have been assisted to emigrate, and the reports of their progress in other climes have been most satisfactory; and it may be mentioned as a pleasing fact, amongst others of a like nature, that some boys, sent from the establishment at Redhill to Swan River, recently transmitted the sum of £20, saved from their earnings in that colony, as a subscription to the funds of the institution, and a mark of the gratitude they felt for the care which had rescued them from ruin.

The Industrial Schools at Aberdeen were the first of the kind established, and may be adverted to as an example; they are principally intended for the vagrant class, including petty offenders; and are of a peculiar character, being day-schools, affording food, instruction, and industrial employment during the whole of each day. They were opened in 1844, and, with the hearty co-operation of the magis-

trates and police, have been most effective. It appears that in that city the police (whose acts in this respect, if not strictly legal, are supported by public opinion as highly expedient), forcibly carry off to the schools all young persons found in a state of vagrancy. On the first day of opening seventy-five young vagrants were thus captured, and of this number seventy-two returned voluntarily next morning. The present number in these schools is about 400. They are taught shoemaking, tailoring, &c., and receive a small sum for their labour. The expense per annum for teaching and feeding is under £4 per head, and is defrayed by voluntary contributions, many of the humble and working classes being liberal subscribers in proportion to their means.

In 1843, the year previous to the opening of these schools, there were 63 children under 12 years of age committed for criminal offences, whilst in 1851 the number was reduced to 5; and it is stated that begging is now almost unknown.

A remarkable instance of the advantage and economy of juvenile asylums, is afforded by the first annual report, which has just been presented to the Glasgow Town Council, of the institution already alluded to as having been established under a local act in that city for the reception of criminal and destitute children. By this report it appears that there are now in that refuge 230 boys, who would otherwise be either in prison or on the streets; that since its opening, about two years since, 103 boys have been sent out to situations, of whom

	83	have turned out well
	6	tolerably,
	4	died,
	6	unknown,
And only	4	are known to have relapsed into bad habits.

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As regards expenditure the result is particularly satisfactory; for whilst the average expense of the mere maintenance of each prisoner in the jails of Glasgow and Lanarkshire is £14 15s. 4d. the maintenance of a boy in the asylum, including clothing, education, and teaching him a trade, only amounts to a nett sum of £7 10s. If we add the interest on the expenditure of those costly buildings in which our juvenile criminals have hitherto been confined, the difference of expense will be found still greater.

It thus appears that at less cost than the average expense for the maintenance of a prisoner in jail, at least 80 per cent of the destitute and criminal children subjected to the influence of the Glasgow Refuge are reported to have turned out well; whilst, as a contrast, it also appears from a statement made about three years since, by a member of the Prison Board of Edinburgh Jail, that, from inquiry made at the different courts where prisoners are tried in that city, it was ascertained that of the juveniles under eighteen years of age who had passed through the prison, from seventy to eighty per cent had returned to crime, many of them being eventually sentenced to transportation.

A further illustration of the question of comparative cost is taken from a petition to Parliament, in 1846, from the magistrates of Liverpool; in which it is stated, that their attention having been drawn to the results at a small Keformatory then established in another county, where much good had been effected, they found the total expenditure since its opening, for the maintenance and clothing of the seventy-seven boys received therein, was £1026, being under £14 per head; whilst, having traced the expenditure for apprehensions, prosecutions, maintenance, and punishment, in fourteen cases of juvenile delinquents, which had been fairly selected some time previously from the mass of prisoners in the Liverpool jail, they found it had altogether amounted, in these cases, to £889 Is., being equal to a sum of about £63 each, whilst yet in their juvenile years. And in order to exemplify still more fully the moral and financial results of the present system, the career of these fourteen persons, as adults, subsequent to the above heavy expenditure, was, at the time of forwarding the petition, ascertained to be as follows:—

- 4 of them were then under sentence of transportation.
- 1 had died in prison.
- 1 fate unknown.
- 1 then awaiting trial, after sixteen additional periods of imprisonment.
- 1 still at large amongst the criminal classes, after twelve additional periods of imprisonment.

The remaining 6 had all been transported, after being several additional times in jail.

