SHAMEFUL DISCIPLINE

OF THE SCHOOLS

EXPOSED
The Shameful

**DISCIPLINE**

**OF THE**

**SCHOOLS** Expos'd;

**OR,**

Whipping an improper Punishment for Youth.

By an Enemy to the infamous Practice of Flogging; but a Friend to a mild and generous Treatment of young Gentlemen at School, as most likely to answer all the valuable Ends for which they are placed there.

Illustrated and Enforced

By several Instances of the fatal and injurious Consequences, both to Masters and Scholars, of those degrading Severities, which have prevailed in former, and the present Times.

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**In a Letter to School-masters in general.**

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**LONDON:**

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The Shameful Discipline of the Schools expos'd; or, Whipping, an improper Punishment for Youth, &c.

In a Letter to School-masters in general.

Gentlemen,

Hould the Reports of some late extraordinary Proceedings at a famous publick School in London, which have reached this Place, prove true; and at present, we have no Reason but to believe that they will, it would be far from Matter of Surprize to any of us here; who are but too well acquainted with the ugly Causes which have before now given rise to a similar Condu& among the young Gentlemen who were under Tuition in our Town.

As Tyranny in the State, where a Love of Liberty prevails, will always create the Peoples Hatred and Opposition of the Tyrant; so it is as
naturally to be expected, that a too severe Usage, in a subordinate Station, will occasion the Abhorrence; and procure, if in the Power of the aggrieved, the Chastisement of those, who by an undue Exercise of their Power, abuse the Trust committed to them; insult those whom they were appointed to serve; and by their unjustifiable Severity, and an unsuitable indecent Treatment, render themselves the Objects of Resentment and Detestation; when 'tis wholly their own Faults that they are not that of a constant Esteem and Veneration.

Persons of this Cast have been the Produce of every Age; but there never was, perhaps, a Period, in which there was more Cause to complain of their Number, and the Exorbitancy of their Conduct among our selves, in one peculiar situation of Life, especially, than at present.

'Tis certainly then high Time to attempt a Reformation, and such a Change of Manners, upon this Score, as shall not only effect the Age we live in, but influence Posterity.

Could I any way contribute to the Furtherance of such valuable Purposes, I should think my Time and Pen well employed; and therefore I shall make no other Apology for giving you this Trouble, and thus far interesting of you, without your Knowledge or Permission, in an Attempt of publick Good, but that it was solely with a View to that, I enter'd upon it.

And as it always has been my Opinion, that general Reformations are soonest and best effected, by inveighing against the Evil of the Practice, than by exposings, more than is absolutely necessary, the Persons guilty of it, so I persuaide myself, you will find that I have been wholly regulated by this Sentiment, through all the Pages of the following Sheets.
The Evil I have to complain of is too well known, and has been by Multitudes too smartly felt, to admit of any doubt of its prevailing among us; it has shewn it self in many disagreeable Consequences; and in some fatal ones; and is of so pernicious a Nature, that it is not possible but that one of these must always be the Consequence of it.

Want of Judgment first brought it into Practice; and a continued Use has increased its Growth, spread it over the Kingdom; and, in short, carried it to the shameful and enormous Extremity we find it arrived at.

But before I more fully explain myself, than I have done in the Title-Page, allow me to premise, that the Reformation aimed at, never was attempted in so publick a Manner before; or ever was there so much want of it, as in the present Day; the bad Behaviour of some Persons, and their brutish Treatment of Youth under their Care, never having prevailed in the Times of our Forefathers, equal to the Vogue we have found these to be in since; I therefore flatter myself that an Attempt only to suppress the baneful unmanly Behaviour of those petty Tyrants among us, who are too much sway'd by Passion, or influenced by Vice, will meet the thorough Approbation of all Ranks and Degrees of Persons in the Kingdom, but those who indulge themselves in a Practice which is unworthy of them as Men, and scandalous in them as Masters.

And it is to be hoped, that after this general Reprehension, whoever shall be found to continue in the Exercise of the Enormity here exploded and condemned, will be look'd upon as a Person who delights in it, from Motives too vile and criminal to be mention'd; and treated by all Mankind, and Womankind too, accordingly.

I hope
I hope, Gentlemen, that if you think me too warm, in these Expressions, or in any other, I may make use of in the Course of these Papers, you'll treat me with your usual Tenderness, and look upon them as extorted from me by the nature of the Subject I am upon, rather than any Inclination to shew more than a proper Refentment of an Abuse, which cannot be too harshly dealt with, and which has called so long, and so loudly, for Redress.

The Education of Youth, is, by universal Consent, allowed to be a Matter of the utmost Weight and Importance; no Care can be more than equal to it; the greatest Circumstances ought to be used, and the wisest Methods pursued for attaining the valuable Ends proposed by the Parent, when he puts his Child into the Hands of him who is to cultivate his young Mind; form him for the World, and fit him for that Station in Life, which the Providence of God has given him the Prospect of acting in.

