

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

WHY YOU GO TO SCHOOL

(So seldom do we find an article by Dr. Frank Crane that is not copyrighted, that we consider ourselves fortunate to print for our boys and girls this excellent thought on "Why You Go to School," written for the Pictorial Review by Dr. Frank Crane.)

Everybody is put into this world to get from it all the happiness he can, in the worthiest sense of the term.

In order to be happy, you need to express freely your personality, to give all your faculties full scope. Happiness consists in making the most of what is in you. You go to school to learn how to do that.

First. You go to school to learn to use the past. You are not Adam. You are not the first man. There have been millions before you. The world has been a vast laboratory, where infinite experiments in happiness and achievement have been made.

The result is in Books. There is no sense in your wasting time in endless tasks which have all been done before you and the conclusions set down for your benefit.

Every bee makes the same kind of honeycomb his parents made. Every beaver builds a dam just like his great-great-grandfather. Every animal begins where his father began. Hence there is no progress. Animal life simply goes round and round in the same circle. But a human being begins where his father left off. Each generation stands on the preceding generation's shoulders. So mankind makes progress, while brutedom stands still.

It is in school that the Past is available. Those who study it have great advantage over those who do not; even more than a millionaire's son has the advantage over a penniless boy.

For the real inheritance of the world the real endowment of men, is the the world's accumulated information. And it is free to all. Those who get it, easily outdo those who neglect it. And whoever refuses to take it is a fool.

Second. You go to school to learn how to use your fellow creatures.

You are not alone. You are a thread in the social fabric, a brick in the social wall, a link in the social chain.

What you get out of life depends quite as much on how you utilize other people as on what you do yourself. You go to school to learn organization. You become a member of a class. You become duly pigeon-holed, find out your place, become coordinated.

So your offensive egotisms are rubbed off. The thoughts and feelings that isolate you are cured, and you develop a group-consciousness that increases both your contentment and your efficiency.

You learn team-play. As the great fortunes are made by combinations in business, by trusts, so the heights of character are reached only by the intelligent use of our relations with our fellows. You amount to nothing until you can keep step.

Outside the school is competition. Inside is cooperation. And the prizes of life are for those who understand how to cooperate. The slaves of blind competition work for the kings of cooperation. You go to school to escape the serfdom of individualism and to learn the royal secret, the socialization of life, the kingship of coordination.

Third. You go to school to learn about yourself.

The advantage of culture is self-revelation. The ignoramus is fettered by a hundred delusions. The ignorant mind is not a blank; it is as full as the trained mind; only its contents are all wrong and poisonous. You go to school to get rid of a mass of misinformation.

It is a common fancy that the unlettered savage is free and that the gentleman and scholar is bound. The contrary is true. The savage is a helpless slave to superstition, frightened by the forces of nature and living only in destructive relations with his fellow men. The scholar's is the unbounded mind. The gentleman's is the free existence.

At school you find the Masters. Their realm is Books. You learn to love them, and only then do you find out what is worth loving in yourself. You imitate them and only so do you discover your own originality.

For the true Master sets you free, makes you conscious of what is in you. A young painter looking upon the work of a great genius, burst into tears and exclaimed: "I, too, am an artist!" In the Master he found himself. The young musician, who imitates Beethoven, the young writer who patterns after Shakespeare, are much more likely to develop original genius than those who consult only their own fancies.

What the greatest of Masters said of Himself, is true to a degree of all Masters, "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Fourth. You go to school to get the one thing without which any life is loose and weak—Discipline.

Discipline means that your intelligence controls your feeling, and desire does not lead your intellect.

So you learn tastes. You learn that you can change your tastes, mold them, and make them minister to your wholesome happiness and not drag you down.

You learn to think. There is no thought that is of any value that is not disciplined. Thoughts are things; they make and unmake you. And you learn to herd them, govern them, drive them as you choose, and not helplessly follow them.

And you learn to use your Will. A tough and hard Will is the surest guarantee of a happy and forceful career. At school there is constant appeal to your Will. You must compel yourself to do this, you must restrain yourself from doing that.

Thus you come to Self-mastery. That is why you go to school.

You enter the schoolhouse to find yourself.

A LIVE LITTLE PAPER

The Bulletin, a four page race paper from Portland, Oregon, has just reached us and it a little gem. Its news is fresh, its spirit is helpful, and its design is excellent. We are proud to have it as an exchange and are sure that it has a most brilliant future. The feature that sets it in a class separate from all other Colored papers is that its staff is composed entirely of women. Ladies, you have the hearty congratulations of The Monitor for your successful and auspicious beginning.

The Co-Operator, a little paper published by the Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School, reports that the public school education of Colored children is sadly neglected in the state of Florida.

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