

# **Report of the Sanitary Committee of the Royal Society of Arts.**

## **Contributors**

Royal Society of Arts of Jamaica. Sanitary Committee.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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THE

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS OF  
JAMAICA,

FROM

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1857, INCLUSIVE.

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VOLUME III.

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KINGSTON, JAMAICA:

PRINTED BY R. J. DECORDOVA, 49, PORT ROYAL STREET.





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# Transactions of the Royal Society of Arts of Jamaica.

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.

To His Excellency CHARLES HENRY DARLING, Esquire,  
Governor of Jamaica, and their Honors EDWARD  
JORDON, Esquire, WILLIAM HOSACK, Esquire, and  
GEORGE PRICE, Esquire, Members of the Executive  
Committee.

### THE MEMORIAL

Of the undersigned Members of the Council of the  
ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your memorialists, impelled by a sense of duty which they can neither ignore nor resist, and stimulated by a consciousness that, if in their capacity of the Executive body of the Royal Society of Arts, they were to remain silent on a subject which haunts them at every step they take through the City of Kingston and its vicinity, and armed as they are with the important information, and the almost startling revelations disclosed to them by the able and interesting reports which accompany this memorial, confidently approach your Excellency in Executive Committee, and crave permission to submit for searching investigation and legislative intervention, the present condition of the City of Kingston and its environs, with a view to the better establishment and maintenance of the public health, the public morals, and the public safety and convenience.

Your memorialists are quite alive to the fact, that they are now treading in a path which has been often trod before by good and earnest men, who have found their toil in vain; that memorials like this, and reports similar to those appended to it, though they venture to believe as to the latter less suggestive, less searching, and far less exigent of prompt attention, have been transmitted to, and urged upon, the consideration of various authorities, Executive, legislative, and municipal, not once, but often; and the seed, however well sown, has borne no fruit. Your memorialists assume not the right to cast censure any where; enough for them that they hope to find they have fallen on a more fitting and auspicious opportunity, and that they may succeed, where others have failed.

Prominent among the many incontrovertible facts which have moved your memorialists to the action they are now taking, stands the alarming information which has been conveyed to them through the sanitary portion of the report, for which they are indebted to the skill and labor of Doctors Bowerbank and Campbell, that the City of Kingston and its neighbourhood has been for the last few years, and is now, more unhealthy than heretofore; and that a disease of a novel type and of an intractable character, emphatically denominated in that branch of the report, the "New Pest," has of late made its appearance in this City. The causes of this are as multiform as they are disgraceful to a civilized community; for they are not to be found where they most naturally would be looked for, and concentrated, namely in the unhealthiness of the locality, but in culpable neglect and supine indifference. In point of favorable site, Kingston may vie with the proudest of tropical cities; and there is no doubt that, notwithstanding the squalor and the filth which exhale and reek in and around her, at the present moment, under vigilant, harmonious and energetic local government, and with proper sanitary, reformatory, and police regulations, there is nothing to prevent her taking rank among the most cleanly and salubrious of the cities of the West.

The first class of remedies your memorialists would suggest, though numerous, are self-evident. For many of them there

is legislative provision on the statute book, but so feebly have the laws been hitherto enforced, that they have in a great measure ceased to be remedial. These suggestions range themselves in consecutive utility, as follows:—

I.—The establishment of a permanent central board to keep watch and ward over the health of the City.

II.—A careful revision of the quarantine laws, with a view to render the non-intercourse they contemplate stringent and unavoidable, where it is necessary, and to dispense with it altogether, where it is not.

III.—Compulsory vaccination, not only of the infant, but of the adult population, under proper medical supervision.

IV.—A rigid inspectorship of the beef, vegetable and fish markets, not only to the end that the buildings in point of cleanliness, and the means of constant purification, may be made fitting receptacles for the purposes to which they are devoted, but also that the various articles of human food exposed for sale there may be of a wholesome character.

V.—The establishment of an assize of bread, as well to secure the full weight of that necessary of life for the denomination of coin it is intended to represent, as to guard against the admixture of deleterious substances, and more especially against the admission into the market of damaged and unwholesome flour.

VI.—Abundant as is the supply of water in the City of Kingston, no precautions have hitherto been taken to secure that purity which alone can fit it for the all-important part it has to play in the economy of health. The report will shew in what the tanks and reservoirs of the Kingston and Liguanee Water Company are defective for this end, as well as the disgraceful use which, in too many instances, is made of the wells of the city, and will also suggest the proper remedies.

VII.—The removal of all manufactures detrimental to health, unless self-consuming of their noxious elements, beyond the precincts of the city.

VIII.—A searching and radical reform of the present system of sepulture, by which the poisonous exhalations of the corrupting dead, may be placed beyond the sphere of danger to the health of the living.

IX.—A critical inspection by competent persons of the Public Hospital, with a view to its better ventilation, and the better accommodation of the patients, in point of space.

X.—The complete segregation, in some fitting asylum, of persons afflicted with leprosy, coco-bay, yaws, and other infectious diseases.

XI.—A settled and attainable provision for the poor, subject to no individual favor or caprice, on the principle of out-door relief. This head will be seen to involve necessary, and as regards the individual, gratuitous, medical attendance on the indigent sick.

Auxiliary to these important requisitions, and in order that legislation, in the direction they point out, may not fail of effect, your memorialists further invite attention to the propriety of legislative adoption of the following recommendations:—

First—A census for the Island. Inasmuch, however, as a general and correct roll of the entire population would involve large expenditure and cumbrous machinery, it is respectfully suggested, that in the meantime a census be taken for the City of Kingston and its environs, to the extent of four miles in every direction, as well as the town of Port Royal.

Second—Registration, under penalties, of births and deaths.

Third—A revision of the Police Law, as far as it regards Kingston and its environs, with the double view of securing the efficiency of that force in point of numbers, and physical and moral qualifications, and of providing against a timid, partial, or negligent performance of their duties.



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Fourth—A Vagrant Act, which may be combined with an Industrial Reformatory Institution. Here your memorialists offer for earnest attention, the valuable contribution of the Inspector General of Prisons, Mr. Daughtrey, which forms the third part of the report annexed to this memorial.

Fifth—A Reformatory Institution for juvenile criminals. These two last steps in social progress, your memorialists do not hesitate strongly to recommend, not only on account of their own inherent good and corrective tendencies, but as vagrancy is always attended with idleness, and "idleness is the mother of vice," and idleness and vice are seldom long in companionship without engendering disease, they see and recognize in these Reformatory Institutions, not only a grand stride into the very centre of moral civilization, but a large contribution, on preventive principles, to the general health of the community.

Sixth—A rigorous provision against squatting in and about the precincts of Kingston. This might find its proper place in the Towns and Communities Act, or in the Vagrant Act.

Seventh—An Inspectorship of roads, streets, lanes, and buildings. The duties of this single office, efficiently performed, your memorialists submit, would convert Kingston, which is now, with the exception of a few localities, one wide receptacle of contaminating filth, a monument without parallel of neglect, as regards the dilapidated state in which the thoroughfares and buildings are allowed to remain, into a comparatively clean and sightly city.

Eighth—The establishment of a Public Garden within the Parade, which would turn an area of many acres, useless now, except as a place of deposit for all sorts of offal, into an ornamental and salubrious focus of public resort.

Ninth—The appointment of an Island Analyst. The importance of this suggestion, your memorialists are of opinion, cannot be over-rated. The absence of such an officer holds back any advance which might otherwise be made in the science of medical jurisprudence, and lends impunity to the dark and mysterious doings of the Obeah and Myal man, who now walk abroad in open day, wallowing in crime, and living in luxury, on the ill-gotten gains which their skill in the fascination of fear wrings from the superstitious terrors of their dupes. Indirectly, too, the knowledge of a competent Toxicologist, might be brought to bear on the detection of those hidden causes of death, which it is feared too many of the female population of this island spontaneously risk, for the purpose of procuring abortion. The manner in which Coroners and their juries have been baffled of late, in arriving at correct conclusions as to the causes of death, are in themselves painfully suggestive on this point.

Tenth—An Inspectorship of Weights and Measures. The demoralizing influence, to say nothing of the actual fraud, which must attend upon the habitual use of false weights and measures, need not be enlarged upon. Enough to say that this corrupt practice prevails to an extent which would be marvelous if it were not strictly true.

Your memorialists might proceed further to epitomize the report they now lay before your Excellency in Executive Committee, but they feel they have done enough by eliminating from the mass of information it contains, those salient points which will fix attention on their own importance, and invite it for those less prominent suggestions, from among which they have been selected.