Now, if through any Neglect, or through Folly, want of Capacity or Knowledge; if through any weak or wicked Measures, these valuable Intentions of the Parent are frustrated, by the Person under whose Eye he is placed, the Damage is perhaps irreparable, and the Consequences are often too shocking to be described; a young Gentleman becomes unhappy, through a wrong Cast of Mind, occasion'd by ill Usage at School; he becomes lost to the World; is unhappy himself, I say, through the Remainder of his Days; his Friends and Relations become ashamed of him, because by his Conduct he becomes a Shame to them; who, if he had been managed through his Non-age and Time of Instruction, in a Manner suitable to a generous Way of Thinking, his Temper and Capacity consulted as it ought to have been, and
and himself in general, behaved to, in a way which should have made him in love, rather than afraid of Learning, might have prov'd valuable in Society, the Honour of his Family, and a most worthy useful Member of the Community.

Now, Gentlemen, as I do not apprehend that there is any Article in the Whole of the School-master's Conduct, so much to be complained of, in the present Day, as the Degree and sort of Punishment which too much prevails in our publick Schools; or any Part of their Practice so pernicious and destructive to Youth as this, in the largest Seminaries of Literature we have in the Nation, the Universities excepted, it calls, in my humble Opinion, more immediately for the Attention of the Publick, and a thorough Reformation; and for that Reason alone I shall confine myself to the Consideration of this Topick only; in hopes that a short History of what has happen'd, and a just Representation of what may be expected to happen, whilst such shocking Behaviour towards young Gentlemen is allowed of, may produce the agreeable and beneficial Changes which I am persuaded has many Years been the Wish of most Men of Sense and Understanding in the Kingdom.

I need not say, that it would have been very agreeable to those who have felt the Weight of such Cruelties and ill-judg'd Punishments, that they had never been admitted into Schools; and I dare answer for it, that those who live under the terrible Apprehensions of the like Treatment, would universally rejoice that a Way could be found to put them out of the Power of such a disingenuous ignominious manner of Correction.

And
And really, Gentlemen, I cannot but be apt to imagine that this might be easily enough done; and to the Mutual Satisfaction, some few excepted, of Masters, as well as Scholars: Let us then try if this so much wish'd for Reformation may not be brought about, by the Assistance of a few Reasons in its Favour; and a right Representation of the Grievance complain'd of.

There will not certainly be any Person found so weak as to believe that I am attempting, here, to banish all manner of Punishment and Methods of Correction out of the Schools; which would be the heighth of Absurdity to think of doing; no Gentlemen, my whole Aim is, to persuade you, if I could, that your ways of Chastisement are often very unseamly and improper; that they do Youth in general, infinitely more harm than good; and to prevail upon you, if possible, to suit these, for the future, to the Ages of your Scholars, as that they may answer the valuable Purposes of your being allow'd to give them any Correction at all.

The Rod may, indeed, be of Service if us'd with Discretion, to a little Boy, a Child; while it may frighten and keep in awe; it may be a very proper Punishment for such a one, adequate to his Neglects and Faults; and put him upon that Attention to his Book, when he stood in need of some harsher Treatment, than mere Reproof or Persuasion, to engage him to it; and whilst he is more uneasy at the Smart he feels, than ashamed of the Manner in which it is inflicted on him, no better Means can be us'd for the obliging him to his Duty; he grows wiser and better by such a Method of Correction whilst it has this Effect upon his Mind; and whilst this Punishment is suited in Degree to the Nature of his past Faults and Omissions, 'tis the most
most likely to keep him to his Duty, and deter him from future Ones.

Tho' there may be Exceptions even to this; some Children, but even of ten Years Old, are not to be manag'd by Blows, or lashed into Obedience or Compliance with the Will of a Master; Reproof, and Persuasion, will have a much stronger Effect upon their tender Minds; and a kind Word do them much more Good than any sort of Punishment, which they may be subjected to; how well would it be for many Masters to consider this; and so to study the Temper and Disposition of Children under their Care, as that they may regulate their Deportment to them in a Manner that may answer best the Hopes and Expectations of those Parents who have substituted them in their Places for the Improvement and Instruction of their Youth: Instead of which, and very much it is to be lamented that it is so, there are too many who seem to place their whole Art of Discipline in the Rod; and think that a Child may be lashed into any thing; so that one would be apt to imagine, by their Conduct, that they depended for Success in their Education wholly upon the Constant Severity of a Master's Hand; and their having this Implement of Discipline continually in View.

But so sadly, Gentlemen, have such ill-judging Masters been mistaken, and wrong in their Management, that they have destroy'd the very Design of Correction, by the immoderate Use of it; and often spoil'd the Child it was intended to amend; who by being innur'd to the daily Weight of the Master's Hand, has become harden'd against the Force of his Commands, because at length, fearles of the Consequences of breaking them; who, of Course, neglecting his Learning, is looked upon and treated as incorrigible; and at latch
last turns out Illiterate and a Blockhead: Thus has many a Parent been disappointed, and many a Child been ruin'd, when neither one or the other had happen'd, had he been apply'd to, by those who had the Charge of his Education, in milder Terms, been allowed more Encouragement, and to have felt less of that Austerity in his Master's Temper, which prov'd the Ruin of his.

Having lightly touched upon this part of the Master's Conduct, I now pass to the more material Part of my Design; and enter upon the Consideration of this Punishment by the Rod, as it displays itself to us in much more hedious Forms than any I have yet described.

