

CITIZENSHIP IN OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

Many things should be taught in the common schools not found in the text-books generally used, and among these the elements of citizenship is one of the most important. If the boys and girls of our country are expected to become intelligent and useful members of society, and to properly fill the positions which they must inevitably occupy in the future, they must be instructed in the duties and requirements of those positions.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography, are branches of knowledge absolutely necessary for every one to know, but they are small matters compared with the many other manifold requirements of a good citizen. Our boys will certainly become voters, law-makers, and executive officers. The same may be said of our girls. Great effort is making to secure the voting power to women, and if this effort meets with success, the girls should be prepared to do the work well. If the right to vote should never be granted to women, they will always do much towards training and moulding the character of those who do exercise this power. More attention should therefore be given to the broad culture of girls in the duties of a citizen and the art of government, and less of music, fine arts, and graceful accomplishments. The latter, of course, should be taught both sexes, but the former as well. The Catholic Church understands thoroughly where the germs of power lie and look well to their cultivation. Their school for girls is the first established. The leaders of this Church know that first impressions are the deepest and most lasting, and they are aware that mothers make those impressions—hence their anxiety and care for the education of their girls.

Our youth is too generally allowed to grow up ignorant of their country's history, of the constitution and laws of the land, and the way in which our people are governed. They do not know how our laws are made; how courts of justice are established, nor what they are for; what an executive officer is; why nor how taxes are levied and collected; the difference between a State and a Territory; nor, for that matter, anything which will make them useful in the future management of their country's political affairs. All this they are left to learn by observation and experience after they have become grown. This is all wrong. It is like building the roof before the foundation is laid. How many schools in Oregon have on the programme of their daily exercises a subject called citizenship? Outside of the largest three or four towns in the State, no doubt, not one in ten mention that important subject during a whole term. Many children in our common schools—and not very young children either—do not know how the free school is sustained, nor who regulates the school affairs of the district. They do not know whether the Governor of the State is elected for one year, or for life. The same may be said concerning the President. Either teachers do not deem this part of an education of sufficient importance to teach their pupils, or they forget all about it. If the former, they should begin to think when they will probably change their minds; if the latter, they should by all means awake to the vast importance of their office. They should fully understand that they are filling a position, second in responsibility, to no other on earth, and that the future stability and progress of our country depend upon their faithful discharge of every duty, and untiring vig-

ilance in the instruction of those who are intrusted to them for training.

Months and years are consumed in discussing the modifications of the noun, the properties of the verb, the intricacies and the perplexities of orthography, where seconds and minutes are used in treating the duties of a citizen, the requirements of well-regulated society, or the necessities of natural advancement. The preserving power of this government, now, and in time to come, is education. But it is that broad culture, that far-reaching intelligence which make men practical, that is needed. It is not, so much, a knowledge of books that is needed by the masses, but a knowledge of life and its numerous requirements. Learning is not always education. A man may be a giant in mathematics or astronomy, and but a puling infant in the art of government, or the simplest principles of political economy. In our academies, high schools, colleges, and universities, much time and labor are bestowed upon the sciences and the classics, while political economy, government, history and constitution are passed lightly over, occupying a very inconsiderable place in the curriculum of studies, and a more inconsiderable place in the programme of recitations. Their graduates have explored the regions of illimitable space among the stars, and strolled through the labyrinths of geometrical diagrams. They have wandered in the blossoming fields of Greek literature and sported with the nymphs and deities of those enchanting mythical shades. They discourse almost divinely of Apollo, Venus, Mars and Juno, but alas! the labor question, the financial problem, the protective tariff, are yawning chasms, of which, a great majority tremble to speak, untracked glooms unto which they dare not step.

Why should our boys and girls be kept in blissful ignorance of the real, sober, practical issues of the day? Why should their young minds be left untouched with impressions of those features of life with which they have to contend, and a knowledge of which is all important to them in the contest of manhood and age? Why should they be left to build a foundation in the prime of life which should have been well constructed and anchored in youth? Why should they be pampered with condiments in the beginning instead of being strengthened with solid food? Why should they not be prepared to meet the realities and requirements of life, rather than be set adrift upon its troubled waters to be constantly taken by surprise until experience enables them to ride out the storm? These are certainly no foolish questions, as every young man and woman can testify. "Forewarned is forearmed." Let us look to it, for we must be on the wrong track. Let us retrace our steps while we can, and prepare to meet the future equipped for the battle. Pounce.

HOOD RIVER, WASCO COUNTY.

Hood river empties into the Columbia about twenty miles from The Dalles. It comes rushing and tumbling direct from Mt. Hood, cold as ice, and abounding in excellent fish. The principal part of the valley lies on the west side of the river. It is all, more or less, timber land, but when cleared is excellently adapted to the raising of fruits. The Hood river peaches are the finest in the market. There is plenty of room here for enterprising families. Land can be bought at a low figure, and I am convinced will eventually be valuable. The climate in the summer is the most delightful I ever saw; it is never hot. The wind blows most constantly, and the air is so dry that one cannot catch cold. Cultivation is carried on by means of irrigation, as no rain, falls throughout the summer. Lumber can be had at the mill, rough, for \$10 per thousand.—J. L. Henderson, in Eugene Guard.

SEATTLE.