Your memorialists, recognizing as they do the close affinity between the sanitary training and the moral habits of a people, so graphically and forcibly depicted in the second part of the report appended hereto, furnished by the joint labour of the Revd. Mr. Vice-President Watson, and the Revd. Mr. Edmonson, respectfully crave attention to the striking deductions with which that part of the report abounds—deductions

so irrefutably clear, that they cannot be overlooked.

The testimony borne throughout the reports to the depraved habits and the licentious excesses of the young, inflicts pain on every mind, and forces on the thoughts the necessity for juvenile reform. And the startling fact, that out of a computed population of upwards of thirty thousand souls in the City of Kingston, not more than six thousand are in communion with the various churches, if it did not rouse the energies of the philanthropist and the moral reformer, would overwhelm the great mass of apathetic lookers-on with despair of any possible improvement.

But your memorialists entertain higher aspirations. They venture to hope that at the close of the new Government, which has been so recently and so auspiciously inaugurated, among the most graceful memorials of its footsteps will be found an improved moral, social, and sanitary condition of the people, crowned by that greatest of a country's blessings, the reformation of the young.

With this view, your memorialists will spare no effort, shrink from no investigation, share every responsibility, and, if invited so to do, will lend their aid in bringing to maturity any measures which may have a tendency in the direction they have pointed out. They are sensible of every difficulty, financial as well as moral, which must surround any Executive Government, when striking at the root of deep-seated and long-tolerated evils; and they see, *à fortiori*, how much the difficulty must be enhanced in a country so little ameliorated by, though it possess all, the institutions of civilization, and in the midst of a population so heterogeneous as that of Jamaica. But they are of opinion, that the fault in this particular, lies rather at the door of constituted authority, than with the element on which that authority ought to be brought to bear—namely, the mass of the people. This element, so far from being obstinate and irreclaimable, your memorialists consider plastic under favourable conditions, and well disposed to take that form which will best conduce to the general welfare and happiness. But authority to be respected must be firm, consistent, and impartial; and the favourable conditions of which they speak can never be expected to arise, unless a public sense is created that the arm and the eye of the law are never asleep. A vigorous law, feebly administered, so far from lessening the number of offenders, has a tendency to increase them, by impunity. This is so with penal laws in general. If too severe for the times, let them be erased from the statute book: if not severe enough, let them be made so. But while retained there at all, let them, in the name of public responsibility and consistency, be strictly administered. It is this want of vigour in maintaining the supremacy of the laws, not in the judicial administration of them, either in the higher or the lower courts of justice, but in the lower executive branches of that administration, of which your memorialists complain. They are well aware that while many sanitary and reformatory measures which the appended reports suggest, are as yet untouched by legislation, there are nevertheless wholesome laws in full force on the statute book, which meet, and would eradicate, many of the evils of which they complain, were they once brought into, and maintained in, energetic operation. They would instance as one out of several, the "Towns and Communities Act," 7 Victoria, chapter 14, than which the Island laws can boast of none which more directly and more effectively, to a limited extent, takes under its watchful and penal protection the public health, the public morals, and the public safety and convenience. The provisions of this single Act, rigorously enforced, would soon put a new face even on a City like Kingston, uncared-for and utterly destitute of vigilant supervision as she is. Many of the most salutary provisions of this statute are, however, little better than a dead letter; and there is much more cognate legislation



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your memorialists might point out, in no better case.

Your memorialists therefore pray, that where the requisite legislation does not exist, your Excellency in Executive Committee will initiate such measures as the pressing character of the evils disclosed in the report which accompanies this memorial demands; and that where the necessary legislation does exist, but is not put in execution, your Excellency will be pleased to issue a commission to enquire into the causes why the existing laws are not more diligently enforced, and to report to your Excellency in Executive Committee accordingly. And if your memorialists may so far presume, they would recommend that for the present, in order that the remedy may be soonest applied where the disease is greatest, the enquiry be limited to Kingston and its environs, including the town of Port Royal.

And your memorialists, holding themselves in readiness to give all the assistance in their power towards facilitating and giving effect to the object of such a commission,

Will ever pray, &c.

WM. IRVING WILKINSON, V. P.  
JAMES WATSON, V. P.  
A. BARCLAY  
RICHARD HILL  
T. H. TIDY  
JOHN DAUGHTREY  
L. Q. BOWERBANK  
CHARLES CAMPBELL  
D. EWART  
J. EDMONDSON  
H. J. KEMBLE  
J. NETHERSOLE  
J. A. GARCIA DEL RIO, SECRETARY.

*Report on the Causes of the Present Increased Sickness in the City and its Environs; Together with General Remarks on the Sanitary Condition of Kingston.*

Kingston and its environs, during the last three or four years, as a matter of common observation, has been more unhealthy than heretofore. Persons who for years past had enjoyed complete immunity from disease, have, during this later period, been harassed and worn out by fevers of a malarial and intermittent type—whole families and households have been afflicted, and in many instances, in spite of change of air—in spite of medical aid, have suffered for months, thereby involving themselves and their families in great additional expense, and, in the case of families wholly dependent upon a weekly income, exposing them to the endurance of much privation and suffering.

This type of disease has affixed itself to all other prevailing diseases, as is usual in malarial districts, and rendered them more obstinate and intractable—facts observed not only by members of the medical profession, and practically proved to them, by the unusual and enormous consumption of quinine and other antiperiodic medicines, but daily noticed by non-professional persons in their domestic care of the sick.

Fevers of an intermittent and remittent form, but generally speaking of a mild and tractable nature, were not previously unknown in this locality, but their attacks were confined to, comparatively speaking, a small portion of the community, and limited for the most part to particular seasons of the year, as its fall and commencement, or to the occasional prevalence of easterly or westerly winds, the latter of which, in their course, traverse the Ferry lagoon and marshy tracts extending to the sea.

The cause of this increased and increasing evil can only be ascribed to the utter neglect of all sanitary and police regulations, as regards both the City and its environs—by which

exuberant and rank vegetation, with its accompaniments—damp and morass—have been allowed to extend their baneful influence in all directions, uncontrolled by any attempt at cultivation, drainage, or clearance of the land, and under such circumstances aggravated, no doubt, by the bountiful seasons with which a kind Providence has blessed us during later years.

Without any recent census of the population of the City, and in the total absence of all general registration of births and deaths, (the only true criteria of a City's or a nation's rise or fall) no correct data can be furnished on which to found the mortality rates of the City and its environs; nor would we maintain that as yet our experience would justify us in stating that the increase of malarial disease has added much to the mortality—though we have lately witnessed cases of death attributable to this cause—but we affirm without hesitation that already much individual suffering has been entailed on the inhabitants, and great pecuniary loss incurred by the honest and industrious tradespeople and artisans; and from a knowledge of the history of this disease in other countries, we look with alarm to the future, and would strongly urge upon the authorities the necessity of adopting means at once to check the progress of this new pest.

The City of Kingston, from its position and geological conformation, possesses many and great advantages in a sanitary point of view. Placed as it is on a site gradually sloping to the sea—laid out in two regular and parallel sections of streets intersecting each other at right angles, it extends over a large area of ground, with a population by no means excessive in proportion to its size: bounded on each side by natural gullies or water-courses easily available for carrying off to the sea all surface water from the plain above and around it—it is favourably situated for surface drainage, if not in many parts for underground sewerage—freely exposed to the refreshing and purifying influences of the prevailing and alternating sea and land breezes, which in their respective courses have hitherto been uncontaminated by marshy or other deleterious effluvia—amply supplied with water from numerous wells, and by means of the Kingston and Liguanea Water Company—with an abundant and inexhaustible supply of limestone as building or street material, in two directions, the one at a short distance transportable either by land or water-carriage—the other further off, but connected within a few yards by railway—and containing within its own boundaries excellent brick-mould—under good government and scientific and zealous direction, the City ought to be a clean and healthy place, and devoid at least of all the recognized causes of preventible disease.

In spite, however, of all these natural advantages, it would be difficult to find another place of corresponding size and importance in any part of the world under British rule, so completely wanting in all sanitary government.

As a seaport, Kingston is of course liable to have disease introduced into it from without; and we therefore find on the Statute Book a Quarantine Law, the existence of which, however, we believe, has rather tended to increase the sufferings of the inhabitants than otherwise, and to retard all sanitary reform.

Persons generally are too apt to place unbounded confidence in what is termed Quarantine, and to take for granted rather than to ascertain by personal enquiry whether the regulations and restrictions so termed are founded on truth, and are really capable of effecting the desired object. Under this fancied, this assumed security, which they take for granted protected their ancestors from greater afflictions than did befall them, and hitherto has and will protect themselves, they are satisfied to rest contented and to neglect all internal



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sanitary arrangements, which experience all over the world is daily proving to be the only true safeguards of a nation against pestilence and disease.

That the Quarantine Act of Jamaica is defective in principle; that it is altogether inoperative in machinery to do what it is pretended to accomplish, is a fact so patent to any person who takes the trouble to enquire into it, that it needs no further comment here.