And here give me leave to appeal to yourselves, Gentlemen; I am perswaded I could not find better Judges of the Case, than I could pitch upon from among your Number, was I to search the Nation thro': Permit me then to ask you, is Whipping a suitable Punishment for a half lusty young Fellow of sixteen, seventeen, perhaps eighteen Years of Age; is it seemly for yourselves to see such a one exposed in that shocking Manner, especially, they often are exposed to your own, and the View of the whole in School; can any thing be more alarming to his own Mind than for him to reflect upon such ignominious Treatment of him, who his just ready to enter upon the Stage of Action, and come abroad in the World; has commenced Man; and has immediate Views perhaps, of becoming the Master of a Family himself; or going directly into the Service of his King and Country? Can he bear the Reflection of such degradings of him; such depreciating Usage; the making him a Spectacle of Scorn and Contempt; and the fixing of him, as it were, with a Cause for Reproach and
and Ridicule through Life, without the utmost Indignation, and the strongest Resentment.

'Twill hardly be believ’d, and yet a Multitude of Instances could be brought to prove the Truth of it, that young Gentlemen, of the Ages above-mentioned, even of Family and Fortune, for they have been served in this vile Manner without Exception, have been tied, as it were, Neck and Heels, their Hands and Feet almost meeting, strap’d down to the Floor; whilst their nakedness, mounted up, has suffer’d, in the View of Hundreds, the unmaning Discipline of the Birch.

And this has been the Treatment many have been subjected to, and even to an Excess of Severity for several Years together; and others, who though the manner of executing the Master’s Resentments may not have exactly tally’d with this, have undergone a long Series of austerer Usage, which being weekly, almost daily repeated, has been attended sometimes, and indeed oftener than otherwise, with the worst of Consequences.

It fares with a Youth thus used, very often as it does with a young Creature sent to the House of Correction; the Method taken for their Amendment, makes them worse; by being thus expos’d to Shame, they lose all Sense of Shame, and grow abandon’d.

Certainly, Gentlemen, there are other Methods to be practised with these young Men, as they may very well be called, which would be more becoming in you, and much more proper for, and useful to them, than this infamous way of Flogging, so justly complained of, and which, some who have delighted in it most, have not wholly escaped the Censure of the World upon that Account.

There have not been wanting those, who have suggested, that some of these flogging Masters have never fail’d, tho’ upon the slightest Occasions,
fions, to have recourse to this ungenerous Ufage of a Youth, especially if he happened to be a lufly Lad; and that it has been observed, that such as were so, have been offten obliged to sub-
mit to this Operation; whilst with seeming Sa-

tisfaction he has viewed them in the Pofture they 
were placed in, to undergo it: Of Persons of this 
Caufe of Mind we need not be surprized to hear of 
shameful Proceedings; and there can be but small 
hopes conceived of their readily coming into the 
rectifying of Abufes, how much foever complained of, which they take such a criminal Pleasure in 
carrying on; but as I hope the Number of thefe, 
if any, is too inconfiderable to occafion a general 
Concern, I do but juft mention it, as a Suggestion, 
rather than a Reality, which their own ill Con-
duct gave rife to.

And indeed, was fuch an Opinion to prevail to 
the Difadvahtege of any Man who calls himfelf 
a School-Mafter, he would, I think be soon di-
covered, as the Confequence would be easily 
forefeen which much be his undoing; for one 
would hardly find a Parent in the Kingdom, who 
would trust a Child with him for Education, 
who would give the Son Pain, to give himfelf 
Pleasure, and prefer, as fuch Wretches do, the 
satisfying his own vicious Inclinations, to a due 
Tendernefs for his Scholars, and a becoming Re-
gard for his own manner of Behaviour towards 
them.

Tho', was the Notioa only to prevail, that thofe 
who should hereafter give into this egregious 
Exercife of the Rod upon Youths, unfit for its 
being exercised upon, that they countenanced a 
very criminal Goût, and cloaked their Vice with 
the Pretence of neceffary Correction, I fhould not 
doubt but of living to fee Birch expelled our 
Schools; at leaft, a much more amiable Carriage 
towards
towards young Gentlemen, in general, than that, which to their great Fatigue of Mind, and of Course to the incapacitating of them for Learning; they have long, much too long, been forced to submit to.

But as this is a Part which cannot, 'tis hoped, effect any considerable Person in the present Age, or it may be wished will do so, in succeeding ones, I drop a Point which won't bear a farther Discussion, concerned that there ever was any occasion to mention it all: This rigorous Treatment of Youth has been productive of very direful Consequences; and it might be difficult, very difficult, to prove that it ever produced any good ones. Dr. Busby is the Person quoted indeed, in Contradiction to this, as having brought up many great and valuable Men, who were Ornaments to their Country, distinguished for their Learning; shone in the Senate, and in our Courts of Justice; and made a Figure in the highest Stations, both in Church and State; all of whom felt the utmost Severity that his Tyrant Hand could inflict; and no wonder that he did turn such a Number of these into the World, considering how great the Number was he had the Education of; 'tis no Surprize to us at all, that Persons of their Capacity, and fine Parts, were capable of surmounting all the Difficulties and Obstructions the Terror of his Behaviour towards them, could throw in the way of those excellent Acquirements they became masters of; these were Youths of that Genius, which was not, or ever is to be spoild; and Quack-like, a boast is made of one Cure, when a Hundred killings are industriously conceal'd, and bury'd in Oblivion. Thus is it with relation to whipping Busby, or the whipping Doctor, as he was often called, to justify the like Practice in those who delight in the mean unmanly Exercise
of his Cruelties, that the Doctor turn'd out into the World those famous illustrious Men, several of whom proved an Honour to him, as they would insinuate, as well as to their Country; but while this is rung in our Ears, we hear nothing of the many Hundreds, perhaps Thousands which his ill-judged Severities ruin'd. 'Tis notorious that he had but one Method of dealing with them all; and not any thing can be more certain, from the Experience of all Ages, than that Youth are to be treated in different Manners, and suitable to their Dispositions and Capacities, in order to render their tender Minds susceptible of suitable Instructions, and engage them to take to that Learning, which if they were not rightly apply'd to, they would be wholly incapable of attaining.

