

to steal from the young their birth-right, and meanly to appropriate to selfish purposes that portion of the inheritance which belongs to the child. It is the duty of the State as the Agent of the people, as the legal Trustee of the whole property which she protects and enables to be used, in greater or lesser degrees by her citizens, to take care that the young are not defrauded of their rights. To take care that they who cannot be heard at public meetings or in legislative halls, whose power cannot be felt through the ballot box until twenty-one years of age are not cheated out of an Education, by being deprived of the means to secure it. To take care that no man places an obstacle in the way, that none come between the State and the child and stop the progress of its little feet as it walks towards the School House, that no ignorant parent or covetous master tasks the muscles of one of these little ones and dries up its brain by making it work, when it ought to be sitting by the side of the teacher.

In the same degree that the means of Education are freely provided should the certainty of enjoying its benefits be secured by the infliction of penalties on those who would in any way debar the child from its rights and privileges. Hence, as a natural sequence, the Law which provides, at Public cost, Universal and Free Education, should oblige parents to send their children to School, should punish Masters who deprive their Apprentices of the opportunity of securing an Education, and should inflict severe penalties on Manufacturers who task young children in their mills, wearing out their bodies and starving their minds.

To philanthropic citizens, recognizing the principle of universal brotherhood, the popular arguments drawn from expediency need not to be presented.

It is true that Universal Suffrage demands Universal Education. It is true that the only sure foundation upon which a Republican Government can be erected is the intelligence of the people. It is true that ignorance is the parent of vice; that vice begets want and thus imposes upon the State the costly apparatus of Courts, Police Officers, Jails, Penitentiaries, Alms Houses and Asylums, the aggregate expen-