Quarantine, strictly carried out in other countries, has been found wanting: as carried out here, it has failed over and over again to exclude disease in an epidemic form; and, among other diseases, it has failed to exclude Small Pox.

What, it may be asked, has been the cause of this failure? Inefficiency of the means employed to keep it out in an epidemic form?—or neglect of the officers employed to carry out the proposed means?

We would merely observe that the history of Small Pox in Jamaica confirms a fact noticed frequently elsewhere: it is this, that though Small Pox has been frequently, through evasions of Quarantine restrictions, introduced into the island, into this very City, it has not always spread, but that its epidemic attacks have observed a somewhat regular cycle: thus, the three last epidemics appeared in 1810, 1830, 1851; and the same may be alleged of other zymotic diseases (a).

As regards Small Pox, experience elsewhere has fully shewn that a better and more certain antidote exists than Quarantine against the introduction of this fearful malady—namely, compulsory vaccination, carried out with administrative science, zeal, and activity.

The custom hitherto has been to allow all vessels to pratique arriving with cases of Yellow Fever on board, and to consider this disease as the product of the island, and therefore not requiring the restrictions of Quarantine. Recent occurrences, however, among the Steam Packets and other vessels arriving from the oft-infected island of Saint Thomas seem to show that in the absence of all sanitary measures in a port, and in a City, even, this disease may become localised, and thence spread. If, therefore, in the absence of all sanitary measures, Quarantine is deemed requisite for the keeping out of other zymotic diseases, it seems a serious question whether we should not be consistent and follow the example of other neighbouring countries, as America and Cuba, and enforce Quarantine on all vessels arriving with cases of Yellow Fever on board, or coming from ports where this disease was prevalent. But in such case we would suggest that the present restrictions should be very much modified and be in accordance with the more recently ascertained nature of contagious and infectious diseases.

It would be unnecessary to enter fully into a medico-topographical history of the City of Kingston. The state of the City, together with that of the other towns of this island, has already been described by the Central Board of Health of Jamaica, in their Report to the Legislature in 1852. We shall therefore content ourselves with a mere statement of some of the sanitary evils and requirements of the City and its environs.

I.—We would observe that there is no Vagrancy Act—for want of which the City is crowded with hundreds of lazy, idle vagabonds, who have no ostensible means of supporting themselves—who will not work, but beg and prowl about the streets and lanes, and prove a heavy tax to the inhabitants at all times, but in case of epidemic diseases occurring tend seriously to increase the evils.

(a) Small Pox in England has hitherto always prevailed—it is constantly present in a sporadic form, but we find that its epidemic visitations have assumed a somewhat regular cycle, thus: The great epidemics occurred in 1781, 1796, 1825, 1838.

II.—That there is no authority to prevent persons squatting about the waste lands of the City. As instances of existing nuisances of this kind, we would mention two places—vizt., the land extending north and west of the Railway Station, and also the old Brick-Yard in West Street, near the Spanish-Town Road, both of which are inhabited, or taken possession of, by a Coolie population, and may safely be described as nests of disease and sinkholes of iniquity.

III.—That there is no Central or Local Board of Health, or any constituted authority to act in case of any sudden emergency occurring either in the port or in the City, or to superintend and carry out the existing laws.

IV.—That the lands round the City in all directions are for the most part uncultivated, and are overrun with young forests of cashaw, candlewood, and poponox trees, with other rank vegetation, which cannot exist long without giving rise to malarial exhalations.

V.—That the suburbs and roads leading out of the City in different directions are overgrown with bush and jungle, and that many of the thoroughfares are much out of repair, and some of them positively dangerous, especially to passengers at night. That in many instances they are made the depositories for stable manure, carrion rubbish of every kind, broken bottles, &c. That the gullies or water-courses which carry off the flow of water from above and around the City are often, from the same cause, partially blocked up, thus on the occurrence of heavy rains endangering the Bridge and often overflowing the banks.

VI.—That the existing Road Act, as it applies to the City of Kingston, is altogether ineffective, and cannot be carried out. That for want of necessary supervision and the timely performance of trifling operations, and the expenditure of a few pounds or shillings, parapet walls and bridges, costing hundreds of pounds to repair them, are occasionally destroyed and swept away.

VII.—That the Race-Course, which ought to be a place of recreation to the inhabitants “and a lung to the City,” is for the greater portion of the year, overgrown with jungle, and that the Course itself and the different thoroughfares about it are in a disgraceful condition. The same remarks are in some respects applicable to the Parade within the City, which, with the abundance of water from the Water Company, might readily be converted into a pleasant Garden or Promenade, instead of being, as it is at present, an eyesore—a depository for dust, filth, and dirt, and the resort of hogs, goats, dogs, and carrion crows.

VIII.—That when the Race-Course, the suburbs, roads, or streets, and vacant lots in the City are cleaned of bush and jungle, for the most part the vegetation is merely cut down and left to decay.

IX.—That in the absence of any legislative or municipal supervision, the houses are very irregularly built; that some in consequence are ill-ventilated and defective as regards the admission of light. That many are in a very dilapidated condition, dangerous to their inmates and to the passers-by: others again, without roofs or with the rotten shingles covered with decaying vegetable matter, are tenantless. That towards the west-end of Harbour Street some houses are in possession of Coolies who store up in them large collections of filthy rags picked up about the City and surrounding country, the smell from which is often very offensive.

X.—That many walls and fences are so dilapidated and undermined as to be dangerous. That in constructing and repairing fences all sorts of material are employed: the staves of fish boxes and barrels are sometimes used, which, after rain, give rise to most noisome odours; sometimes also the Cactus plant, or dildo, as also the Penguin, are employed—



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objectionable as harbouring vermin, and unapproachable in case of fire.

XI.—We would point out also the dirty unpaved state of many yards containing heaps of manure, grass, &c., and in some of which on market days numberless ponies, mules, and donkeys are tethered, from which there is often no outlet; so that all the fluid portion must either pass off in vapour under a tropical sun, polluting the air we breathe, or sinking into the gravelly and sandy soil, commingling with and tainting the water they, the poor, drink. The want of all proper drainage or gutterage for surplus water in yards—the often offensive state of the closed or open gutters which do exist in some houses and courts—the few ill-constructed cesspools to be found scattered about the City, placed either in yards or in the streets and lanes, covered usually with a loose stone, or an ill-fitting wooden cover—and the cesspools or pits attached to the General Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Barracks, and Jail, are public nuisances and ought to be removed.

XII.—Also the overcrowded state of rooms in yards let out as lodgings, which are often very defective in cooking and privy accommodation: in the absence of a fireplace, or in wet weather, charcoal fires, lighted in earthen pots or on tinplates, are substituted and are used in these confined wooden tenements with the utmost temerity. We would here notice the crowded and confined state of houses and hovels in which sailors are taken into board: in these, drunkenness and debauchery reign rampant, and often when a man is attacked with fever he is kept, provided he has money, till symptoms of a fatal nature make their appearance, when he is forthwith placed in an omnibus and sent to the Hospital, “to die.” These abodes are well known to the Profession as foci of disease—as the centres of Yellow Fever and Cholera cases.

XIII.—That many of the privies attached to houses and confined in close courts or crammed into the corners of yards are very offensive and contaminate every portion of the premises, and are seldom, if ever, cleaned, except in heavy floods, when the water, percolating through, fills the pit, and, on subsiding again, carries the soluble parts with it.

XIV.—That the existence of pigsties in many yards, often built against the wall of the house itself, is a great nuisance not only to the inmates, but to the neighbours—besides which we often find goats, dogs, and poultry all huddled together.

XV.—That numbers of uninhabited yards and vacant lots of land are covered with bush and jungle, receptacles for dung and filth of all kinds, brickbats, broken bottles, portions of pottery, oyster shells, old tin pots and pans, &c., some of which are much below the surface of the surrounding streets, in which case, after rains they become most noisome pools of putridity.

XVI.—We would observe also that the extensive washing of clothes in many yards gives rise to most unpleasant effluvia, besides pouring into the streets oceans of soapsuds—also the dirty and offensive condition of enclosures known as “Fishing-yards” and as butcheries or slaughter-yards, and in which hides and ox’s-horns are sometimes kept—as also yards attached to retail provision shops, in which empty fish boxes and barrels are often stowed away, and which after rain taint the whole district round.

XVII.—That the presence of brick and lime kilns, soap manufactories, tanneries, sugar refineries, &c., in this City or its immediate neighbourhood, should not be allowed for the future.

XVIII.—That the practice pursued in some yards since the establishment of the Water Company, of converting the well into a sinkhole or receptacle for dirty water, is highly improper and injurious to health.

