

thought, is, if not discouraged, at least unrewarded. This very under-estimation of the value of reflection and investigation is the reason why so many pupils reputed slow make a larger success of life than those who more quickly assimilate everything presented to them and deliver precocious opinions with the same rapidity. Sound reasoning takes time, especially in the young who must grope while learning how. Nevertheless the minds that persistently refuse to be hurried into a denial of their own intelligence, however crude, are those for which a career is waiting, to begin at the close of the school period. To express everything in the mind on any given subject, to make full and complete sentences of germinal and germinating ideas is what the public school teacher is taught to teach her pupils. The system is turning out magpies by the hundreds, who will get this country into trouble yet if they are allowed control. The college standing of Admiral Dewey and Captain Coghlan is unknown to me, but, judging from the incidents of their career, the admiral's was below the middle and the captain's was among the first five. Reform in the methods of the public school is constantly urged. Nothing is more urgent than a reconsideration of the value of contemplation and reflection and the dangers of thoughtless speech.

* * *

An undergraduate at Harvard writes the New York Sun to learn the opinion of the editor concerning the value of culture. In reply the editor disclaims underestimating culture but holds that college professors are inclined to withdraw from the world and to get out of sympathy with it. The cloistered scholar spins fine theories that are not so likely to be of service as the conclusions of a mind no stronger but in closer contact with men and affairs. The opinions, for instance, of the Harvard professors and of the learned President Eliot as to the course the United States should take with the Filipinos seem foolish and impractical but then the rest of the world may be wrong and the cloistered scholars right. Setting the value of culture aside, the editor of The Sun thinks that the single minded pursuit of culture isolates man from his fellows and lessens his influence. Besides, a knowledge of Greek and Latin, of the modern languages and of science, does not make men any better. Then if it does not make them any better or any more sociable or any more helpful, there is no particular reason why the disapproval of men of letters of the present war in the Philippines, should depress us more than the opposition of any other class.

* * *

Candidate Bryan has returned from his recent invasion of "the enemy's country," where, under the guise of honoring the memory of Thomas Jefferson, he actively engaged in what in political parlance is variously termed "repairing fences," "laying pipe," "making medicine," etc. He is now engaged in the same vocation as that which engrosses the time and attention of several other more or less worthy citizens of Lincoln, viz.: office seeking.

At Syracuse, N. Y., he said, "What has happened to make more soldiers necessary? Nothing but a republican administration." That is all that happened in 1860. When the election of Abraham Lincoln gave the country its first republican administration, states dominated by the political party which was wedded to the principles taught by Thomas Jefferson, seceded and sought to destroy the

Union. That attempt made more soldiers necessary. Those soldiers came from the states whose electoral votes were cast for Lincoln and against the candidate of those whose patron saint was Thomas Jefferson. In support of the right of secession the declaration that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed was invoked. Mr. Bryan now invokes the same declaration against the government which he has several times sworn to support, in favor of those in arms against it. He does not attend banquets intended to honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln. At such a gathering his very presence would be a discordant note. Why? Because Lincoln was a patriot. He never afforded aid or comfort to the enemies of his country.

At Buffalo Mr. Bryan said the government could take the son from his mother and place him before the enemy's guns, but could not lay its hands upon the millions of accumulated wealth of the country. Aguinaldo and his followers made the same complaint against the commander of the military forces of the United States because he refused to permit them to loot Manila when it was surrendered by the Spaniards. The Tagals of Luzon desired to lay their hands upon the accumulated wealth of that city. Candidate Bryan seeks the votes of the lawless and anarchistic element and with a view to securing their voices his lament that as the government is now administered it cannot lay its hands upon the accumulated wealth of the country. The inference legitimately to be drawn is that if he is nominated and elected, president a different rule will obtain, to accumulated wealth. He will be nominated. That's all.

* * *

The bill requiring canners of meats, vegetables and fruits to stamp the cans with the date of the canning was defeated, but it was a wise measure, like all laws which compel the manufacturer to sell his product for exactly what it is. If such a law had been in force the soldiers in Cuba would not have had so much cause for complaint. The canners objected to the law on the ground that the contents of a hermetically sealed can will keep fresh for several years but that the predilection of housekeepers for recently canned goods can not be reasoned away and that therefore goods two seasons old would entail large losses on producers and grocers. But this does not prove that the purchaser and consumer has not a right to know when the goods were put up. The largest trouble with our glorious government, which is still better than anything else there is going, is that consumers of certain commodities, as a whole, are not so ably represented at the national capitol as the manufacturers. When a measure like the one under discussion is projected the producers, whom it specially affects, labor with the law makers day and night to convince them of the vice of such a bill, while the consumer stands afar off and does not appear to be even interested in the bill proposed for his protection. When this occurs the part seems greater than the whole and the legislator can not be greatly blamed for listening and hesitating to advocate a measure which he is assured will ruin the manufacturers.