Thus the costs of the various apprehensions, trials, and imprisonments of these persons as adults, and in several cases the expenses of their transportation, must be added to the above-named expenditure in their juvenile years. The petition concludes by stating that, dividing the total expenditure of the Eeformatory alluded to by the number actually ascertained to have been reformed, it appears that whilst the outlay for each reformation is about £25, the amount paid in the borough of Liverpool, previous to transportation, for punishing offenders of the same class, cannot be much, if at all, less than 100 guineas. On this branch of the subject, evidence to the same effect was given by Mr. Thompson, a magistrate, and deputy lieutenant of the county of Aberdeen, who, as having paid much attention to the question of prison expenditure, &c, was examined, in 1852, by a Committee of the House of Commons. He stated that, on the average, a regular thief spends about three years in prison, at a cost of from £60 to £70,—and with cost of transportation, it takes frequently £200 to £300 before we are done with him.

Further corroboration of the amount of expenditure on crime commencing in childhood is afforded by the statement of the Chaplain of Bath Jail, who, having traced the subsequent course of ninety-eight children committed to that prison, found that they had cost the public the sum of £6,000, being more than £60 per head. It has also been calculated that the total expenditure on 2728 persons, who were sentenced to transportation in England in one year, was alto-

gether, from the first committal, and including the cost of their final expatriation, upwards of £500,000; being an average outlay of nearly £200 of public money on each individual.

It must be evident from the foregoing, that it is cheaper to reclaim a youthful delinquent than to pursue an expert villain through a life of crime. It has been computed that one-eighth of the annual offences against law in the kingdom are by mere children, and one-fourth by those under twenty years of age; and it is stated by well informed persons, that the prison expenditure on all the juvenile criminals of the country is more per head, than patients in easy circumstances spend on the education of their children.

The actual expenditure on the punishment of those convicted of crime is, however, but a portion of the cost to which the property of the country is subjected. We must also recollect the great loss suffered by the respectable part of the community, from the amount of thefts and pilfering,—by far the largest proportion of which escapes detection. It is considered that there are 100,000 persons in England whose support is wholly or in part derived from thieving, and that the value of the property stolen or obtained by fraud by those whose trade is crime, exceeds, per head, the average wages of the working classes. When we consider that such offenders are equally maintained at the expense of the public, whether in prison or at large, it must be evident that even if Reformatories were more expensive than prisons, they would still be true economy.

The foregoing statements respecting the relative expense of prison discipline in the case of juvenile offenders, and of reformatory establishments, as well as of the proportion of the inmates of these latter institutions on whom they appear to have had so decided a beneficial influence, are principally taken from official sources. Some may, perhaps, think such a startling amount of success must be exaggerated, or, at least, that extreme cases have been selected; and some may doubt the permanency of so large a proportion of reformatory. But, even allowing the widest latitude which any could require from the figures herein given, either as respects the cost and results of prison punishment, or the favorable effects of Reformatories, if carried out on a more extended scale, and made compulsory as a substitute for prisons, there is yet ample evidence of the enormous magnitude of the existing evil, and full proof that the proposed remedies will be found far more effective than the present system.

Although the economic view of the question has been gone into at such length, yet it must be admitted that no pecuniary comparison can properly be instituted between the cost of prison punishment, and the cost of stopping, at its source, the fountain of evil. The first too often strengthens the young delinquent in his evil habits; he continues his career, a burden on society whether in prison or on the streets; he draws into the same vortex, as he grows older, his still more youthful associates; and probably, when he becomes a parent, brings up his own children in the same criminal habits. The other, by an uninterrupted course of correctional and reformatory training, not only prevents him from continuing his

career, and thus spreading his baneful influence over others, but converts him into a source of wealth to the community; and, whilst promoting his own moral and religious improvement, enables him properly to fulfil the responsible duties of a parent towards his children.

Attention has been of late turned to this momentous question in England, and especially by some in judicial positions, who have felt the impolicy and cruelty of the law, the requirements of which they are painfully constrained to fulfil; and, as an example of this feeling, the sentiments of Samuel Warren, Esq. Q.C., Eecorder of Hull, in his charge to the grand jury last month, will appear by the following:—

"I have not the least hesitation in thus publicly declaring, and that in the most ardent and solemn language at my command, and as the result of all my own observation and experience, and communication with some of the best men of the age, that we must have, and that without delay, reformatory institutions of some sort or other, or be held accessories before or after the fact to the destruction of great masses of the rising generation." "If a wise and generous legislature could but convert the portal of a prison into the entrance to a reformatory asylum, it would, in the case of the unhappy youthful criminal, be really a passing from moral death unto life."