THE *Dispatch* says: Nature has been rather lavish of her wealth in this vicinity, and certainly a more beautiful site could not have been selected upon which to establish the future grand metropolis of the North Pacific. From the water's edge to a distance of a quarter of a mile, the land is perfectly level, and contains the business portion of the city. From this a hill rises to an elevation of perhaps from 70 to 300 feet above tide water, upon which is settled the resident population. The formation of the hill affords an ample opportunity for terracing, which has been generally observed by the people, and which renders their grounds attractive and beautiful beyond description. Standing upon the hill-side, there bursts upon the vision a prospect well calculated to gratify the passions of the poet or painter. A grand bay stretching out twelve miles in width, skirted on all sides with forests of eternal verdure, with the Olympic Mountains, their snow-capped peaks kissing the skies, forming a background, and you have a sight in comparison to which the storied bay of Naples is tame indeed, and which is not equalled within the boundaries of the United States.

PORTLAND AND OREGON.

Senator Grover, in his speech on the Northern Pacific railroad bill, said of Portland and Oregon as follows:

"The wheat market of Portland, Oregon, is as good as the wheat market of Chicago; for the grain, once on board at Portland, is not handled again until it is delivered at Liverpool, which can be done in less than four months, with the expense of simply seamen's wages, costing less than export rates from Chicago. No grain products, grown west of the mountains, will come east by the Northern Pacific railroad, but they will go west, and find a quicker and better market. Then, we are the nearest point of supply to Japan and China, who do not produce wheat, but consume much, and will in future consume a great deal. I make these allusions to show that farmers who go to Oregon are not going out of the world, but are going to a new world and that there are two sides to this continent."

SAUVIE'S ISLAND.—A writer in the *Advocate*, in speaking of Sauvie's Island, says: This island is about twenty miles long, and from two to four wide. There are many small lakes upon it. These in the fall, winter and spring are literally covered with ducks, geese and swan. About once in every ten years it is overflowed by the Columbia river, which greatly enriches the soil. Grain of all kinds, grasses, vegetables and fruits are grown in great abundance upon the higher grounds. Marsh grass girts the lakes in heavy luxuriant growth, and affords the finest pasture for stock, and makes hay for cattle that dairymen esteem superior to timothy. Many well-to-do farmers, dairymen and stock raisers live here—some who were among the early settlers of the country—and have large tracts of land, and are making good improvements."

THE Eugene City *Guard* claims that Lane, although a cow county, has more and better bridges, romantic scenery, rich tillable land, enterprising, liberal and intelligent business men, more model housewives, beautiful and lovely maidens, attractive widows and prettier babies, than any "salmon" county in the State.

Two sportsmen bagged twenty-five grouse in two hours, near McMinnville, Yamhill county.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

Mr. Nordlinger, at Stuttgart, Germany, has just patented a process by which the stems and other parts of the hop plant can be used for manufacturing paper and various textile fabrics. Should the invention prove a practical success, an entire new industry would at once open out to Oregon and Washington Territory. In the large hop producing districts of Puyallup valley, W. T., and Lane county, Oregon, this invention would go towards making a valuable crop of what has heretofore—with the exception of what small lots have been used in making rope and other rough articles—been entirely wasted. By boiling the hop-vine in soap or soda water for three-fourths of an hour, and then thoroughly washing and re-boiling in acetic acid, Mr. Nordlinger produces a fibre closely resembling flax, but of a softer, more elastic and durable texture, and therefore superior for manufacturing purposes. Heretofore, in case of failure of the hop itself, the tenderly nurtured crop has proved a dead loss to the unfortunate grower, whilst this new invention, in case it proves practical, would make it possible to cultivate hops for the vine alone.

SWEET HOME.

Sweet Home valley is situated on the south fork of the Santiam river, thirty miles from Albany, and may be described as an oval-shaped prairie, two miles long by a mile and a half wide. The Santiam river flows by the north, and the hills forming the divide between the Santiam and the Calapooia form the arc of a circle on the east, south and west. The land is extremely rich, and the valley a perfect little paradise to look upon.

PHILANTHROPIST.

The Eugene City *Guard*, commenting on the stabbing affair at New Era park, gives the 'soft-headed philanthropists a rap on the knuckles, thusly:

"Myers, at last accounts, was in a very precarious condition, and, should his wounds prove fatal, we expect to hear that the professional 'philanthropists' have mustered in full force to protect the young murderer from the richly deserved penalty of his crime. These cases of a reckless disregard of human life, by young ruffians, have become alarmingly frequent. This state of affairs is, in a great measure, if not altogether, chargeable to the mistaken 'humanity' of a lot of tender-hearted women and soft-headed men whose hobby is 'philanthropy.' Their success in shielding all classes of criminals from the penalty of their crimes, and making heroes and martyrs of murderers and thieves, has emboldened these ruffians to commit crime with impunity, they having every reason to believe that the law will be powerless to mete out adequate punishment so long as these pious meddlers stand between them and the execution of the laws. We hope that the court will give this ruffian a fair and impartial trial, and, if he is convicted, that the Governor will have backbone enough to disregard the mawkish appeals of these sentimental meddlers."

TO RID A HOUSE OF BEDBUGS.

Take ten cents worth of quicksilver and the white of an egg; beat them well together until the quicksilver is like fine pepper all through the egg. It may take an hour to beat. Do not use an egg beater, for the silver is poisonous. Then apply the mixture with a feather to all cracks or places where there are any bugs. This, if persevered in, is a certain remedy.

THE Rock Creek, Four Lake and Pine Grove country, in W. T., is attracting a good deal of attention, and unless present indications are very deceptive, the country mentioned will soon be the most thickly populated of any section north of Snake river.