The false Notions which have prevailed, and very false Notions they are, that Dr. Busby's Extraordinary austerer carriage towards his Scholars, was more effectual, and answer'd better than that of any of his Corempanories, for in his own Day he was without an Imitator, has, I doubt not, Gentlemen, been the Principal Motive to many in his Situation in Life, since to Copy after him; and introduce that terrible Part of his Conduct into their Behaviour, which many a Boy has smaried for, and been ruin'd by, in our own, and preceding Times; and for which, and they have no Reason but to expect the like, Dr. Busby was hated and cursed to his dying Day, by some Gentlemen of Fortune; and by many who had arrived to greater Degrees of Knowledge, and been better fitted to have made a Figure in the World than they afterwards found, fell to their Share in either Case, had they been suitably dealt with in their Younger Days; and their School Education, by good Usage, made eligible and agreeable to them.
I could fill many Pages, and would, did I think that my doing so would be of general Service, with particular Accounts both of the unhappy and of the fatal Accidents which have been occasioned by the Barbarity, or rather the Brutality of such unwarrantable inhuman Scourgers of Youth; who seem to have had a Satisfaction peculiar to themselves, in seeing a Boy in Agonies, and lie wrigling under the Strokes of their torturing Hands.

The Cities of London and Westminster have been Witnesses to two horrid Murders upon this Account; and considering how much the savage Treatment of Youth has prevailed at the publick Schools, especially, in many Part of the Kingdom, 'tis rather a Surprize than otherwise, that we have not had many more Instances of the like Nature to stain the Annals of Britain.

In London, a Boy dy'd by the undue Correction of a mercifless School-master; being whipt to Death: His Fault was but a trifling one; but some little Accidents in his Behaviour, whilst under Correction, irritated the passionate Man to such a shocking degree of Extremity, that he became his Murderer: In Westminster was a different Scene, there the Master had like to have fallen by the Hands of his long ill-us'd and much abused Pupil: This was a Young Gentleman of Spirit, and of strong Resentments, who had suffered for Years by, what be thought, a not to be forgiving Treatment of him; and was determined to take a bloody Revenge of the Person, who had so often causelessly drawn Blood of him; and this his dreadful Resolve he at last carried into Execution, tho' otherwise than he design'd; for an innocent Person fell by his Hand; whom he pierc'd with the Dagger, which he had prepared for him he had received the Injury from;
The incensed Young Gentleman was determined to be revenged; he kept his Refentments alive; and watched in the Cloisters of Westminster-Abbey every Night, for several Weeks together, in hopes of meeting his cruel Master; when in the Dusk of an Evening, the unfortunate Person came along, whom he took for the other, he being in a Clergyman's Habit and like him to Appearance, and stabb'd him to the Heart: And thus he met his Death, who did not deserve it, at the Hand who gave it, whilst the Person who was the Object of this Gentleman's Detestations escap'd.

And tho' the Assassination is certainly an unpardonable length, and such as no Man should run, let the Injury which excites him to it be of the most heinous, aggravating Nature, that 'tis possible for the Mind of Man to form an Idea of; but allowing so bad, and so base a Method of Retaliation, or rather of Revenge, to be entirely out of the Question, there is no other Method of Refentment in Practice amongst Mankind, which we ought to wonder at being put in force, considering the Usage received; and the Tempers of many who have been incens'd and injured by such Usage.

Many more of these melancholy Instances might be given, where the Life of the School-master has paid for the misuse of his Authority; and the Churlishness and Severity he has behaved with to those, whom he ought to have treated with great Good-nature and Tenderness, but this one being sufficient to shew to what an Extremity a Young Gentleman's Refentment has been carried, and may; tho' God forbid it ever should be carried again, I produce no more; tho', as I said, many are in my Power to produce; and even these would be but few compared with the Numbers, who have never forgot or forgiven their Treatment at School, but have always abhorr'd those, from whom
whom they received it; done them every Injury in their Power; and follow'd them thro' Life with Reproaches.

'Tis a well known Truth of that great Man, the late Lord Chancellor Cowper, that to his dying Day he hated to hear the Name of Dr. Busby mentioned; and often declared, that even to the Time almost of his becoming Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, he had a Sort of Terror upon his Mind, whenever any Person spoke to him of the Doctor; such strong Impressions had the Severity of the Doctor's Ufage of him when at School, made upon him, and his Lordship could scarcely be said thoroughly to have got the better of them to the last.