Although the mind of the public in Ireland has not as yet been generally much aroused, yet we find that those whose official position brings the subject more especially before them, are fully alive to its importance, and to the necessity of a change in the treatment of juvenile offenders. In the last Annual Report of the Inspectors-General of Irish Prisons all eady referred to, the subject is brought forward with especial reference to Ireland. After alluding to the subject of juvenile crime and destitution, and mentioning some of their causes, the Report states that "in Ireland the evil is peculiarly prominent," and proceeds as follows:—

"If these grave defects are found to operate injuriously in England, how much more severely must they be felt in Ireland, where the wretchedness and filth of the habitations of the poor almost furnish an apology for turning the children into the streets, and where the low wages and scanty employment of the town population reduce the daily food to a minimum, which elsewhere would be considered incompatible with the maintenance of mere existence." "Nothing has hitherto been brought to bear upon the case of actual oiphans, or moral orphans, in the lowest and most vicious grades of society. Under the first head, there are many, children of those who fell victims to the famine, and who have, therefore, a strong claim upon the public care; and under the latter are to be found a still more pitiable class, including either outcasts from the roof of their dissolute parents, or pupils in crime, who are retained at home for the purpose of earning their livelihood, by theft and mendicancy."

The Report then alludes to the extraordinary preponderance of minor offences among females, as compared with England, and to

the evil consequences, from this cause, to the rising generation; and continues as follows:—

" Under these circumstances of wide-spread evil and imperfect means of correction, it is a matter of thankfulness rather than of wonder that the moral status of our youth is not worse, and that not more than a twelfth of the annual committals is supplied by juveniles at and under the age of sixteen years. This number, however, is sufficiently formidable to call for immediate measures of prevention and repression, representing, as it does, the springs of crime, which soon expand into a wider and stronger stream of pollution."

" It has passed into a proverb, that ' one thief makes three;' *i.e.*, that the contaminating example, or the seductive persuasion of one offender involves two others in similar guilt." " The above average, namely, a twelfth of the committals, is to be understood as applying to the totals of the kingdom collectively; but, in the metropolis, to which the idle population of all the provinces is attracted by the greater means of livelihood, both honest and dishonest, a fifth is furnished by youthful delinquents, or a still larger proportion, including those committed for vagrancy, which is the fertile source of iniquity."

" Policy, therefore, and economy obviously dictate,—if we set aside higher considerations and the observance of the duties which attach to a State,—that the enormous expense annually incurred in dealing with crime, which is thus permitted to reach full maturity, should be abated, and that the youthful energy which is now wastefully and dangerously employed in the destruction of property, should be directed to self-support and to the production of national wealth."

This excellent Report then proceeds to refer to the example of other countries, and alludes particularly to the Eeformatory at Mettray, which has been already brought under notice; and, after observing that hitherto in this country no distinction has been made between the treatment of juveniles and adults, nor any line of demarcation drawn between the victims of circumstances and depraved connexions, and those who have wilfully chosen a career of crime, it concludes with the expression of an earnest hope, " That it may be our pleasing duty hereafter to record the commencement, in this country, of an enlarged plan for dealing with the causes and consequences of crime, and for following it from its origin to its maturity, by the establishment of institutions preventive, penal, reformatory, and provident, carefully adapted to counteract the successive gradations of this social canker."

We find also, in a Special Report on Eichmond Bridewell, by one of the Inspectors General, in 1851, the following paragraph:—

" I would briefly advert to the great necessity which exists for an asylum for juvenile offenders discharged from prison, wheie, by a course of moral and industrial training, they may be enabled to earn an honest support, and become useful members of society. This really is a matter of very serious moment, involving, as it



does, the first principles of humanity. Prevention of crime is better than cure ; but, where there are no means of prevention in this case, cure must be the great desideratum. I most earnestly recommend this subject for serious consideration."

This question having been pressed on the attention of Parliament by some English representatives, a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed in 1852, who presented to last session of parliament a valuable report, comprising a large mass of evidence on the subject.

