

**The State Industrial School.**  
[Bennington Banner.]  
"Will the editor of The St. Albans Messenger be fair enough to himself, his readers and the pupils in the state industrial school to visit that institution before he writes further about it? He is doing incalculable injury to a most worthy school through ignorance. Come down and learn the actual facts or please do not write."—  
Vergennes Enterprise.

It strikes us that this invitation to the editor of The St. Albans Messenger to make a personal investigation of the Vergennes institution is rather ill-advised. Should he follow out the suggestion of the Ancient city newspaper he would probably return to his desk more thoroughly than ever convinced that Vergennes is not the place to consign children merely because they unfortunately do not possess any parents. All the wisdom and executive ability in the world cannot make the institution on Otter creek anything but a 'reform school,' and the contention of The Messenger that orphans should not be treated as criminals will hold good until refuted by some better argument than the exhibition of pique produced by The Vermonter.

[Bellows Falls Times.]  
An up-state contemporary thinks there ought to be a state orphan home, or at least a place where orphans can be maintained by the state without being sent to the industrial school, and suggests that the Kurn Hattin homes in Westminster would be a good place to send wards of the state. Orphans and waifs not vicious certainly ought not to be sent to the industrial school to mingle with those who are vicious. Disguise matters as we will the fact remains that any boy who leaves the Vergennes school begins life with a handicap. In the minds of many the industrial school is still a reform school and no nice distinctions are made as to the relative viciousness of its graduates. Sending the little unfortunates, who are simply the victims of the wintry blasts of fortune to a home like the Kurn Hattin, would be both wise and humane.

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[Vergennes Enterprise.]  
This paper will yield to no one in its appreciation of the work the editor of The St. Albans Messenger is doing for Vermont. We know that his heart is in the right place. We fully recognize his ability and earnest purpose to further every worthy cause. We know that he is very busy and has large calls upon his time, but we do wish that he would take time to again visit the state industrial school and see the work now being done there. Since he was there, soon after the new management took charge, there has been so complete a change in everything connected with the institution that we feel sure he would hardly recognize it as the same school. The editor can do himself, his newspaper, and the state no greater service than to visit this school and see with his own eyes the work now being done there for humanity and the future citizenship of Vermont. Perhaps we were a little harsh last week, but it was because we are so profoundly interested in the great work this institution is doing, and because we know what he does not realize, and cannot until he visits again this school, that we said what he did.

[Bradford Opinion.]  
The St. Albans Messenger touched a weak point in speaking of the children, which are sent to the state industrial school for no other reason than because there is no other place where the state can send them and they have no natural guardians who can or will provide for them. The state industrial school is doing a fine work reforming those whose early years are not without vicious trials which have already gotten them into troubles with the authorities, but what about having children, who are there only because they have no home, associating with this class of children until their majority. Is there not a menace to the state in thus bringing these children together in one home? The state should make some provision for these children. The Messenger asks:  
"Is there not some other and more approved way that the people of Vermont can manifest their philanthropy? It is proposed that the money now spent in Vermont for the education of defectives in the asylum for the blind in Hartford and similar institutions elsewhere be diverted to the new Austine institution in Brattleboro, and there is much to be said in favor of the idea, provided, always, the service performed at Brattleboro will be equivalent to the service now performed. What, then, is to prevent the state from supporting these orphan children or waifs (not vicious) in some such institution as the Kurn Hatlin home at Westminster?"

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