This wrong-headed Notion of the Doctor's was some few Years copy'd after by a Professor of Humanity in one of the Universities in Scotland; who took it into his Head it seems that to be eternally Whipping and Flogging his Pupils was the only way to make Scholars of them; and he laid about him without Discretion or Mercy, and as the same Causes will alway produce the same Effects, so it was with him; like Doctor Busby he made some Scholars, who turn'd out great Men; but ruin'd many more; and like him too was hated and curst by Hundreds, who never would put a Child of their own under his Care, as long as they lived.

Several of these Abusers of Youth have met with Personal Correction for it themselves afterwards, and been Horse whipt, caned, and sometimes flogg'd, for their unreasonable Severity to a Young Gentleman whilst at School; and tho' it may not have been in the Power, or Inclination of others, to shew their Refentment or bad Ufage past by any of these Methods, yet I am perswaded, Gentlemen, it would be no small Di-

( 15 )
faculty to produce a single Instance of a Schoolmaster of this unhappy Turn of Mind, but who becomes thoroughly detested by those, whom he has used ill, ever after.

And this must certainly, Gentlemen, be a Situation which no Men of Sense one should imagine would willingly bring themselves into; especially when 'tis so easy, and so very much in their Power to be in a much more eligible one; and who may if they please, by a proper Decency of Behaviour, engage the lasting Respect and Affection of every Youth, who owes to their Justness of Behaviour, and prudent Management a valuable Education, such Conduct would leave the most lasting and the most agreeable Impressions upon ingenuous Minds; which might shew themselves in a Thousand after Acts of Kindness and Regard; of Gratitude and Veneration; who then could be so abandon'd as to prefer the being hated and cursed as a Tyrant, to the being honour'd and loved as a Father.

Those Arguments drawn from the Consideration of the Disadvantages a Master brings himself under, by his undue Behaviour and Severity to his Scholars, may be without Efficacy; yet certainly, those enforced by the more weighty Motive, of such a Course of Management being not only vile in its own Nature, but highly prejudicial and destructive to Youth, will be more effectual to persuade to an Alteration in favour of milder Measures than those which have long been the Terror and Bane of Youth; and the Reproach of many of our Schools.

The Reformation aimed at, and so long and so much wished for, has to the Honour of one of our publick Schools, taken place for several Years past past, to the no small Satisfaction of Parents; and to the great Beneft the
the Children in general; who have there had Instruction convey'd to them by degrees, suited to the Capacity of each; by gentle Usage been made in love with Learning; and by kind Treatment and Persuasion rather than by Austerities and Harshness, kept to a Regularity of Behaviour, and a proper Attention to their Books; so that the Youth have of late Years been sooner and better fitted for the different Stations of Life they were designed to act in, than ever they were known to be, during the Time a much greater Severity of Carriage was allow'd of towards them.

But tho' this Extremity of Correction, as very improper for Youth, has been long laid aside, there yet have such suitable Punishment been instituted in its room, that he must be a Lad of an incorrigible Temper, and of a very disingenuous Disposition indeed, who will not be more effectually wrought upon, and kept to his Duty better, by them, than by being hourly exposed, and lying continually under the Lash of the Rod; or living in the constant dread of both the Shame and Pain of being so dealt by.

And as this Alteration has answered so well, and produced so many, and such valuable Effects in one School, how much, Gentlemen, were it to be wish'd, that so good an Example should become universally follow'd, and copy'd, after through the whole Kingdom.

But perhaps it may be objected, that I am here pressing that upon some Gentlemen, which, how much soever it may be in their Inclination, they have it not in their Power to come into.

The Masters of several of our publick Schools, are ty'd down by Rules prescribed them by the Founders of those Schools; and that not only the Nature, but the Degree of Punishment have been ascertained by the Laws of the Foundation; so that
that they are obliged to whip a Boy, and give him so many Lashes, according to the Omission or Commision, he is guilty of, pursuant to the express Direction and Will of the Donor; which upon his being put into his Place he becomes under Obligations, to be strictly observant of.

And yet, tho' we allow this to be the Case, as it most certainly is, I see no Difficulty in finding out an immediate and effectual Remedy; for tho' it may not be in the Master's Power to make any Alteration in these scourging Statutes, yet there can no doubt be made, but that an Alteration, which may be judg'd for the better; and to be more conducive for answering the valuable Purposes designed by the Founders of those inestimable Seminaries of Literature; I say, there is no question, but such a Change is within the Reach of the Governors or Trustees of those Charitable Donations who are subsitute by the Donors, to manage them in their heads, to the best Advantages; and that they who really have done themselves, could not have been living Witnesses of the Inconveniences arising from any of their Institutions, there may give different Orders to those at first laid down for a fix'd Rule of Behaviour; and it is really Mater of no small Concern, that those Gentle- men never enter'd into a more strict Examination and more thorough Consideration of this Affair, in Schools upon publick Foundations, than we have ever yet been witness to.

