

and bent and sundered by the blast, yet whose trunk stands erect and immovable; he who is tost by the casual reverses of life, stands firm in the moral and intellectual treasures which early education bestows upon him; even the deepest dye of depravity often fails to obliterate these impressions. Your Committee regret that so few of their number have been able to fulfil the duty assigned to them, as well as the difficulty of procuring others to supply the deficiency.—What new spring shall we touch, what new inducement can we present? there is one founded in the very selfishness of human nature. It is justly said that we view with pleasure the creation of our own fancy, and delight in the results of our own industry. The farmer who looks abroad over his lands, and beholds every field bearing the marks of culture, exults in the consciousness that his hand felled the first tree and erected the first dwelling; that his own taste lies as a chart spread out before him; that it is his, not only by possession, but formation; and we pardon, if we do not justify the natural complacency with which he surveys the work of his own hands. So in the wide waste of ignorance and vice which surrounds us, every exertion is rewarded with rich munificence, the realization of the high schemes of the statesman, the success of the author, the laurels of the conqueror, scarcely surpass that glow of feeling which is the offspring of active benevolence; and when this is directed not merely to the personal wants and sufferings of our fellow creatures, when it takes a higher aim and imbibes a loftier spirit, by marking the mind as the object of its gratuitous attention, it then assumes an elevated rank in the class of refined gratifications. And when it witnesses the actual effects of its labours, when it beholds the knowledge of this world in connection with those principles which link man to a higher and a better being, every day infusing itself into the character, developing its beautiful and suppressing its vicious traits; then it rises into a purity of happiness that knows no rival, and can favor no alloy. It acts on a large scale, yet it may be brought within the narrow limits of a school-room, and from that reservoir draw a deep and delightful draught for its own sustenance. Those who would first try the strength of the principle inculcated in that command of our Saviour "Look not every man on his own things but every man also on the things of others," would perhaps do well to make their first essay in this comparatively humble sphere:—even here are to be found obstacles and discouragements, but the soil which now presents so bleak and sterile an aspect, may ere long be found clothed with the deep bright verdure of moral excellence, and adorned with the fairest flowers of native intellect.

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