

**The Value of Penmanship.**

There is no art or accomplishment of more practical value to the student—whatever his vocation is to be—than elegant penmanship.

If he is to enter mercantile pursuits, then an elegant, rapid handwriting will be a prime necessity. The applicant for a position as a clerk, book-keeper, or accountant will find an elegant business style his best recommendation, as no other qualification he may possess can be so easily examined and tested.

If the student follows a profession, he will find many occasions where elegant, legible penmanship will be a great advantage to him. Other qualifications being equal, good penmanship will secure the lawyer success far beyond those who write the too common half-legible scrawl.

If literature be the student's vocation, neat, handsome penmanship will do much to make his earlier efforts, at least, acceptable to his publishers.

No editor will be greatly interested in the efforts of an unknown writer, if his time and patience are exhausted in trying to decipher irregular, awkward writing; but from a neat, attractive-looking manuscript, he will gain unwittingly, a confidence in the author's culture and ability.

Any man who pays another to do writing for him, whether in the capacity of book-keeper, legal adviser, or contributor, prefers that the mechanical execution of that writing shall be thoroughly legible and neat.

The idea that an uncouth style of penmanship is a mark of genius has been forever dispelled by the cultivation in the American people of more artistic methods, and by the high pressure of American life, that render the rapid writing and reading of manuscripts of great importance in literary work.

The teacher needs, not only the ability to write a plain, simple, correct hand—often one of the hardest styles to acquire perfectly—but he needs, as well, a thorough mastery of the analysis or principles.

If the student, after completing his course, is to follow the life of a farmer or mechanic, he will still find many occasions where the ability to write a good hand is a necessity, and the ability to write an elegant, rapid style a valuable accomplishment. The farmer or mechanic may not have occasion to ever use the Latin he learned at

school, and his acquaintances may never know that he possesses a knowledge of it; but his writing will be frequently seen, and his education and culture will be judged by it.

There is no other art or accomplishment, combining so much of use and beauty, which is so generally called into practice in all classes of society, all vocations in life, no other of which a practical knowledge can be so easily obtained, as the art of penmanship.—*Hattie Louise Palmer.*

Where all are educated, and directive power exists on every hand, it finds its employment chiefly in building up the wealth of the community. The directive power required every day to manage the large banks of the country, to direct the great railroads, or the manufactories and corporations of various kinds, is infinitely more than that required to direct our government. The management of the Missouri Pacific or the Iron Mountain Railroad is as great an affair as the government of a small kingdom. Thus self-directive intelligence makes for itself avenues for employment. Nothing is lost. Directive power finds it easier to secure a competence by industry than by intrigue and rascality.—*Ex.*

**Obituary.**

Sister Sarah H., wife of T. H. Lucas, and daughter of Elijah and Margaret Davidson, died Nov. 10, 1882, of dropsy. Sister Lucas was the youngest daughter of six sisters, she being 57 years, 5 months and 17 days, leaving the five to mourn her departure; but one brother out of six left to mourn this sad event. Sister Lucas embraced Christianity quite young and lived a faithful member to the time of her death. Brother and Sister Lucas were married near 38 years since, having raised five sons to years of maturity; one daughter and one son having died when children. Sister Sarah has gone from mortality to live with the Savior she loved so well. Her husband and sons feel greatly bereaved at parting with one so dear, but there is hope of meeting again in a heavenly clime where all is righteousness and life everlasting. There is to be a resurrection. May God's mercy rest on the bereaved.

"The world to me seems dreary  
And cold and bleak and wide,  
And cares and griefs and trials  
Meet me on every side,  
Since mother died.

There is no one to counsel,  
No one to gently chide,  
No one to cheer and strengthen  
When I am sorely tried,  
Since mother died.

There is no heart that holds me  
Its own, with love and pride,  
Not one to soothe and solace  
When pain and grief betide,  
Since mother died.

But yet, what e'er befalls me,  
This thought some comfort gives,  
There is a land of gladness,  
Where no one ever grieves,  
There mother lives.

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