XIX.—That no provision exists for the regular and sys-

tematic cleaning of stables, yards, &c., and that no place or places are provided whither all manure, ashes, rubbish, dirt, offal, &c., may be taken, and where the combustible part may be burnt with fire and the rest buried.

XX.—We would notice the irregular projection of piazzas and steps (the latter frequently useless) attached to houses and yards, into the streets and lanes, also the projection of props and supports to keep up dilapidated and falling walls and fences, especially in the lanes, often rendering them nearly impassable to carriages.

XXI.—The absence of provision for the due and regular sweeping and cleaning of the streets and lanes, and removal of all rubbish, loose stones, bricks, &c., for the clearing of weeds, and bush from some of them—and we would notice the mischievous practice of throwing cocoanut husks and pear seeds into the streets and lanes.

XXII.—Also the want in many and most of the streets of raised footpaths and paved crossings for pedestrians, in consequence of the want of which in heavy rains all communication from one part of a street with another on foot is prevented.

XXIII.—Also the absence of all attempts to form a regular surface drainage, and the want of side gutters or drains from the different yards and courts, the consequence of which is that all surplus water, clean and dirty, all fluid filth of every description, finds its way into, and flows about the streets and lanes, forming offensive puddles in which pigs wallow, and often rendering the lanes impassable to persons on foot. From the same want also the streets and lanes running to the sea are during rains cut up and rutted so as to be often impassable to carriages: more especially is this the case with the upper part of the town, those of the lower portion being for the most part deluged with sand.

XXIV.—That in the absence of some restrictive power, cart loads of stable manure, night soil, broken bottles, wood shavings, trimmings from gardens, the carcasses of the smaller domestic animals, with garbage and filth of all kinds, are deliberately thrown into the streets and lanes, there to remain till they are scattered by the pigs and poultry, or devoured by dogs and carrion crows, or are swept down to the sea by some heavy rains. Slops also and dirty water are often thrown from the windows of houses into the street, to the annoyance of passengers, and the risk of life of those riding or driving.

XXV.—That the allowing pigs, goats, dogs, and poultry to roam about the streets and lanes is injurious to the state of the streets, hazardous to persons riding or driving, and most offensive to decency.

XXVI.—That the present system of mending the streets and lanes by filling up deep holes and rats (sometimes two, three, or more feet deep) with stable stuff, putrid vegetable and animal matter, night soil, boughs of trees, &c., and then covering them with from half-an-inch to two or three inches of loose soil scraped from the sides of the street, is futile, and injurious to health, besides being in the end most expensive, as the pigs soon undo it all, and the first rain sweeps it into the sea, damming up the wharves and helping to block up our noble harbour—besides which the scraping of earth from the sides is only tending to increase the mischief by creating additional pools, and undermining walls and fences.

XXVII.—That while mending the streets and lanes, cart-loads of material are often piled in the streets, and there left for days, blocking up the thoroughfares, and endangering the lives of persons riding or driving at night.

XXVIII.—That the practice of leaving lumber, bricks, lime, mortar, earth, rubbish, &c., in the streets during and after the repairs of houses and walls, without enclosing them



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with any rail or boarding, is improper—as also the practice of throwing shingles into the street when repairing the roofs of houses.

XXIX.—That all the foregoing remarks are equally applicable to the roads leading to, and to the villages themselves in the immediate vicinity of, Kingston, as Alman Town, Hannah's Town, Fletcher Town, Rae Town, and Brown's Town: in fact, after heavy rains such has been the condition of roads and streets that in cases of calls at night, we have known Medical men, unless they had been over the ground on the same day, obliged to decline going, or to walk the whole way.

XXX.—We would notice also the absence of all provision for lighting the streets, so that, in dark and rainy weather, it is with difficulty that a house in a street, or even a street at the entrance of the town, by the Race Course, can be found: also the present imperfect manner in which the streets and lanes are named and numbered.

XXXI.—We would also observe that the practice of leaving carts, gigs, drays, &c., exposed at night in the streets and lanes, is improper and dangerous. That the letting-off of crackers and other fireworks in the streets and lanes and other thoroughfares, is highly reprehensible; as also the practice, especially during the "Butterbird season," of firing guns and muskets in all directions in the different grasspieces in and about the town: as also of flying kites in the streets and roads.

XXXII.—Another nuisance is the driving during the day of goaded and infuriated cattle through the streets and thoroughfares of the City. And we would allude also to the miserable condition of many of the horses worked in omnibusses, and the brutal cruelty with which they are often treated; as also the furious galloping of horses along the thoroughfares.

XXXIII.—That at the lower parts of some of the streets and lanes close to the sea line, the sand is systematically removed for the purpose of ballasting vessels, by which holes or depressions are made which are speedily filled up with water, which become stagnant and offensive: that when such ballast is taken from the neighbourhood of the Beef Market, in consequence of the large quantity of decaying animal and vegetable matter mixed up with it, vessels receiving it on board are rendered very offensive, and unwholesome to the crews.

XXXIV.—That in consequence of the large quantity of dirt, filth, and offal thrown into the sea, and which ought to be removed elsewhere, the smell of the beach is at times most offensive, and that during strong breezes or after high tides this is heaped up in piles, and there left to swelter and rot in the sun.

XXXV.—That at the only public landing-place in the city—namely, the Beef-Market Wharf, the steps and rails are removed, making it very difficult and unsafe to land or disembark—in fact, impracticable for females to do so. The state of this wharf is shameful, surrounded as it is by pools of dark slimy putridity, arising from the practice of killing turtle, sheep, goats, &c., and allowing the blood to flow into the sea within the limits of the platform.

XXXVI.—That the practice of holding public markets in the streets, is a great nuisance, and causes in many instances a great accumulation of dirt and filth. That the practice of blocking up Princess Street with moveable stalls and tables, is highly reprehensible, and dangerous to persons driving, especially at night.

XXXVII.—That for want of proper supervision, the different market places are in a dirty and beastly condition—that the vegetable market, after rain, is a swamp—and the stalls of the beef market are often filthy and stained with putrid blood. The selling of fish in the Solas market, where during the hottest part of the day it is exposed to the sun without

any cover, is very disgusting, and taints the surrounding district.

XXXVIII.—That for want of supervision, inferior and unwholesome meat is often exposed for sale, animals big with young being sometimes killed. Tainted and half-putrid salt fish, beef, and pork, are exposed for sale, and are often hawked about the streets and sold in large quantities to the country people.

XXXIX.—We would here notice the sale of stale and tainted meat which takes place in the Butchery Yards in Harbour Street, on a Sunday morning, and would observe that the present system pursued by the Butchers of charging the same price for all portions of the carcass, appears objectionable. If a higher charge was made for the choice pieces, they could afford to sell the inferior parts at a cheaper rate, and thus meet the wants of the poorer classes.

XL.—We would suggest also the necessity of some supervision as regards the sale of bread, such as exists in all large cities and towns in the Mother-country. Complaints here are frequently made, both as to quantity and quality of the bread supplied.

XLI.—Here it must be observed that for want of due circumspection great frauds are practised upon the public, by the use of short measures and short weights, a practice highly injurious, especially to the poor man, when all the necessaries of life are so high-priced, and one which, when detected, should be punished with the extreme rigour of the law, and the offender held up to public scorn and contempt.

XLII.—We would notice also that the water supplied by the Water Company is kept in tanks without covers, and is delivered without being filtered. During and after rains, the water is much discolored and loaded with impurities, which on standing soon becomes offensive to the taste and smell;—the poorer classes drink this at all times without any attempt at purification.

XLIII.—That the want of all provision for public bathing is a great sanitary evil in a climate of this kind. We fear that at present a large portion of the community seldom feel water on their skins.

XLIV.—We would observe here that in cases of fire taking place in the City, complaints are usually made either of a total want of, or of an insufficient supply of water, of the absence of the key of the fire-plug, or of the ineffective condition of the hose or engine.

XLV.—That from the great increase of grog shops which are starting up at the corners of every street, there is reason to fear that the use of ardent spirits and other spirituous compounds is increasing among the lower orders, especially among females of the lowest class.

XLVI.—That the practice of burying within the City is improper, and that of burying in private yards very reprehensible. In and about the City there are many burial grounds, belonging to different creeds and denominations; with very few exceptions, these are very foul, being covered with rank vegetation. The walls and fences of some are much dilapidated and allow hogs to enter. We would strongly urge the necessity and propriety of closing up the Church-Yard burial ground, as also the West Street Yard, both of which are filled to excess. In fact, we are informed by the Sexton, that in neither of these grounds can a grave be dug two feet without disturbing human remains. He further states that in digging one grave in the church yard, he removed no less than twenty-one skulls, with other bones. That the state of the burial-ground at May Pen is a disgrace to humanity, an everlasting disgrace to the authorities, the citizens of Kingston: that it is unenclosed, and traversed in all directions by hogs and dogs: that with the exception of a forest of aloe plants, there is not a single mark to note the fact, that at least



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four thousand (b) human beings, relatives and friends of us now living, lie there the victims of cholera.