Was the shameful scandalous Part of our School Discipline, which baulks and dispirits Youth, cramps the Genius, and so terrifies the Mind of Multitudes of them, as to render them less capable, than they otherwise would be, of attaining to that degree of Knowledge and Literature which by softer Methods they might be led to. I say, was this hurtful injurious Part of Management
ment but once to receive such a Check as this from Persons of so much Worth and Discernment as those Gentlemen generally are of, who act in the Trust of our publick Benefactions of this fort, we should undoubtedly soon see the beneficial Influence of their Behaviour, by a Change that in that of every School-master in the Nation, who had been actuated by a wrong Way of Thinking before; and through false Notions, and a want of Judgment, had made the hateful Way of Horning and Flogging, his Manner of Punishment, upon all Occasions; unless he was wholly lost to all Regards for himself; and neither valued Interest or Reputation.

And really, Gentlemen, I cannot but believe that was it to be determined by your own Number, the Votes would be a large Majority in favor of a Corrupt, and better Fitted to the Ages and Dispositions of Youth, and the Natures of their Faults, than gnomonically exposing and dashing at them, and that sometimes to an extreme Severity, for Trifles, often mere Trifles; or else the Fault was even the greatest and grimmest which is cognizable at School.

'Tis with some Pain I mention it, and I think it should not be wholly omitted; that it would not be so much to be wonder'd at, as some Persons seem to imagine, if we had heard of more than we have of Mischief done by young Gentlemen who look'd upon themselves to be shamefully handled, and used with Barbarity thro' the unjustifiable Severity of some morose Masters; we know there have been some young Gentlemen of Fire and Spirit, who were Persons of the strongest Resentments, who being fearless themselves, would not stick at the most desperate Measures, if it was no otherwise to be come at, to procure Revenge; so that it is rather a
Surprize than not, that there has not been more Blood drawn upon that Account, than what we have come to the Knowledge of.

Tho’ every one of you, Gentlemen, may reasonably be supposed to be well able to judge how best to adapt the Punishment you inflict, to the Nature of the Offence, and the Disposition, and Years of him who becomes deferving of it; yet I cannot fland excused to myself, while I am wholly laying aside the Reasons especially which Men to Sted
endeavor from com

by that terrifying

even would not Attempt, but Submission to your superior Judgments.

And in my humble Opinion, when Reasoning and Reproof were found to fail; when cool Arguing and Persuasion, and now and then Forgivenefs; when little Rewards and other proper Encouragements, all which ought to be try’d, had not the desired Success, Confinement might be allow’d to take Place; or the being expos’d, and put to Shame, before their School-fellows; or kept in School and to their Books, out of School Hours; and a Task set them, equal to the Fault they had been guilty of; a pecuniary Mulct might have its Effect; and with many of the younger fort the Ferula might answer better than the Birch.

But if neither of these, or the like would do, a Youth may be used with great Disregard by a Master; oblig’d to perform his Exercises to one of his School-fellows; and behaved to as unworthy to come into his Master’s Sight; and if such Usage as this did not bring him to Repen-
tance and Amendment, if he became Proof against such
such Treatment from his Master, and regardless of the Resentments of a Father, he ought to be treated as one, whom no Method of Correction would make better, Expelled the School, and sent home; and he must be a hardned, fordid, abandoned Youth indeed, who could continue perversely, and be Proof against such engaging and unceasingly taken for his Reformation.

The will but some few of the many Methods of dealing with Youth, which can be introduced in such an Instance; and which, in general, are not soon or regulated. The great part of cases not regulated by a Methodical Treatment, and a reasonable or Difference in the bred and brought up, and Pursue for Learning: I shall mean, in Education you have the Care of, will readily enable you properly to apply these; and suppose others, of the like Sort, if these are found defective or insufficient to answer the Purposes of Instruction, enforced by suitable Rewards and Allurements.

And now, Gentlemen, it would certainly be doing great Injustice, to Persons of your liberal Education, and generous way of Thinking, not to be assured, that in general you yourselves look upon such a Treatment of Youth, as I have been recommending, infinitely preferable to the using of them like Slaves, and keeping them in everlasting fear of the Whip; you can undoubtedly furnish yourselves with a thousand Instances, where kind Useage and Persuasion have prevailed, when Force would have been ineffectual, and every Attempt to have been severe, destructive; and this in high as well as low Life; you understand humane Nature too well, not to know, that it can be only base and worthless Minds which are not much sooner
to be prevailed upon by good Usage and a humane generous way of treating them; than by unnatural Severities, and having continually recourse to disgraceful Extremities.

A Person intrusted with the Education of a Youth, ought during his being committed to his Charge, to consider himself as substituted in his Father's Place, to be a Parent to him; and he must be a Brute of a Father, and would by all Mankind be thought such, who should chastize and expose his Son in the shocking manner, many of our Youths have been served at School, thro' the Weakness of a Master; and the prevalence of an indecent Method of Correction.