* * *

Senator Thurston's rhymed account of his address to a white rose ends with a statement that the white rose lifted her stately head and answered him fair and true, "I am happy and blest to die on your breast for the woman who gave me to you." The

poem has extended his reputation as an interpreter of the language of flowers. A rose has not organs of speech, and although in Tennysonian gardens the flowers whisper and thrill with various emotions, mostly of love, I think, even Lord Tennyson dared not exhaust all his poetic license by reporting verbatim what the flowers said. But Senator Thurston long ago emancipated himself from the bondage of the actual. An unlimited command of language has its dangers, the temptation of producing oratorical effect have led others besides Senator Thurston and Mr. Bryan into making statements that in printers' ink and daylight are absurd and only excusable under the supposition that the assault on sense and language were made by men greatly tempted and intemperately fond of flattery. Senator Thurston said he had jotted down the lines on receiving a white rose from a lady, "jotted them down on the spur of a sentimental moment." It was, of course, not with the senator's consent that the tender, maudlin appeal to the rose was printed—his sense of humour and of good form would have interdicted publication—it is, therefore, unjust to criticise the poem as if it had been written in cold blood for publication only. There have been occasions, though, such as Senator Thurston's speech in the senate, when he offered his posterity to the cause of Cuban freedom, that a stronger sense of humour would have saved the senator from the newspaper criticism which has made his speeches a joke and quite ruined the effect they were intended to produce.

Senator Thurston's career will not justify the conclusion which a reading of the poem induces in regard to the author of it. He came to Nebraska a poor young man and rose to an eminent position in the law before he was elected United States senator. Railroad companies are not in the habit of employing a mooncalf as chief counsel and Senator Thurston was the attorney for the Union Pacific when he was elected senator and that road is distinguished, even among railroads, for the amount and complexity of its litigation. It is not, therefore, for lack of intellect, but of that quality which is at once a balance wheel and rudder—a sense of humour—which prevents Senator Thurston from foreseeing the ridiculous effect of the liberal employment of bathos and sentiment.

THE KINDERGARTEN

My friend, The Editor, is not the only one who has been asking, "Have you read the article about kindergarten children in the March Atlantic?" and it has been suggested to me that an answer to this criticism of the kindergarten might be interesting to the readers of The Courier.

Marion Carter Hamilton has written an article concerning the kindergarten child. The writer wields a facile pen, her article is readable and published in such a conservative and widely read magazine, merits a reply for the benefit of those who are entirely outside the teaching profession and not in touch with modern educational thought. To anyone who is at all familiar with modern kindergarten methods or current educational literature this article needs no reply. Any one who has any knowledge of kindergartners knows that they are, of all teachers, the most willing and anxious to be advised by outsiders. In every town where there are kindergartens, a kindergarten association will be found, whose members are studying and criticising their methods. It is the kin-

dergarten which has brought into prominence the idea of parents' meetings which promises to be one of the most fertile sources of improvement in our educational system. Valuable criticism must come from one of varied experience and broad, thorough knowledge of the subject in hand, and related subjects. By what right does Marion Carter Hamilton rush into print to attack an educational force so widely commended? Who is she anyway? By her own admission she is a college graduate. She is a primary teacher who once began a study of kindergarten methods which she did not complete. Also, she has recently been appointed as a primary teacher in the New York city public schools.

It is evident from the contents of this article that the author has come in contact with one of those kindergartners, of whom there are indeed too many, who, with no foundation of general education and armed with a superficial knowledge of kindergarten methods, but without a grasp of the fundamental principles of psychology and pedagogy which underlie them, has boldly ventured in where angels fear to tread, to direct the growth of little minds. The mistakes of this misguided person have been accepted by the author as essential features of the kindergarten system. On the contrary scarcely one of the things she criticises are to be found in any good kindergarten today. You may prove it by stepping into one of your own public kindergartens any day. The songs and games that are ridiculed were long ago laid on the shelf. In fact the article is amusing in that it shows so clearly ignorance of the thing criticized. It is evident from her article that the author believes that education consists in teaching the child facts, cold icy facts alone; "A stone is a stone and a leaf is a leaf and don't you forget it!" Whatever interferes with the prescribed lesson in arithmetic, reading and writing is a mere waste of time.

There are many profound thinkers of the past and the present who find themselves unable to agree with the author. Jennie B. Merrill, the supervisor of the public kindergartens of New York city, has replied to it in the New York Evening Post of March 16. Superintendent Dulton of Brookline, Mass., and Emeline Abbey Dunham answered it ably in the kindergarten magazine for April. The latter publication may be found in the city library.

Simultaneously with this article and hence not at all in reply to it Miss Sarah L. Arnold wrote to the Kindergarten Magazine for March, giving her testimony and that of some of her primary teachers as to the value of kindergarten training and the use or continuation of these methods in the primary school. Miss Arnold is the associate superintendent of the Boston schools and is considered one of the most brilliant women in the educational world of the day. She says among other good things: "The spirit of the kindergarten is felt more and more in the primary school where it tends to overcome the old traditions of school keeping." She goes on to state that in the schools where they have both children who have had kindergarten training and those who have not, the kindergarten children have been able to advance far more rapidly than the others.

Here are some extracts from letters which are signed by her primary teachers. Those who have read Marion Carter Hamilton's testimony will notice the contrast in the enthusiasm, sincerity and good will of these extracts.

"For several years I had no kindergarten children in my class. This year I have ten, and such a comfort they are!"

Speaking of the games used in the primary school, "But all this takes time. How we begrudge it! Five times ten is fifty, yes, fifty minutes, nearly an