XLVII.—That the burying or placing wooden coffins, not enclosed in leaden ones, into any brick grave or vault not filled up with earth, is improper, and ought to be interdicted. That the practice of persons opening tombs for the purpose of interring a body, and then refusing or neglecting to repair them, should be provided against.

XLVIII.—That in a climate like this, regular hours in the morning and evening should be appointed for burials to take place, and that a restriction should be placed upon coffins being sent to the burial grounds at all hours, and being left there exposed.

XLIX.—That great abuses are said to take place in regard to the distribution of parochial coffins—a matter worthy of enquiry. Complaints, too, are occasionally made of bodies being left to taint the atmosphere of a whole district, because a coffin cannot be obtained in proper time, or persons cannot be found to remove it to the ground.

L.—That from evidence furnished by the Sexton of the Church of England, there is reason to suspect that interment often takes place too privately and too readily. That he informs us that on an average, he buries at least 1000 infants annually, of whom 400 are said to have been premature, and at least 600 to have died within a day or two after birth, and all of whom, not being entitled to christian burial, are nowhere registered. And further, that he has great trouble in keeping his underlings from burying on their own account. He also informs us that on an average he buries 50 heathens a year, of whom no record whatsoever is kept. With reference to the number of infants buried we would observe, that we believe the lower classes do not look upon abortion, in the earlier months, as a crime, in proof of which we find that mixtures and plants are regularly sold and exchanged in the Kingston market for this express purpose; and there is reason to fear that many of the so-called nurses and midwives carry on a thriving business by their participation in such atrocities. The frightful increase of prostitution, with all its evils, in the City during the last few years, calls for a searching enquiry, and involves the question of the propriety of enacting a Bastardy Act. (c.)

LI.—We would strongly urge an enquiry into the Coroner's bill, and especially as to the qualifications of jurors, and the formation of juries, &c. It appears strange that at one period, in this City we should have inquests held without number, and in each, or nearly so, Medical evidence deemed requisite; while again, at another period, comparatively few inquests are held, and no, or very few, Medical examinations take place, unless it be from the fact that the acting Coroner is a Medical man.

LII.—We would here allude to a great want, not confined exclusively to this City, but extending over the whole island: we allude to the absence of a legally-qualified and educated person to act as Island Analyst, and to superintend Medical evidence in criminal cases occurring in the Courts of this island.

LIII.—The want of a Poor House, or poor-village, or farm, whither the destitute, the blind, the old, the crippled, and the incurable may be located and cared for, is a serious evil in

Kingston. The present parochial pecuniary allowance is expensive and of little real aid to the poor, and, there is reason to believe, gives rise to shameful abuse and malpractices. On this subject we would remark, that if possible it would be well if some Legislative Act could be passed which should enforce children to provide for their parents and other relatives, instead of casting them on the public care (d).

LIV.—As one of the greatest existing sanitary requirements of Kingston, we would mention the total want of all municipal or gratuitous Medical aid for the poor—more especially during the last few months, when sickness and suffering of an acute and curable character has been more rife than usual. The only resorts the destitute and poor have at present are the General Hospital and the Metcalfe Dispensary. As regards the former, it is open to the whole island, as also to the shipping, and thus its capabilities of relief to the inhabitants of Kingston are limited. This institution, however, under its present statutory constitution, has never appeared to afford that amount of relief to the suffering poor, or advantage to the public, or information to the profession, which might reasonably be expected, under other circumstances, from an institution costing the annual amount it does. The want of all assistance to out-door patients curtails very much its usefulness, and it is to be feared that the present building, that is to say, the greater part of it, from its position, its imperfect ventilation, its want of space, its very faulty drainage and sewerage, is unfit for its purpose. The other institution—the Metcalfe Dispensary—appears to be a most excellent one, but hitherto its benefits have been confined to a few.

LV.—That in consequence of the non-working of the Bill constituting a College of Physicians and Surgeons, which indeed is at present virtually a dead-letter, Medical men arriving and wishing to enter into practice, cannot be legally registered; nor is there in consequence any restriction against illegal and unqualified Practitioners, or any restraint upon unlicensed Druggists, or the sale of decayed and improper drugs. We would also notice the unrestricted sale of poisons and other deleterious substances carried on daily, and the want of all regulation as to the supply of drugs or the dispensing of medicines during the night.

LVI.—That the want of regular instruction for persons setting up as Druggists and acting as Dispensers, is a serious evil, well worthy of serious consideration under the present paucity of regular medical attendants. The same remark applies also to Nurses for the sick and attendants upon insane subjects.

LVII.—Here likewise we would allude to the want of all supervision as regards the practice of ignorant and unqualified Nurses and Midwives, and to the mortality affecting parturient females, and their offspring, in consequence—as also to the fearful amount of injury often inflicted upon them.

LVIII.—We would notice, among the sanitary evils of the City, the publication of the filthy and prurient advertisements of some quacks, by which, to our personal knowledge, the health of many has been injured. Great physical and moral wrong is done by selling the vile poison.

(b.) We believe that we should not be far wrong if we stated six thousand.

(c.) We regret we have not at hand a return of the Registrar-General of the Metropolis; but if our memory serves us right the return therein contained of the annual mortality of infants, under the head "Premature and Debility" amounts to from 1300 to 1500. In a table entitled "The Mortality of Philadelphia, U. S." for the year 1852, we find, under the head "Still-born," 516—the population being put down at 400,000.

(d.) In many cases in the United States farms have been purchased by towns or by counties for this purpose (of relieving the poor). It has generally been found that the only expense necessary to be incurred is the purchase of the farm or the first investment of the capital. The establishment after this, under judicious management, has generally paid its own expenses, and in some cases, as I have been informed, has even yielded a revenue to the public.—Dr. Wayland's "Elements of Political Economy."



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LIX—It seems superfluous here to allude again to the want of compulsory vaccination—of a Registration of Births and Deaths—and of a Census for the City at least.

To the want of all legal supervision as regards the Medical Profession and practice, and to the gradual lessening of the number of regularly-educated Medical Practitioners throughout the whole island—as also the dying off and disappearance of the “Hot-house Doctor” of former times—is to be attributed the decided increase of Obeahism over the island.

That it is an undoubted fact that Leprosy or Elephantiasis is greatly on the increase in this City, and that at present no proper provision exists for the seclusion or segregation of those who may even desire it. We would observe also that occasionally a case of Yaws presents itself, and that the unfortunate sufferer becomes an outcast. No Hospital will receive him, and he is shunned and avoided by all.

We feel that it would be wrong to conclude this hasty and imperfect sketch of the sanitary wants and requirements of Kingston and its environs, without alluding to the existing state of its Police Force, and would observe that the present number of men to attend upon the City is altogether insufficient, and that they are therefore physically incapable of performing many of the duties expected of them. We would also notice that for many months past the Force has been much reduced in strength by the numbers attacked with intermittent fever. We would also notice the fact that they are not sufficiently clad, considering the night exposure they are expected to undergo; and further, that the present condition of the majority of the houses used as stations is disgraceful—many of them are perfect sieves in wet weather, broken down and dilapidated, without windows, and devoid of every necessary of life, not to speak of comforts; few of the men are able to have their wives resident with them, and in consequence, when sickness comes they retire to their own homes, which practice, of course, is subversive of all order and discipline.

Under this head we would notice the want of a regular patrol or watch throughout the streets and lanes, in the absence of which, persons are often during the day deafened by the yells and screams of contending parties, and disgusted by blasphemous and indecent language, and at night are frequently disturbed by parties singing and making noises in the streets. More especially is this the case along North Street, and which when practised towards the west end must prove a nuisance to the inmates of the Hospital and Lunatic Asylum. Here also we would include the keeping of wakes and other assemblies for lewd and indecent purposes—practices injurious to the people themselves, and most annoying to the inhabitants, more especially in cases of sickness.

Besides this catalogue of evils, we have others belonging to the people themselves—we allude to their habits and prejudices, opposed as many of them are, to the dictates and laws of nature, to civilization and religion—the fruits and offsprings of barbarism, superstition, slavery, and long-continued neglect. These all play an important part in causing disease, increasing mortality, and adding to pauperism and wretchedness. It would be irrelevant to our object to enumerate them here, (this has already been done in the report of the Central Board of Health before referred to)—suffice it to say, they are numerous, and body-and-soul-destroying. To remedy them, something more than mere sanitary measures are requisite—we must join hand in hand with the Minister of religion and the schoolmaster. Thus, and thus alone united, shall we succeed in freeing our land from the causes of preventable disease, and get rid of that moral leprosy which at present so sorely afflicts us.

