

the necessity of an early education to be enlarged upon; but it is its operation when extended to *all classes* of society, in *preventing offences*, that is here considered; early youth is the season in which the germs of cupidity are to be eradicated. It is there our legislation on this subject must begin, if we wish that its foundations should be stable.”

—[Livingston's Criminal Code, p. 316.

“A plan of general religious instruction, embracing the doctrines common to all Christian sects, and excluding all sectarian doctrine, is not mere theory. It has been for years practised in the city of Boston, where nearly \$100,000 are appropriated to the public instruction of children of every denomination, and where the forms of religious instruction have been settled by the pastors of the several sects; and such success has attended this honorable and liberal experiment, that, although the schools have been in operation for more than 10 years, and, on an average, more than 3,000 have been educated in them annually, not *one* of those educated there has been even *committed* for a crime. And in New York, a similar effect has been observed. Of the thousands educated in the public schools of that city, taken generally from the poorest classes of society, but one, it is asserted, has ever been convicted, and that for a trifling offence.”—*Ibid.* 317.

“Whatever partial good you may do by Penitentiary punishments, nothing radically important can be effected, unless you ‘begin (as the fairy tale has it) at the beginning.’ Force education upon the people, instead of forcing them to labor, as a punishment for crimes which the degradation of ignorance has induced them to commit; teach religion and science, and a simple system of penal law, in your primary schools; adopt a system of penal procedure that shall be expeditious, gratuitous, easily understood, and that shall banish all hope of escape from the defects of form, as well as every vexation to the parties or the witnesses. Provide subsistence for the poor who cannot labor, and employment for those who can; but, above all, do not force those whom you are obliged to imprison before trial, be they innocent or guilty, into that contaminating society from which, after they are found to be guilty, you are so anxious to keep them. Remember that in Philadelphia, as well as in New York, more than 2500 are annually committed, of whom not one-fourth are found to be guilty; and that thus you have introduced every year more than 1800 persons, *presumed* to be innocent, into a school where every vice and every crime is taught by the ablest masters; and we shut our eyes to this enormous evil, and inconsistently go on preaching the necessity of seclusion and labor, and industry *after* conviction, as if penitentiaries were the only places in which the contamination of evil society was to be dreaded.”—[Livingston's Letter to R. Vaux, 1828, pp. 13 and 14.

“The public will have to pay a larger sum for punishing than would be required, in the first instance, to *prevent* crimes by early