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The Teacher's Opportunities

The teacher often finds his work very prosaic and uninspiring, especially in the smaller and more remote schools where he is cut off from professional association and educational environment and atmosphere. He has to depend on his own resources to save himself from petrification. But the depressingness of his situation affords an opportunity for him to magnify his office by rising to and surmounting the condition.

A great English schoolmaster owed his subsequent success to his first teaching experience. He was curate in an English village, and part of his duties lay in teaching in the National schools. Here was the problem which presented itself to him:

"How on earth the Cambridge honor man, with his success and his brain world, was to get at the minds of those little laborers' sons, with their unfurnished heads, and no time to give?"

He felt that they had to be got at or else he had failed.

He likened himself to a key which must be made to fit the wards of a lock, and then went to work to make himself fit the lock so he could unlock their minds and open the secret chambers of their hearts. In his diary he pathetically records how hard it was to get into shape, their shape and fit the twists and corners of blocked and ignorant minds. But he was well repaid in the end, for he afterwards confessed at the height of his career, that "Everything I most value of teaching thought, and teaching practice, and teaching experience, came from that." And he was never tired of affirming as a fundamental truth, that the lowest teaching work requires the highest teaching skill.

Let the teacher in some lonely post, where he is isolated and apparently forgotten except for an official visit from the county superintendent, enthuse his flagging interest by recalling that his work is to be estimated by its possibilities, that he is laying foundations on which will depend the security and dimensions of the subsequent superstructures. What he does will largely determine what the high school and the college will be able to accomplish for his pupils.

And what is more, faithful work in the elementary schools is more fruitful of results of a personal nature than in any other department because the minds of the pupils are in a plastic state and more susceptible of being moulded. A teacher in the grades has the opportunity of ineradicably impressing himself on those whom he instructs. He can send them out to subsequent teachers and classes bearing his own intellectual image and likeness.

Again he will have the opportunity of discovery. As he unlocks the minds of his pupils and reveals their contents, he may discover some rare gem, which but for him would be forever hidden. A celebrated Scotch teacher declared that the greatest thing he had ever done, was the dis-

covery of Michael Faraday, the noted chemist and scientist. Faraday was a poor boy, but this teacher discovered his latent talents and set about to develop them. Thus to him was the honor of making an exceptional contribution to the scientific world in the person of Michael Faraday.

The teaching profession ill paid and on the whole lightly esteemed, is a glorious one, and none affords more abundant opportunities for lasting service to humanity than it.

To those who are engaged in it, we pay our homage, and when despondent and depressed from carping criticism of an ignorant sort, or lack of appreciation from those to whom they are rendering lasting service, we bid them recall their goodly heritage, of master minds, of heroic sacrifices, of noble aims, endeavors and achievements which in spite of much toil and pain often times bitter opposition and misrepresentation, triumphed in the end.

"RESPONDETE NATALIBUS!"

An Ominous Portent

The explosion in New York city last week which caused over thirty deaths, and two hundred wounded besides wrecking property to the extent of two millions and a half, was the work of anarchists. There is no reasonable doubt but what it is the evidence of a diabolical nation wide plot, and if prompt and sufficient measures are not taken, it will be repeated in other cities. We have been expecting something of the sort to happen, and would not be surprised if worse is yet to come. We cannot but help thinking that Governor Cox's repeated assertions that the big business interests are attempting to buy the presidency, are but adding fuel to the flames. In this campaign more than ever, it behooves politicians to be careful what they say and allege, for the political and social atmosphere is charged with gasses which coming in contact with other inflammable gas will explode with sufficient force to shake the country to its foundations.

Senator Chamberlain is no doubt reckoning on a number of republican votes as heretofore. His war record has commended him to them and the American Legion feels grateful to him for his efforts on behalf of the boys. But there is this point to be taken into consideration, and that is the contest for the majority in the U. S. senate will be a close one, and it is most important that if Harding is elected, he shall have a republican senate to back him, otherwise he will be seriously handicapped in all he endeavors to accomplish.

Change in Partnership

D. E. Morgan of the firm of Morgan Bros. has sold his interest to W. H. Kandel. He does not know yet what he will do but will remain here for a time while looking around and deciding the matter. We hope he will conclude to stay in Estacada.

Slug the Garden Slug

By spraying "slugged" plants with Bordeaux mixture, 4-4-50, and spreading a poison bait, made of one part calcium arsenate to 16 parts chopped lettuce leaves, in small heaps about the plants, good protection is obtained. For several years A. L. Lovett, entomologist of the O.A.C. experiment station, and A. B. Black, assistant, have been trying out many ways of slugging the slug, and find the above best. They have published their findings on the slug, its feeding and breeding habits and its control, in a new bulletin, "The Gray Garden Slug," just off the college press. If bothered by slugs, and of course you are, send for free copy to the college at Corvallis.

Relief for German And Austrian Children

We have received a communication from the committee in Portland, for furnishing relief to the German and Austrian women and children. There is no doubt that there is terrible distress from under-nourishment among the children especially in Austria. The situation is acute and winter soon will be on them. Those wishing to contribute can obtain the necessary information from the secretary, C. T. Steirlein, 420 Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Ore.

NOTICE

There will be a mass meeting of the citizens of Estacada, Oregon, at the city hall at the hour of eight o'clock, p. m. September 30th, 1920, for the purpose of nominating an entire ticket for city officers, viz. mayor, recorder, treasurer and five councilmen. S. E. Wooster, 9-16-23 Recorder.

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