Common Experience might convince us, that Punishments in the Extreme often make Youth worse than they were before; and seldom, or never were known to make them better; if moderate and proper Correction, with gentler Methods, wont do; the reverse is very unlikely to have any Success; give me leave then, Gentlemen, the more earnestly to plead with you, to make the Essay; suppose the inuring to Pains and Penalties, was a little more discountenanced by you, than it has been; what if you try'd the Effect of a more agreeable Deportment, and study'd, something more than many of your Number could ever be persuaded to do, to render Instruction amiable and taking to the Minds of Youth; which it is naturally impossible, it ever should be, whilst they live in Terror, and you live both dreaded and hated by them for your unfatherly Slave-like Punishment of them:

I am persuaded, Gentlemen, that such an Alteration, as this, in your Economy, would have very happy Consequences, and could not possibly be accompanied with any Ill ones, to yourselves or to those under your Care; the Fear of being punished,
punished, is often, always I might say, more prevalent with ingenious Minds, then the being punished would prove; and we have seldom found it to be otherwise with Youth of the lower Clafs of Life; who neither by Example or Precept have had any share of a generous Education, but have been wholly bred to the Mechanical, or labourious Parts of Life; and if such as these are easier wrought upon, and sooner brought to a right Behaviour, and to amend the Miftakes they may have stood chargeable with, by Reproof; and a proper Management, which too much Severity was no part of, how naturally would it then be for us to conclude, that those of a higher Clafs, who by the liberal Manner of their Education have so many Ways the Advantage of the other, might as readily, at leaft, be swayed and led into a perfect Compliance with a Master’s Will, by the Mildness and Gentleness of his Conduct, as by an ill-judg’d Severity, which often Ruins, as has been said, those it was intended to Reform.

And certainly it will not be deny’d, but that as acting in this desirable Manner, would be acting more like Persons of a liberal Education, and more like Gentlemen yourselves; so it would be treating those you have the Guardianfhip of, in a Gentleman-like Way; and more suitable to their Birth and Expectations in the World, than by any other Method, which unhappily has been, or is in use among us.

Kindness from one in Authority over us, especially, strikes deep; it captivates the Affection, and leaves the Strongest Impressions on the Mind; such a Person is, at once, both beloved and obeyed; he may be sure to meet with the most ready and chearful Compliance with his Requests and Commands; and it must be both pleasing, as well as grateful to be able to oblige him; a Reproof from
from such a Person, or the Fear of his Displeasure, would have greater Weight, and be of better Effect, than all that Harshness and Austerity, which not only prevents the Exercise of Authority from taking place, as it otherwise might do, to the Advantage of such as 'tis exercised upon; but that makes it prove a Bane, which might otherwise have proved a Blessing to them.

This cannot, I think, be better illustrated and recommended to general Imitation, than by a publick and a just Representation of the Behaviour of a present most worthy Magistrate of the City of London; who follows the Example set him by his immediate Predecessor: Both these Gentlemen have, by thousand of Instances, made it evident, that they study’d, and well understood humane Nature; many a Young Fellow, who is at present a Master for himself, and in Reputation and Credit in the City of London, owes to those Gentlemens dislike of all Severities; and their firm Persuasion, that mild Measures do much the most good; and are almost without Exception, the most effectual to produce Reformation in a Youth, that they served out their Times; are now able to live in the World; and that they escaped a Degree of Punishment, which might have made them indifferent to their own Characters, hardened to further Obstinacy and Disobedience; brought a lasting Reproach upon them, and perhaps, have been the Means of their utter undoing:

The Example set you by this worthy Magistrate, is unquestionable, Gentlemen, such as well deserves your thorough and mature Consideration; 'tis such as I apprehend, you may, if you please, draw many Inferences from, which may be of singular Service to you, by a right Application of them to yourselves; and a proper Use of them in your future Conduct.

When
When a Master brings an unruly Lad before this City Magistrate, he hears his Complaint, and what the Person accused has to allege in Mitigation of the Charge against him, with great Calmness and Moderation; and with a fatherly Tender-ness determines between them; the Merit of the Case is his only Guide, without being influenced to any Severity by the heated Exclaimings or passionate Expressions of an angry resentful Master: Thus he is always sure to be on the merciful Side of the Question; and never fails to take great Pains to persuade to such a Behaviour towards an offending Servant, as may do them most good; consonant to the beneficient Sentiments of his own forgiving Breast.

He never could be prevail'd upon to believe that hard Usage, and much less, that the utmost Rigour in a Master's Power to shew, ever made a bad Servant better, but rather worse; and therefore he has been ever against the sending an Apprentice to Bridewell, tho' he has, times without Number, been press'd to it by their exasperated Masters; but has often been heard to declare, that this was a Punishment which ought never to be had recourse to, but when all others had been tried in vain, and there was an unavoidable Necessity for it; for that he had known it make many prove worse; but that he scarcey ever knew one come to be good for any thing afterwards.

This wise Magistrate has found by a long and a valuable Experience, that making Youth sensible, is at the same time, making them ashamed of their Faults; that proper Reproof, and, if need be, moderately chaffing of them, or threatening of them with Chastisement, have always had a much better Effect, and have sooner brought.
brought them to correct their Mistakes, and a right Discharge of their Duty, than a more severe manner of dealing with them was ever known to do; and especially, than the giving into the too strong Resentments of furious passionate Masters, and the sending them at once, to a House of Correction could ever be expected to do; he has heard and known of so many undone, who might have made good Men, had they been used with a little Forbearance, by being sent to Bridewell, where, having once been grossly expos’d, and infamously punish’d, they are too apt to give up all Pretences to Reputation, and looking upon themselves to have been treated upon a Footing with Vagabonds and Thieves, become wholly regardless how they behave, and are such themselves, perhaps afterwards: Such as these, I say, have been the sad Effects of Rigour and Severity to Youth, that neither the present worthy Magistrate, nor his Predecessor, would ever come in to the committing of them to publick Correction, till the more mild, and the more rational Ways of reducing a culpable, or an unruly Lad to Reason, had been tried upon him in private; unless what he had been guilty of, was of that notorious Nature, that they could not stand justify’d by the Laws of the Land, in doing any thing else with him.