In conclusion, we would state our opinion, that most of the

evils herein complained of, are already provided against by legislative enactments, and that they would not now exist had the laws of the land been duly and properly carried out by those whose duty it is to see them enforced. That miserable apathy, that *laissez-aller* disposition which so insensibly, but so certainly steals over so many of us, so visible in all our actions, both public and private, as to have made us a by-word among nations, is the cause of all our suffering, is the reason why this splendid Island, so blessed by its bountiful Creator with a fertile soil and a magnificent climate, has not hitherto prospered.

That remedies for all our evils do exist, we verily believe; however great the difficulties in the way may appear, we feel convinced that they may each and all be overcome. It is not the pecuniary expense that we should shrink from, for our own lamentable experience of the past, and the cheering experience of the present in other countries, prove to us that sanitary economy (*e.*) is expensive, is ruinous; whereas sanitary measures duly carried out form the basis of physical, moral, and religious happiness. It is not, we repeat, the pecuniary difficulty we have to encounter, but it is a far, far greater evil. Would that we could see the standard of MORAL PRINCIPLE more exalted than it is throughout the length and breadth of our isle: that those accepting places of honor and offices of trust and emolument, would remember the responsibility they at the same time assume; and that they, together with us, from Her Majesty's Representative to the lowest menial, would strive to do their duty, each in his own station, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God!

*Report on the Moral Condition of the City of Kingston and its Environs, in connection with the foregoing General Remarks on the Sanitary Condition of the City.*

The physical state of Kingston and its suburbs having been fully considered in the former portion of this Report, we shall therefore conclude the whole by some additional remarks on the Moral and Religious aspect of society. We have a strong conviction that good sanitary regulations are closely allied to good moral and religious habits and conduct. That whenever the former are not attended to, the condition of the people morally is affected by it. It should therefore never be forgotten that no axiom in Mathematics is more true than this—That the complexion of our minds, and consequently our moral condition, is in a great measure formed by the things around us, with which in one way or another we come in daily contact. Rough manners, ferocious dispositions, brutal habits, and vicious lives, propagate themselves. The seeds of these disorders take deep root in the human constitution, and produce in some an hundredfold where no counteracting influence exists to check or prevent them. If a man lives in a dark, filthy, disorderly dwelling—if his body be hung about with rags—if his eye is accustomed from hour to hour to look upon receptacles of filth, on fetid pools, in which half-starved hogs nestle from morn to night; if he lives in a dark, dreary, ill-furnished, worse ventilated hut, into which the light of heaven never shines—where men, women, and children, and the youth of both sexes, are all huddled together—where all decency is impossible, and all the finer feelings of our nature are constantly outraged; if he sleeps on the bare ground, where a mat, or rug, is shared in common with a family of eight or ten persons, of all ages and of both sexes, all sleeping together, with, it may be, the very garments for night-dress,

(*e.*) Taking economy here, to be a less than sufficient expenditure for a necessary purpose.



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that were worn during the day ; and all this, amid a dense atmosphere rendered unwholesome and unfit for inhalation, by the surcharge of carbonic and other pestiferous odours with which the place is filled—we affirm that when all this is the case, it is impossible but that such scenes, such abodes, and such circumstances, should prove powerful auxiliaries to social debasement, and successful hindrances to the growth and progress of religion and morality. The human mind, amid such depressing and debasing influences, must of necessity be deteriorated, and as long as such sanitary measures are not enforced so as to reach and remove these evils, our efforts to elevate the people, and promote the love of decency and self-respect, must prove utterly abortive. Amongst the prominent causes of immorality, is the want of proper accommodation in the houses of the Poor. There, as every where, misery and crime are the consequence of promiscuous crowding without respect to age, sex, or circumstances, whereby modesty is first destroyed, lewdness ere long usurps its place, all self-respect is lost, the moral sense perverted, and thus the very foundation of virtue undermined. Cleanliness in all its details is a high moral virtue ; and wherever this is neglected, the morals of the people must be more or less injured by it. Depend upon it, outward filth, and wretchedness, are pretty correct indications of the impurity and greater wretchedness of the mind. The sanitary condition of a City is far more nearly connected with its moral and religious well being than is generally supposed. No man can live constantly amid fetid exhalations, amid miserable hovels ; amid the ruins and the debris of untenanted houses, amid filthy lanes and streets where are amalgamated all the materials of pest and fever and dangerous diseases, without being morally worse for it. The moral contagion of our Street Markets, is such as is fitted to contaminate every mind that enters them : the scenes that are enacted there would be a disgrace to any civilized City in the World.

How can there be a love of home, when that home is the lowest and the filthiest that can be conceived ? How can there be a taste for domestic life, when all the ties that bind families together are rent into pieces by violence and discord ? How can the family compact be strengthened and secured when every attempt at decency and comfort is systematically neglected ? The condition of thousands of our City population, growing up without education, without any moral restraint, without any regard to the decencies and proprieties of life, is deeply to be regretted. All these have a hardening tendency. It would seem as if our City were under no sanitary or moral influence at all. It appears as if we and our rulers had gone back to the barbarism of former centuries. Our very streets cry aloud for reform ; they are the most filthy, the worst cleaned, the most atrociously-kept streets that were ever presented to the view of civilized men. Periodically inundated and denuded of all their surface materials, they present a continued series of excavations, pits, holes filled up with stable manure and other filth and rubbish, garnished with broken bottles, cut into deep ruts, imbedded in some places with sand, and forming through their entire length and breadth such a continued line of heights and hollows, curves and curvatures, mud-holes, pools, and puddles, as cannot be described, but all of which exhibit such an illustration of neglect on the part of the local authorities and the police, as is not to be matched any where in Europe. We have vacant lots of land in the midst of the City, which are, in the very face of the City ordinances and laws, made receptacles and repositories for all sorts of rubbish, as well as the putrefying offal of dead hogs, cats, &c., and rank at the same time with various malarious vegetation. How can such an unseemly outrage of

all cleanliness, decency, Sanitary and Police regulations, conduce to the moral and physical health of the citizens ? The want of enforcing Sanitary, Police, and other statutory enactments, which were passed with a view to correct and put an end to these evils, is one of the grand causes of the moral and religious deterioration of thousands in our City. The very non-interference of the City authorities in attempting to put down the many crying abominations that exist in our midst, is producing a fearful effect upon the community and its interests. The authorities themselves, by their apathy, are thus aiding in the social disorganization that is rapidly increasing on every side of us ; they are thereby crushing the interests of civilization, checking the progress of religion and morality, and conducing to render utterly nugatory the efforts of ministers and others to arrest the progress and stem that torrent of ignorance and immorality, which threatens to destroy the bodies and souls of multitudes of our fellow citizens. The neglect of the authorities in their own department is imitated by parents in their department, and the consequence is, that numbers of young people are growing up neglected in mind, neglected in body, neglected as to education, neglected as to religion, neglected as to all moral principle, and treatment, neglected in every thing in fact, and wilfully given up by these very parents to moral and spiritual ruin and destruction.

In the large population of Kingston, like all other large cities, there will be found among the juvenile class a large amount of ignorance, crime, destitution, and juvenile delinquency. Among this class, there are hundreds between the age of six and sixteen, who have been all their lifetime subjected to the most deplorable parental neglect. These poor children have been suffered to grow up without any attempt to instruct them morally and religiously—they have been reared in utter ignorance of God, their duty, and themselves. Inmates from infancy of the lowest dens of infamy, and accustomed only to scenes of profanity, indecency, and vice, what can we expect from such youth but a life of immorality and crime. The interests of society demand that immediate measures be taken to recover, if possible, these young people from their present perilous condition. They are involving themselves and their fellow-citizens in an amount of evil which it is fearful to contemplate. Notwithstanding all the means of education in Kingston, there is much reason to fear, that the poorer classes of children of the lower orders, have not been benefited by them to any great extent. Among those also who are not entirely uninstructed there will be found a lamentable ignorance of the first principles of religion and moral duty—their education has been faulty in this respect, inasmuch as its foundation has not been laid in religion, without which there is no real education. Merely intellectual instruction will not accomplish the object at which we aim : intellectual and industrial training, with religion, should in all their movements and operations, go hand-in-hand.

