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Edited by T. ARNOLD HAULTAIN, M.A.

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JAMES V. WRIGHT, *General Manager.*

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The following remarks from the *Ottawa Evening Journal* parents should read during the Christmas vacation:—"The advantages of education and mental training are so freely distributed, with our thorough school systems, that there appears little cause why the standard of general cultivation should not be raised infinitely higher than in the days of little or no schooling; and when difficulties of surpassing magnitude stood in the way of the aspiring student and the object of his desire. Education is now too often regarded as the bane rather than the privilege of the child, and he takes his share as a distasteful medicine instead of as the creative stimulant of mental activity and power. On every side come complaints

that there is too much education; too many subjects taught; too few fully comprehended and digested. Be this as it may; there is ground to justify the warning to those with whom rests the training of children, that the most palpable mistake which parents and guardians can make is to neglect the awakening and developing of those habits of observation whose fruition is thoroughness of culture and breadth of information. We are often told that the vacation is a convenient season in which the scholars forget what has been imparted to them during the period of instruction. The fallacy of this contention if put forward as a general principle is easily exposed, but it unhappily has for its fountain and source a certain amount of truth, and the aim of all instruction should be to remove the ground for this charge by making permanent the knowledge stored in the mind of youth. The Kindergarten system has won approval on account of the absence of puzzling theory in the early stage of education. Changes in our school system may doubtless improve the features now criticized as lacking practical application of the idea and things presented in figures and letters to the mind in its infancy. But the main responsibility rests with parents, who can cultivate in a hundred ways the intelligence of their children."

A WRITER in a recent number of the *Current* has been making some interesting generalizations from the statistics given in the last census of the United States. From his article we take the following, showing the relative increase in the numbers of wealth producers and wealth-distributors:

"Speaking first in general terms, we note that the rate of increase of persons engaged in agriculture has been, for the decade under consideration, 30 per cent. Thus the number of persons engaged in agriculture has increased in exactly the same proportion as the total population. Manufacturers and miners, on the other hand, have increased more rapidly, the rate being 42 per cent. Professional men

and those engaged in personal service have increased at the same rate as traders and transporters, their rate being 52 per cent., or 22 per cent. in excess of the general increase in population. In the complex and independent relations of to-day's life, it would be unsafe and unwise to depreciate the value of those who go between the producers and the consumers, that is, the traders and transporters. Still, those who produce the raw material from mother earth, and those who manufacture it into the forms demanded for consumption, make the real accretions to the world's wealth. Averaging, then, the rates of increase in our wealth producers, our agriculturists, miners, and manufacturers at 36 per cent., we have a 52 per cent. increase of wealth-distributors supplying the fruits of a 36 per cent. increase of wealth producers, to a 30 per cent. general increase of population. Whether this ratio is a necessary or an abnormal development is a question. Trade and transportation include agents, bankers, clerks, officials and employees of companies, shopkeepers, and the like. Their lives are proverbially less labourious and more desirable than the lives of agriculturists, miners, and manufacturers. May not this 16 per cent. excess of the one over the other be but an expression of people's instinct to adopt an easy and agreeable calling? At any rate, just as the demand creates the supply, so the consumers support the producers and distributors. Averaging the rates of increase of the last two at 49 per cent., we have a 49 per cent. increase in these special lines forcing their services upon a 30 per cent. general increase. The same holds true of professional men and personal servants, and by the latter we mean actors, musicians, domestic servants, hotel keepers, clergymen, lawyers, physicians, and the like. Strictly speaking, they are neither producers nor distributors of wealth; they but perform a personal service for a pittance, and thus live on their patrons. And here, as before, we have a 52 per cent. increase in this special line supported by a 30 per cent. general increase in population."