And it has been wholly owing to such Management as this; to a Tenderness for giddy unthinking Youth; to the wife, judicious Directions of these discerning Persons, that many Apprentices, in the City of London, have been preserved from being undone, and utterly ruin’d, by the Passion and Folly of Masters; many are now in creditable flourishing Circumstances; valuable in Society, and useful Members of the Community,
ty, who might have been wholly lost to the World, and never come to any thing, except to Want, and Shame, and the Gallows, as hinted before, had they not been preserved thus, from both an ignominious Place and Punishment, which they might never have got the better of; but continued a Baulk to their Industry, the Damp to all their Hopes of regaining a Reputation, and made Matter of Reproach to them as long as they liv’d.

Now give me leave, Gentlemen, to say, That if these Things are so, — and they really are so now, and have been formerly such, there is not any thing better could be recommended to you for Imitation than, — to go and do likewise.

And there appears to me to be many very strong Inducements, and, I was going to say, some unanswerable Reasons for your being influenced to a Parity of Behaviour, to that which has prov’d so highly beneficial; and been so universally approv’d, and much to the Honour of a Gentleman in a Station, which, as to the Part I have particularly touched upon, bears no small Resemblance to that which you act in. This Gentleman has not indeed the immediate Inspection of these Youths, or the Care of their Instruction; but he has the Direction of, and Authority over those who have, as the Guardians of them; and as you, Gentlemen, are, and certainly ought to look upon your selves to be the Guardians of all those committed to your Charge, in a stricter Sense, it seems to be the more absolutely incumbent upon you to follow the most worthy Examples in every Part of your Conduct; those especially which have been thoroughly try’d, and found to answer best; if you would discharge your Duty, as you ought to discharge it, — most to the Advantage of those whole Education you are en-

E 2 trusted
trusted with; and of course, in a manner which may give the most satisfaction to, and at the same Time answer fullest the Expectations of their Parents, their natural Guardians; who for the valuable Consideration of their Improvement, have been prevailed upon for a Time, to resign their right to you; and constituted you to be Fathers in their stead.

Can you then imagine, Gentlemen, for, as before, I desire to appeal to yourselves, that there is a Father, or a Parent in Great-Britain, who deserves the Name of either, who would not gladly make use of those Means, which should be known to have been of most Service to Youth, in general, as what he would hope should equally contribute to the good of his own Child. And is it not the School-master’s Duty, and which, if he is an honest Man, he will always think to be his Duty, to do the same? How much ought it therefore, for the sake of your own Characters, at least, be pressed upon you, to make the Experiment? Do but try how much more prevalent, and of consequence how much more preferable, softning, proves to Severity; and I am persuaded that you’d not only become in love with the former; but treat any Man, who should be so unhappy as to differ from your Sentiments, with great Neglect and Distaste.

It would be an Affront to your Understandings to think otherwise of you, as it would be inconsistent with common Sense to believe, that a Boy who never had any Advantages of Education, nor any Helps to form and cultivate his Mind, beyond what a common Parish School could afford him, should be won by Kindness and Good-nature, and even when he has scarcely got the better of natural Brutality, to a thorough Compliance with his
his Duty and his Master's Will, instead of flying out, and running into Extravagancies, and dissolute-ness of Manners, as has too often been the Case, when a Master has been destitute of good Nature, and that one, who has had a thousand Advantages of others; a Youth of Superior Birth, or Young Gentlemen, who has been brought up in a still more Handsome and Gentleman-like Manner, and thro' the Instruction, Example, and Conversation of of their Parents, have had every Principle infill'd into them, which might soften, and sweeten their Tempers, dispose them to the deep Impressions, from gentle Methods, and the soothing Arts of Persuasion, could not be so manag'd and behav'd to, as that the like fartherly Treatment, which prevailed with them, to every valuable Attainment when at Home, should strike them as strong, and have the same good Effect upon them, when at School.

But this, Gentlemen, is a Point I shall at pre- sent, wholly leave to your Determination; wishing at the same Time, that it may become a Matter of more serious Consideration to some of your Number, than their Conduct gives any room to believe, much less affirm, that it ever has been.

And once again allow me to assure you, Gent-lemen, that there is not a Word sait here, with a Design to expose any Man, or body of Men living; my only View having been, to plead for a more agreeable Ufage of Youth; who are put into your Power, to be bred Gentlemen and Scholars; and not to be used like Slaves; and if I may hereby be able to put those upon a Regulation of their Conduct, who seem to have been of an other Opinion, I shall fully answer my Intention which I hope at least was an honest Intention and shall not doubt of meeting the Approbation, of all thole
those who may receive the Benefit of such a Change in Favour of both Body and Mind:

I am,

Gentlemen,

With great Respect,

Winchester, May 29, 1741.

Your most Obedient,

humble Servant.

C. W.