

of events, and debarring the agency of accident, it is well nigh as impossible that men such as this labourer can sink into pauperism, as that men of the opposite stamp can avoid sinking into it. The dissipated mechanics, with youth and strength on their side, and with their earnings of twenty-four and twenty-seven shillings per week, were yet paupers in embryo. It is, according to the inevitable constitution of society, too, that vigorous working men should have relatives dependent upon them for sustenance,—aged parents, or unmarried sisters, or, when they have entered into the marriage relation, wives and families. And hence the mighty accumulation of pauperism when the natural prop fails in yielding its proper support.

We have another fact to state regarding our old acquaintances, which is not without its importance, and in which, we are convinced, the experience of all our humbler readers will bear us out. Some of the most skilful mechanics of the party, and some, too, of the most intelligent, were among the most dissipated. One of the number, a powerful-minded man, full of information, was a great reader : there was another, possessed of an intellect more than commonly acute, who had a turn for composition. The first, when thrown out of employment, and on the extreme verge of starvation, enlisted into a regiment destined for some of the colonies, whence he never returned : the other broke down in constitution, and died, before his fortieth year, of old age. What is the proper inference here ? Mere intellectual education is not enough to enable men to live well, either in the upper or lower walks of society, and especially in the latter. The moral nature must also be educated. Was Robert Burns an ignorant or unintelligent man ? or yet Robert Ferguson ?

Facts such as these,—and their amount is altogether incalculable,—indicate the point at which the sources of pauperism can alone be cut off. The disease must be anticipated ; for,