The evils that are entailed upon the inhabitants of Kingston, by reason of juvenile vice and crime, are very great. Hundreds of young people of both sexes are being nursed in the grossest idleness, a burden to themselves, and a curse to society. Many of these are the children of careless parents, or who have no parents at all, who live nobody knows how, being under no control of any kind, and left without any restraint to do what they please, and to live as they please. These may be seen haunting the Railway terminus, the wharves and landing places of the city, the arrival of foreign steam-ships, the shore, the Race Course, the yards and streets and lanes of the City ; having no ostensible employment, but spending their whole days in idleness, corrupting and debasing one another by their daily intercourse. These boys and girls are destined to be the men and women of the next generation,



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and it is fearful to contemplate what shall then be the state of society, when the spring-time of youth has issued in the harvest of matured adult villainy. These youths, so far as any provision has been made to meet their case, are lost to all moral improvement. Young as they are, they are already adepts in vice and crime; they live by the wages of iniquity; many of them vagrants, and some of them convicted thieves; the law seems either powerless to reach them, or if so, its administration is utterly and fearfully at fault. And surely when there are laws and municipal regulations that would meet and check these crying abominations, it is the right and duty of the orderly portion of the citizens to demand why it is, that the laws are not enforced, and why it is that they are thus allowed to be set at nought with impunity? Society has entrenched its rights and liberties behind these bulwarks, and if these are assailed, we have a right to demand protection and redress at the hands of those with whom the supreme authority is lodged.

Were this attended to, we would not meet with those groups of ragged boys and girls, whose career in vice and crime has hitherto been beyond the reach of those who have their eyes and their ears outraged with them. Poor and neglected, they are living as brutes, and with little better treatment. These are already adepts in all kinds of vice and depravity, and practice among themselves and with each other the grossest immoralities, ere yet they have reached the full age of boyhood or girlhood. Living in sheer idleness, they are compelled to steal, to satisfy the cravings of nature, or to suffer all the pangs of want and starvation. These poor children can hardly be said, in one sense, to be responsible for their crimes. They are born of ignorant and dissolute parents; their education has been neglected; they are allowed to take these evil courses without restraint, and in some instances are deliberately trained and brought up to steal and plunder to support themselves, and minister to the vicious passions of their still more wicked and depraved parents. Surely it is our duty to endeavour by the organization of suitable reformatories, to attempt to rescue these poor children from their career of vice, and to use all the means in our power to restore them to an honest, honorable, and useful position in society.

Impatient of restraint, rude, boisterous, regardless of all decency, we are shocked beyond measure with what we see and hear upon the public streets, by these juveniles. And this state of things is gradually getting worse. They are corrupting, and morally and religiously destroying one another. The cursing, swearing, and blasphemy of mere children baffles description. They seem to vie and contend with one another for a shameless and unseemly pre-eminence in this abominable vice, and their outrageous violation of decency, religion and morality threatens utterly to ruin and destroy them. The children of respectable people seeing and hearing such exhibitions of juvenile wickedness, are in danger of being drawn away into this vortex of wickedness, from which there is no escape. Thus our own and our families' interests are deeply concerned; and it behoves every right-minded citizen, to lift up his voice and put forth all his influence, both in private and in public, to put an end for ever to all such crying abominations.

The unrestrained license of a portion of the youth of Kingston, has given them a kind of premature mock spirit of regardless men. They assume the airs and the manners of our criminal adults, and with all the boisterous unblushingness of maturity in wrongdoing, do they resist advice, and retort rebuke, and behave as utterly insensible to shame or to public opinion. Imitating the airs and the blackguardism of older persons, they swear, swagger, and fight, bluster and blaspheme, with a volubility and a recklessness such as is most painful to witness. Many of the mere children of King-

ston are in their outward conduct on the streets and lanes of the City, little better than a moral pestilence. Modesty and shame are fast dying out; selfishness and doggedness are growing rank around us, and under their shade every mean vice flourishes. All moral training is utterly wanting—among this class it is a thing utterly unknown. Their parents know nothing of it, and as they go to no school, and attend no church, they are left in utter ignorance of what morality and religion is. Within reach of our dwellings are many growing up, not only ignorant as heathens, but in their unrestrained tempers, as ferocious as savages.

Nor are matters much better—nay, they are worse—among a large portion of the adult population. Sunk into the lowest state of poverty, they have relapsed into a sort of semi-barbarism, in which the consolations of religion, and the blessings of morality, are either forgotten or unknown. Ignorance and improvidence, and in some instances, we fear, intemperance, have prevailed upon them to discard all attempts at improvement of their condition; and thus education, the Sabbath, good company, and good books, are all disregarded. It is surely an appalling fact, that out of a population of at least thirty thousand, there should not be found more members in all the churches in Kingston than between six and seven thousand. The churches of all denominations were never worse attended than they are at present. However this may be accounted for, it is a fearful thing to know, that in all the churches of every denomination, there are not more than six or seven thousand churchgoing people, out of a population of thirty thousand. There are not less than from twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand of our fellow citizens who never enter any place of worship. Multitudes spend the day in a way utterly at variance with its sacred design; they lounge away the sabbath in idle gossip, in groups they assemble in each others' yards and houses, sit in idleness and little gangs at doors and windows; with no books, no means of improvement, regardless of opinion; and not unfrequently will it be found, we believe, that many make no distinction of the day at all, but carry on their worldly concerns the same as on other days.

The crowds of bastard children that are brought to the churches of the Establishment for baptism shew how sadly the marriage ordinance is neglected, and the multitudes that are still living in the sin of open and unblushing fornication. The prevalence of this sin we believe to be beyond all our surmises on this head.

Another evil that requires immediate correction is the absence of all supervision of weights and measures. An Inspector of this department is loudly called for. We believe that the poor of this City are terrible sufferers by the absence of such a superintendence as this department demands. It is a distressing thing that the hard-earned pittance of the poor, and the scanty wages of the artizan and mechanic, should be still more reduced by the prevalence of unjust weights and false measures. We can conceive no greater hardship than this; and surely the interest of our labouring population demands that an effort be made, to deliver them from the consequences of such gross injustice. If there be an Inspector of Weights and Measures, why is it that he is so seldom seen or heard of? He ought to be incessantly engaged in protecting the citizens from such gross impositions, as we fear are practised in this direction. The weight of bread, as well as the quality of bread, calls loudly for redress; this is a question in which every citizen is personally interested, and in no country, but this, could such barefaced imposition be tolerated for a single day. The immorality of such conduct is obvious from the command of God, given to the ancient Jews, and from His own express intimation of His abhorrence of such conduct—"Thou



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shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. But thou shalt have in thy house a perfect and a just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have, that thy days may be lengthened in the land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them, are an abomination to the Lord.

Another grievous evil deeply affecting the moral as well as the physical health of the public, is the state of our Church Yards: these are a real disgrace to the City. In other countries, the abodes of the dead are kept with jealous care, and some of them rendered by art, at once an ornament to their Cities, and a place of pleasant resort for those whose departed relatives and friends still live in their remembrance, and where at times they can resort for useful reflection, on the shortness of time, and the vanity of all that does not tell with usefulness on eternity. It will scarcely be credited, that some of these Church Yards are so shockingly neglected, that they are rank with bush; covered with cashaw trees, some of them growing out of the very graves, where lie the bones of those who once were citizens, who contributed to the expenses of the City, and are entitled to better things at our hands. Hogs, and dogs, and goats revel among the relics of the departed, and an effluvia, dangerous to the health of the City, and disgusting to the feelings of the citizens, is being constantly emitted from these places. In the Cholera ground, where lie some of the most useful citizens that Kingston ever had—men who fell victims to their zeal in their humane efforts to arrest the progress of the fell destroyer among their fellow-citizens,—their graves are not only neglected, but the approach to them is rendered impenetrable by bush and jungle. Not only does no public monument mark the spot where they lie, but the place itself is hid from observation, by the growth of all sorts of rank vegetation, where unclean animals roam at will without molestation. Surely unless we are willing to abandon all claims to civilization, we ought to see that all such abuses be corrected.

We have to lament dishonesty, idleness, indolence, as well as lewdness, as prevailing in the midst of us. We have to mourn over shameless scenes of prostitution, numbers of women and girls who live by the wages of vice and infamy. We have to deplore the existence in our midst of numerous houses of ill-fame, haunts of desperate vice and sin, where gambling, fighting, drinking, and all their concomitants of lewdness and immorality, are carried on. And connected with these houses are boys who are employed to attend the arrival of American and other steam ships, and to conduct the strangers that arrive in our City to those dens of infamy. These boys are called "Pilots," and ply their infernal trade with a zeal and audacity worthy of a better cause. Perhaps no country on the face of the earth presents so gross a feature of moral deterioration as this. Is there no law to put down such crying infamy?

We fear that multitudes of the merest youths of both sexes are here sunk in the vortex of uncleanness; vice is here not ashamed. Fornication, concubinage, and adultery still prevail in our midst, while the coarseness of the manners and behaviour of some portions of the lower classes, shews how far they have already gone in the ways of vice and sin.

