

Educational Department.

Family Libraries.

Every family should be supplied with books, and each household should, as far as their ability will allow, procure a family library. There is no estimating the value of a few well-selected books. Children should be induced to begin early to improve their minds, and nothing draws them more to study than good, sound periodical literature, and well-selected books—books adapted to their age and progress and their education. Money cannot be better expended. Instead of toys and perishable gifts, purchase books for your children. Every few months add something new to the library, and be sure to preserve the old works. Let there be in the house a book-case, shelves some place where the books and papers are deposited; have them carefully preserved and soon a little handful will swell into armfuls, and the minds of the children will expand with the increase of the library until a good store will be found in the house, and much knowledge will be gained by the growing children.

Good books, a taste for reading, will keep the children at home and make them happy in the family circle, when otherwise they will be straying off, hunting society, looking for something to engage the mind and satisfy the cravings of a hungry intellect. Games and worldly amusements are substituted for books and intellectual culture, where there is no library at home, no food found for the inquiring mind. Let parents think of these things. Much, very much depends on the early training of the child in regard to study, as well as other things.—*Ex.*

Manual Labor with Schools.

Some Eastern papers are advocating the plan of devoting a little of school time to manual training. The *Springfield Republican* says that in the Dwight Grammar School, of Boston, last winter, boys were given lessons of two hours each day in the practical use of carpenter's tools, and that the plan showed marked success. All the boys showed great interest in the work, also retaining the required standard in their lessons. The change from the school-room was decidedly beneficial. The expenses of this instruction were paid by an

association seeking to promote this form of education. An industrial school is flourishing at St. Louis, also in Worcester and Boston, Mass. In Sweden basket making is taught in schools, and in Switzerland wood carving is encouraged in all the schools. It is better for the best development of children that their fingers as well as their minds be employed while growing up. Most American parents think that every child must go through a certain routine of schooling, lasting till maturity, and embracing those earlier and best years of youth, when the hands ought to be educated into skillful manipulation. The young mind is active, and the surplus life and energy will be spent in mischief if not led off into better things. Children are not apt to be lazy. It is only after years of idle school-room life that they begin to shirk labor. Observation has shown us that very many boys who have had schooling till early manhood begin to look upon a trade as a letting down in the social scale, and then prepares himself for some profession, making out in the end a good trade. There is every inducement to learn trades now, for there seems to be a demand for skilled labor of all kinds at high wages. This matter of industrial education is an important one, and there is an interest being taken by manufacturers in New England that promises good results. It is said that the girls in an Eastern school are desirous of having the advantage of this manual training also. It is difficult, we will concede now for a youth to find an opportunity where there are trades unions, whose aims are to keep wages up and lessen, as far as they can, the number of artisans. These organizations are not so much in force here in Oregon as they are in Eastern States. Many young men fit themselves theoretically for a business college fairly well, and yet when put to real work could not keep a set of books without blunders and errors. School and work ought to go hand in hand.—*Farmer.*

He who asks in a true confidence, and with a sincere self-denial of himself, will obtain whatever he asks.

Of all fruitless errands, sending a tear to look after a day that is gone, is the most fruitless.—*Dickens.*

The hidden way is generally made known but to God's intimate friends, that they may be willingly stripped from all false supports.

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