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Sawyer A. J.

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The numerous and able articles upon educational methods in this issue of The Conservative merit the thoughtful consideration of every citizen. But the best way to permanently improve the human family as to physical and intellectual vigor is to teach youth that like begets like, and to impress upon the mind of up-coming boys and girls that soon they will be men and women—fathers and mothers. The common schools of the United States, the high schools, the academies, the seminaries, the colleges and the universities, teach almost everything useful to civilization. They instruct in all languages and all sciences. Agriculture, horticulture, forestry and arboriculture generally are explained and inculcated.

A few years ago the anatomy and physiology were not among books for youth to study. They were locked up out of sight and away from school-attending youth. But now they are taught everywhere and it is a good thing for the race that they are. But the inexorable law of heredity ought also to be studied by the youth of the United States. The fact that insanity, epilepsy, appetite for liquor, tuberculosis, gout, and scores of other undesirable traits, taints and trends are transmitted to descendants, ought to be known to every intelligent fifteen-year-old boy and girl in American schools. Under the present system of haphazard, passionate marriages, the breed of Americans has about reached the mental summit of their possibilities. The complete understanding of the transmission of natural and acquired characteristics

of both body and mind will make the future of our race better. Such an introduction to the study of the law of heredity as the common schools can easily give will lead to more profound investigation in the higher institutions of learning and result in marriages being made for good reasons instead of for caprices or from mere passion.

When human beings are bred with as much care as are now bred Trotting horses, Short-horned cattle, Berkshire pigs or even Plymouth Rock chickens, the men and women of the United States will steadily, visibly improve. Let us have text-books on Heredity in American schools.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

The Conservative wishes that the common schools of the United States would thoroughly teach pupils how to read, write and spell the American language correctly. It is a lamentable fact that only a small per cent of the boys and girls attending the public schools of this country acquire the accomplishments of skillfully spelling, reading and writing their own language.

The science of numbers, as our old arithmetic defined itself, is not very carefully taught in the public schools. But it should be made next in importance to reading, writing and speaking English correctly.

The knowledge of geography gained by attendance in these times upon the average public school is exceedingly limited. This is a marked defect italicised in the system of education of which we brag so continually and so vehemently.

The supreme importance of telling the truth at all times, in all places, and under all circumstances, is not enough prominent in the common school teachings of America. The fact that the admirable character and successful individuality can only be constructed for or by a human being too proud to lie, is not made prominent enough in public school precepts. The great and noble virtues of honor, fidelity to principles and friends are not enough in evidence among teachers and pupils in

this country. Honesty for the sake of honesty itself, and not because it merely is the best policy, should be drummed and hammered into each and every child attending the schools of this country.

If nowadays we have any common schools they ought to thoroughly inculcate a knowledge of common things necessary to intellectual and moral educational development. The numerous fads, caprices and hobbies of "the modern educator" are not always equivalent in practical and beneficial results to the reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic and geography taught by the old-fashioned "school marns" and school masters of fifty years ago.

The Allen Manufacturing Company, of Toledo, Ohio, are the manufacturers of a patent fruit

SEED DISTRIBUTION. picking machine, and in their descriptive circulars advertise a letter of recommendation from the Henry Phillips Seed & Implement Company of Toledo, and remark, concerning the Phillips company, that it "was awarded the government seed contract for 1898 and also for 1901, the last contract amounting to something like \$200,000."

This government seed distribution is an interesting matter to us, but we question whether any company can properly, under present methods of letting it, consider it anything creditable to them to have been awarded the government seed contract. Furthermore, we would like to know how much of a contribution the Phillips company made to the republican campaign funds in 1898 and 1900. Was it not quite one thousand dollars?

FROZEN TRUTH.

A man who bolted from Bryanism in 1896, but who swallowed it in 1900, will never be able to justify his first action by his second or his second by his first. He forfeited the confidence of the Silver men in 1896 and lost that of the Gold men in 1900. He now retains the confidence of neither—and has even lost confidence in himself.

On the contrary, those who rejected Bryanism in both years have the respect of those who accepted it in both years, and those who accepted it in both years can secure the respect of those who rejected it in both years. The unconditional Gold men were in the right. The unconditional Silver men were in error. The men who were in the right both times have nothing to explain. The men who were in error both times have nothing to retain. The former just need to stand pat. The latter just need totally to abandon their error. The two sets can far more easily come together than those who successively joined and deserted each army in turn can now commend themselves to either. —Brooklyn Eagle.