The witnesses examined included governors, chaplains, and inspectors of English prisons, as well as justices of the peace, the recorders of Birmingham and Ipswich, Serjeant Adams, Mr. Bunsen (son of the Prussian ambassador); also, Mr. Ellis and Miss Carpenter, both well known in connexion with the Reformatory establishments already alluded to as existing near Birmingham and Bristol; and the committee finally received interesting evidence from an intelligent young man, who, a few years since, was a dexterous London thief, but now, owing to the humane care of the above-named Mr. Ellis, is a well-conducted member of the community. Time does not admit of further reference to this Report except to say that the information thus obtained, both as regards foreign countries and the United Kingdom, shows most conclusively the extent of the evil and the necessity of a change in our mode of dealing with juvenile criminals; and depicts, in strong colours, the injurious tendency of the present system of mere punishment by means of short committals to a jail in company with old offenders; and the hardening effect of prisons on the youthful mind. It also bears strong evidence to the advantage which may be derived from the establishment of separate institutions for this class, in which the young delinquent should be retained long enough to feel the moral influence produced by kind but firm treatment, combined with constant active occupation, and a course of correctional training sufficiently penal whilst reformatory, and promotive of habits of industry, regularity, and good conduct.

The following are the resolutions agreed to by the Committee, and reported to the House:—

" 1. That it is the opinion of this Committee that a great amount of juvenile destitution, ignorance, vagrancy, and crime, has long existed in this country, for which no adequate remedy has yet been provided.

" 2. That the existence of similar evils in France, Germany, SAVITZERLAND, Belgium, and the United States, has been met by vigorous efforts in those countries; and, in the opinion of this Committee, sound policy requires that this country should promptly adopt measures for the same purpose.

" 3. That it appears to this Committee to be established by the evidence, that a large proportion of the present aggregate of crime might be prevented, and thousands of miserable human beings, who have before them, under our present system, nothing but a hopeless career of wickedness and vice, might be converted into

virtuous, honest, and industrious citizens, if due care were taken to rescue destitute, neglected, and criminal children from the dangers and temptations incident to their position.

" 4. That a great proportion of the criminal children of this country, especially those convicted of first offences, appear rather to require systematic education, care, and industrial occupation, than mere punishment.

" 5. That the common jails and houses of correction do not generally provide suitable means for the educational or corrective treatment of young children, who ought, when guilty of crime, to be treated in a manner different from the ordinary treatment of adult criminals.

" 6. That various private reformatory establishments for young criminals have proved successful, but are not sure of permanent support, and are deficient in legal control over the inmates.

" 7. That penal reformatory establishments ought to be instituted for the detention and correction of criminal children convicted before magistrates or courts of justice of serious offences.

" 8. That such penal reformatory establishments ought to be founded and supported entirely at the public cost, and to be under the care and inspection of the Government.

" 9. That reformatory schools should be established for the education and correction of children convicted of minor offences.

" 10. That such reformatory schools should be founded and supported partially by local rates, and partially by contributions from the State, and that power should be given for raising the necessary amount of local rates.

" 11. That power should be given to the Government to contract with the managers of reformatory schools, founded and supported by voluntary contributions, for the care and maintenance of criminal children within such institutions.

" 12. That the delinquency of children, in consequence of which they may become subjects of penal or reformatory discipline, ought not to relieve parents from their liability to maintain them.

" 13. That, in any legislation upon this subject, it is essential that power should be given, under such restrictions as may be necessary to prevent hardship or injustice, to recover from parents the whole or a portion of the cost of the maintenance of their children while detained in reformatory institutions.

" 14. That it is also essential that power should be given to detain children placed in such institutions so long as may be necessary for their reformation, provided always that no child be so detained after the age of sixteen.

" 15. That the summary jurisdiction, with respect to criminal children, given to magistrates by 10 and 11 Viet., c. 82, has had a beneficial tendency, as far as it has been exercised.

" 16. That, in addition to the discretion which is given by that statute to any court before which a child is charged with any minor offence, to dismiss such child on sureties being found for its future good behaviour, a power should be given in such cases, in default of such sureties, to send the child to a reformatory school.