Before concluding this report, allow us to point out another great source of moral contamination, which is in constant vital activity, and which is producing terrible ravages in our community. Unless some measures are taken to put an end to this cause of vice and demoralization, it is vain to expect any moral improvement among certain classes of the community. We refer to the conduct of the Black Soldiers, who are let loose every evening from the Camp and Barracks, and who immediately repair to the rum shops and

to the lowest dens of prostitution in the City. So abominably common has this conduct become, that the streets and highways are infested with hordes of the lowest prostitutes, abandoned to all shame, who join these bands of soldiers, walk with them, laugh with them, jeer and fight with them, and concentrate upon that locality an amount of obscenity and wickedness which is most painful to witness. Is there no police regulation that would prevent these abandoned idle women from outraging all decency, following these soldiers in their very walks, their breasts, shoulders, and arms exposed and bare; the bodies of their tawdry gowns, dangling in remnants and fluttering in the wind, like flags hung out to intimate their trade and occupation, or as signals to emblazon their disgrace? What an example is this to the young of the City; and is it to be endured that the men who are appointed and paid for being the protectors of the country, should themselves become the chief instruments of its demoralization, diffusing among our city population the uncleanness, the heathenism, and the wretched barbarism of Africa? It is not our purpose in this respect to investigate the general causes of these evils, or to suggest remedies for them, but to shew that they do exist, and that they cry aloud for immediate redress. The provision and application of the proper remedies is with the constituted authorities—by the stern application of existing laws; by the provision of additional enactments where these are wanting, and by the inauguration of such educational, social, and reformatory measures, as shall by the Divine blessing, be suitable to the suppression and entire removal of these evils from our midst.

The manner in which ignorant parents bring up their children is faulty in the extreme; their punishments are often unreasonably harsh and severe, and thus too for the merest trifles. This has a hardening effect upon children, destroys all sense of kindness, and steals them to all sympathy.

To lessen or altogether remove these crying evils, is one of the highest walks of Christian usefulness, and has peculiar claims upon a society, constituted for the very purpose of promoting the industrial and moral progress of the colony. It is to the Legislature, co-operating with such a society as this, that the friends of juvenile reformatory schools look for assistance and encouragement in their work. It is the province of such schools as these, to raise from the very lowest abyss of moral and spiritual destitution, the dregs of society—to form honest and industrious men and women out of them, and to make those who have been pests and a burthen, become useful members of the community.

Thus we have very briefly touched on a few of the most obvious points connected with the state of morals and religion, among the destitute classes of Kingston. These, together with the absence of all sanitary and Police regulations, present a picture of an anti-social state, that would be a sad disgrace to any municipal body in Christendom. They call loudly for enquiry and redress; and we hope the light in which they have been placed by this Report will be the means of stimulating all concerned, to an effort to cure and remove the evils of which we have had so long, and so much, reason to complain.

In this great warfare between filth, immorality, and crime on the one hand, the legislature, religion, and humanity on the other, the Society of Arts enters cheerfully the lists, and is resolved to form a part of that holy alliance which will shrink from no responsibility, against every thing opposed to the introduction and operation of good sanitary and moral provisions for this City. Instead of claiming exemption on the score of neutrality, or on the ground that science and industry, not sanitary and moral measures, are their more immediate province, they hail at once the present movement as one without which neither science nor industry will ever effect permanent



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good results in this community. It would be more in accordance with their taste and love of knowledge, to devote their attention exclusively to the selection and safe keeping of the specimens and illustrations of the natural and geological, mechanical and artificial productions of our Island, and to encourage the progress of industrial science in the colony; but they would sacrifice their position as a Society of Arts, and render themselves unworthy the high patronage they now enjoy, did they not in the first place seek by all the legitimate means within their power, the sanitary and the moral welfare of the City in which they dwell. To promote the bodily and mental health of the citizens, is surely an object of the very highest importance, and to cast the whole weight of their influence into that scale, and endeavour by every means within their reach to obtain these high objects, is to place themselves in a position to deserve the gratitude and co-operation of every enlightened and good citizen. Here are no personal ends to be served, no mere experiment of mock philanthropy, no party purposes for political influence, but on the broad ground of necessity and humanity they have begun, and will persevere, in bringing the matter to a successful issue. Should they unfortunately fail to realise their wishes in securing for the inhabitants of Kingston the blessing of good sanitary laws and good social and moral institutions, they shall retire from this particular branch of their duties with the consciousness that their objects, their motives, and their exertions were all on the side of a great public good, embracing the very lowest as well as the very highest in the community.

## REPORT ON REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS FOR NEGLECTED AND VAGRANT BOYS.

The opportunity which my official position gives me of becoming acquainted with the vicious habits of the more ignorant of our juvenile population, and the conviction I have received, that the crime of the man is generally to be traced to the moral neglect of the boy, must plead my introduction of a topic which may not, at first view, appear strictly relevant to a prison report.

It is admitted, I believe, that in all large towns the younger part of the less favored portion of society are exposed to a demoralizing influence, which ordinary parental care often fails to counteract. What then may be apprehended with regard to those children, who are growing up into life utterly destitute of such care!

In the large population of Kingston, at this moment, there is too much reason to fear that several hundred boys, between the ages of eight and sixteen, are subject to this deplorable neglect. In one of the long lanes, on a Sunday morning, just as the congregations were dispersing, there were counted not fewer than sixty, of an age to be at school, or at church, playing and lounging about in the dirt and rags of the week. Need we wonder, if such children grow up in ignorance of God, their duty and themselves? Are not the eyes and ears of persons who move much about the lanes and outskirts of the city, constantly offended and disgusted by the profanity, indecency, and vice, exhibited by mere children?

How is it possible that ignorant, idle, intemperate, and, perhaps, dishonest parents, can bring up their children to be useful members of society? If such parents do not inculcate bad principles, they at least shew an example perfectly the reverse of all that is virtuous, and thus leave their unhappy offspring a prey to their own evil propensities.

It may well become a question, whether those who utterly neglect their children, do not forfeit their natural right to the charge of them; whether the state should not assume the duty, and become their parent. The interests of society forbid that children should be so brought up as to become a curse to

it. To the children themselves, some benevolent interposition may be the highest act of mercy.

As one means of checking this tendency to a life of idleness and crime, where it is the fruit either of misfortune, or gross parental neglect, I venture to suggest the following experimental measure:—

That a philanthropic board be constituted in Kingston, by legislative authority, consisting of magistrates, and the minister of each of the principal congregations in the city.

That it should be competent to this board to have any apparently neglected vagrant, or vicious boys, between the ages of and brought before them.

That it being found, on due inquiry and examination, that such boys were without parents—were separated from them, or discarded by them—that the parents were themselves addicted to habitual vagrancy, or intemperance—or were under conviction as felons—and that from some or other of these causes, such boys were growing up under total moral neglect, in idleness and vice; an authority should be given to the board to indent them for a term of years to persons of good moral character, in a rural district, to be employed in the cultivation of the soil, or in some trade connected therewith; thus giving them an occupation which may make them useful through life.

That as well to induce parties to undertake the charge of such boys, as a measure friendly to their proper care and oversight, it be recommended that no more than nor fewer than should be placed under one master.

That as conditions for the indenture, the party should contract to afford to the boys suitable food, lodging, and clothing—to have them taught to read the scriptures—to see that they are conducted to a place of worship on Sunday, under proper supervision, and to furnish the board with such periodical returns respecting them, as they may think it right to call for.

The reflex influence of such a proceeding could not fail to be beneficial. Many an indifferent parent, conscious of his neglect, but unwilling to suffer exposure, would be aroused by it to greater efforts for the welfare of his offspring.

A board constituted upon the plan proposed could be safely intrusted with all the discretion required for such a duty.

A measure of this kind would be no interference with civil liberty, properly understood; other countries, quite as free as this, have acted upon the same principle, though in perhaps a somewhat different form. The vagrancy laws seem to recognize the principle, though with more limited restraints. Neglected children are generally young vagrants, and young vagrants are almost sure to become old thieves.

Those rights are justly forfeited which a man refuses to exercise, or is morally incompetent to discharge, and the omission or neglect of which is not a mere deprivation to himself, but inflicts injury upon his offspring, and upon posterity.

In several of the principal towns of the United States, there are institutions called "Houses of Reformation" for this class of children, combining some of the restraints of a prison with the advantages of a manual labour-school.

The municipal and police courts of these towns are legally authorized, not only to commit to the House of Reformation children and youth convicted of offences, but also "*any child or children that live an idle, dissolute life, their parents being dead, or, if living, from vice or any other cause, neglect to provide suitable employment for, or exercise salutary control over, such child or children.*"

Near New-York, there is *Farm-school* for a nearly similar class of boys. The boards of both institutions are empowered to apprentice the inmates, and the boys from the latter are generally indented to farmers.



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