

TITLE VI. PAGE 60.

Upon no portion of this system can the philanthropic heart dwell with warmer interest than that which provides for those whom God in his inscrutable providence has deprived of the full use of those faculties which are to his more favored creatures the source of so many blessings. The State takes these helpless ones, and by judicious systems, fostered by her own bounty at home or abroad, mitigates, if she cannot remove, their calamities. She becomes eyes to the blind and ears to the deaf. Opens avenues to knowledge and to mental enjoyment which else would be closed, and leave the unfortunate and afflicted to the sad heritage of their bereavements. More noble does the State appear in this Mission of mercy, than in her mightier efforts in which she removes mountains by piercing them with pathways, annihilates space by the rapid course of the Steam Car, or goes down into the bowels of the earth to bring up the hidden treasures.

Our plan would be sadly defective did it not put in a plea for the weak, and devise remedies for their distress. It commends to the care of the State, Asylums for the Blind, for the Deaf and Dumb, Schools for the Feeble-Minded, Houses of Refuge and Industrial Homes, in which the ignorant and vicious can be trained to knowledge and virtue, and made useful members of society, instead of vagabond pests.

We feel constrained to go further and to make our system one of comprehensive benevolence, passing by no duty, neglecting no claim however feeble may be the voice with which it appeals for relief. It embraces a plan for the moral and intellectual culture of those whom ignorance has debased into criminals, and now are the inmates of Jails and Penitentiaries. It cares for those whom deficient Education or the total lack of all Education has depressed into idleness, penury, want, and now drag out a miserable existence in Alms-Houses, where they live and move, but have no moral or intellectual being. We would have some