

conduct rightly, one may almost say decently, the cares required by the unfortunate maniac; they abide a necessity of which they do not know how to rid themselves; and become hardened to sufferings which since they cannot remedy, they strive to forget. These men who govern poor-houses and prisons, are not cruel and brutal,—but they are wrongly *forced* to a work which every hour sears the better feelings, and which almost converts them to the rude, hard guardians, which they sometimes, by the hasty observer, are charged with being.

The establishment of a State Hospital would put an end to the continual repetition of scenes and conditions of existence which should not be suffered for a day to blemish the history of any community, nor any civilized or christian people. That this condition of things is not confined to one, three, six, or any dozen of the States, nay, that it is found now at this day, in every one of these United States, is no excuse for its toleration in any of them. Much has been done for the relief of the insane, and for lessening, by contrast, what is of minor consideration, the cost of their support to the public;—but much more remains to be accomplished. It is a fact known to all experience, that the longer a necessary work is delayed, the greater the trouble and expense in effecting it. In this case, it is beyond estimate; for who can show how many of the unhappy Insane are now but *commencing* an *existence*, in which the reason is merged in delusions and vehement ravings, and for how many dreary years life may be protracted; and, for what purposes, it becomes those who enjoy health and reason to inquire:—“Perhaps,” as long since wrote a deep thinker and close observer of the course of human affairs, “these poor maniacs are a particular rent—charge on the great family of mankind;—left by the maker of us all, like younger children, who though the estate be given from them, yet the *Father* *expected* that the heir should take care of them.”

The insane cannot be left in charge of their families, nor to the ordinary charities which flourish more or less freely in all communities; they require arrangement specially adapted to their special necessities. No domestic cares, no common modes of treating the sick; no accustomed practice of accomplished medical advisers teaches their necessities. In what these necessities consist, none can understand, except they have paused to search out the states of suffering, the entire disqualification for self-care which this malady often creates and perpetuates in the management of the unskilful and uninformed. No helpless infant can be more helpless; no wild animal of the desert more uncontrollable, than are many of these unfortunates, in different states and stages of the disease. Yet this malady, the result, in almost all instances of physical ailments, and so distressing in its effects upon the sufferer, and all with whom he is connected, is less hopeless than two-thirds of the same diseases which attack mankind. The tabular returns