

An exchange speaking of the kind of education now given in our schools says that each year brings to the general public, as well as to the educators, the conviction that the present system of education is inadequate to the demands of the day. The great public, which is more directly interested in school methods than the educators themselves, are waking to the conviction that there is much useless expenditure of time and effort in putting the boy and girl through the course of study in the schools. This conviction is not limited to any class of intelligence. It is permeating all classes. With this more complete view of education comes among the higher classes a greater respect for skilled labor. In these days when riches suddenly take to themselves wings and fly away: when there may be luxury one week and penury the next, it is necessary for every one to be prepared for these emergencies. The exigencies in business life cannot always be foretold with accuracy. The laws that govern the evolutions of commerce are to a certain extent the same in their tendency and as unerring in their effect as those that govern the evolution of nature.

It has long been a great mistake of the rich to educate their children in the effluences of knowledge, and to teach them to view manual labor as lowering in its influences. But self preservation is one of the first laws of nature and there are comparatively few people who would rather starve to death than work with their hands. The instinct of nature is strong with us all, and there is that consciousness in every one, at least in nearly every one, that forces him to labor in order to save his own life. The complications of social conditions and the consequent competition in all departments of industrial and professional life, together with these sudden disappearances of fortunes, are impressing upon the minds of all, the rich as well as the poor, the necessity of being forearmed. The man who is armed is always ready for an attack. The man who has a skilled brain and hand to fall back upon is ready for an emergency.

If society is to be compactly built and enduring we must all contribute our labor, not only to make it so, but to keep it so. We have now as much of the disintegrating elements as we need. These are the criminal classes, the paupers, the insane, the bed ridden, the homeless, the aged, the infirm. We have in this wide domain many that are needy, but that are not yet the wards of the public. With the increase of the population comes an increase in society's burdens. The complication in social conditions must be evident to every one that will take the trouble to penetrate the slight crust which envelopes life in the United States. The only way to put an obstacle in the way of this alarming increase in our non-producing class, or non-contributing classes, is to educate our children to become producers and contributors. The present system of education is good so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough.

If all members of society were producers as well as consumers there would be less necessity for poorhouses. Practical education might, and undoubtedly would, lessen the tendency to crime. An idle brain is the devil's workshop is a saying as true as it is old. Thomas Carlyle's ringing sentences may be quoted here. Says the great philosopher: "Produce, produce, produce. If it be but the most infinitesimal part of a product, in God's name produce it. Work while it is yet day, for the night cometh wherein no man can work." It is the business of those who direct education to consider these facts deeply.

Since the divorce act was adopted by the English Parliament thirty years ago, there have been no less than 13,022 suits brought under it, and in 7,295—more than half—the court has put asunder those whom the church alleged God had joined together. Worse still does it appear when the three decades of divorce are compared with each other. In the first, 1858 to 1867, there were 2,188 applications for divorce; in the second, 1868 to 1877, there were 3,272, an increase of about 50 per cent; in the third, 1878 to 1887, there were 4,761, an increase of about 75 per cent; in the next decade the lawyers expect the increase to be fully 100 per cent.

Speaker Smith of the house pursued a very discretable course in making up the standing committees of that body. The democrats have no representative at all on the following committees: Education, Claims, Roads and Highways, Indian Affairs, Corporations, Internal Improvements, Agriculture, and Alcoholic Traffic. Why should democrats be excluded from these committees? It's using power like a tyrant.

In Boston more than \$200,000,000 of personal property is taxed, and more than \$563,000,000 of real estate. The Boston and Albany Railroad Company pays a tax of \$108,205, being the heaviest tax-payer on the list. The actual amount of wealth in the city is, of course, only faintly indicated by the \$200,000,000 of personal estate which the assessors found. Vast sums are invested in untaxable bonds, others are undoubtedly concealed, while still other, partly represented by the \$100,000,000, which are annually paid in dividends to Bostonians, are invested in other states and taxed there.

How deftly the human spider now and then weaves its web. An accomplished young newspaper man was recently dispatched from Boston to the interior of New Hampshire to write up the history of an old lady of 98. He was told that she had never so much as learned her letters. Did he blurt it out in print? Not a bit of it. He merely stated in his finely written article that "she can read the finest print as well as she ever could," and sent a marked copy of the paper to the subject of the sketch. More recently the lady died, and when her will was admitted to probate it was found that she had made the young writer her heir.

The value of the South's agricultural products for 1888 was about \$800,000,000 against \$571,000,000 in 1879. The value of the South's live stock is now \$575,000,000 while in 1879 it was \$391,400,000. The production of grain rose from 431,074,630 bushels in 1870 to 626,305,000 bushels in 1887, an increase of nearly 200,000,000 bushels.

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