<sup>U</sup> 17. That if, during any child's detention in the reformatory school, satisfactory sureties should be offered for its future good behaviour, there should be power to release such child from further detention.

" 18. That, irrespectively of the high moral considerations which are involved in this subject, this Committee desire to express their belief, that, whatever may be the cost of such schools and establishments, they would be productive of great pecuniary saving, by the effect which they would have in diminishing the sources from which our criminal population is now constantly recruited, and thereby reducing the great cost of the administration of the criminal law.

" 19. That the education given in workhouses, although improved of late, has not been sufficiently directed to industrial training, which the Committee deem to be of especial value, as affording the best means of enabling children to provide for themselves the means of independent support upon leaving the workhouse.

" 20. That it is essential, for the future welfare of children in workhouses, that such arrangements should be made as will prevent the possibility of their intermixing with the adult classes, to the moral detriment of the children.

" 21. That, from the expense attending the building of district schools, under 7 and 8 Viet., c. 101, but few unions have combined for the purpose of establishing such schools; but where such schools have been established, they have effected much good.

" 22. That it is expedient that greater facilities should be given to the guardians of different unions to combine for the purpose of establishing district schools, and that the Government should be empowered to assist the unions willing to establish them, by partially contributing to the expense of the building.

" 23. That the ragged schools existing in England and Scotland, and recently introduced into Ireland, especially the ragged industrial feeding schools, at present supported by voluntary subscriptions, or, as in Glasgow, by local rates, have produced beneficial effects on the children of the most destitute classes of society inhabiting large towns.

\*" 24. That voluntary contributions have been found inadequate to supply the number of such schools at present required in the metropolis, and other cities and towns; and therefore they should not be excluded from the aid of the national grant, under the distribution of the Committee of Council for Education; great care being necessary in framing the minutes applicable to this description of schools, so as not to fetter private exertions, or to exclude men eminently qualified to fill the laborious and difficult position of teachers, by the requirements of too high an educational certificate.

" 25. That in any legislation which may take place on the subjects referred to by this Committee, especial attention should be paid to the industrial part of the education of criminal and destitute children."

Immediately on the bringing up of this important report, accompanied by the foregoing resolutions, in June, 1853, Mr. Adderley,

who has proved his devotion to the cause by founding the Belfry at Birmingham, in the management of which Mr. Ellis has been so successful, introduced a bill limited to England, and it was understood that another bill applicable to Scotland was in course of preparation. This bill was eventually withdrawn by Mr. Adderley, on the understanding that Government would give their consideration to the subject, and probably bring forward measures in relation thereto during the ensuing session ; and it is gratifying to find that the reply of Lord Palmerston, a few weeks since, to a deputation of parties interested in the cause, was such as to encourage the expectation of early legislation on the subject. His lordship is reported to have expressed himself as follows :—

" He was quite confident that the question was one of the most important that could exercise the attention of the Government, because it was found that unless we could devise some method of informing the minds of our juvenile delinquents, we must be driven to some further mode of punishment, and punishments inflicted upon persons of immature years very seldom left a beneficial impression. He would willingly admit that it was the duty of the Government to undertake the task; and he would add, that he felt that it was his duty to do so."

After this highly satisfactory declaration from the Home Secretary, it remains for us and for our representatives to urge this "duty" upon the early attention of the Government, and take due care that, in legislating on the subject, Ireland shall not be omitted, and that the enactments shall be such as will most fully meet the requirements of the case.

- Legislation has already been too long deferred. It is a stain on the reputation of this great country, where such full freedom exists for the consideration and discussion of political and social questions, that instead of setting an example to others, we should have so long neglected this great social duty.

It is no Utopian scheme. The object is to lay the axe to the root of the tree; to stop at its very source the overflowing river of crime; to arrest the youthful delinquent at his first step on the threshold of his career; to guard against the contagion of his example ; to prevent the squandering of the public money, with little if any hope of advantage to the youthful delinquent; to convert the " perishing and dangerous classes" into useful members of society; and to exchange the present unwise and highly prejudicial system, for one wise, benevolent, and eminently economical.

To reclaim from vice is a far higher obligation than to punish for crime. Policy and prudence, justice and humanity alike call on Christian men of all denominations to join hand and heart in this needful and good work.