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Editorial

A Happy New Year

What is the secret of happiness? If you would know read over the story of the Blue Bird. In short form the wonderful little tale is told in this issue; in dramatic form it may be had from any book-dealer for a quarter. True happiness springs from service in the ordinary affairs of life. It will be found in every schoolroom by every teacher who lives and loves. Yes, and the loving is an essential part of it. Let us not forget that. It is impossible for the Blue Bird to show his colors in an atmosphere of fault-finding and scolding and complaint.

When the spirit of love reigns in a school it is wonderful how much may be accomplished. Work is doubled because desire and will are harmonized; play is rendered more enjoyable because it is relieved of all rancour and bitterness. It was no idle advice of the Apostle when he urged us to seek earnestly the best gifts. He made no mistake when he singled out love as the greatest gift of all.

Yet there are some teachers who appear to conduct their schools as if a betrayal of affection, or even an unbetrusted feeling of affection were a crime. To such, teaching is a matter of business, and in matters of business there is no room for emotion. Fortunately the profession is year by year losing members who take this point of view. It is now in civilized lands recog-

nized that teaching is a spiritual service, and that teachers must possess all the attributes of those engaged in other spiritual callings. If a parent without love in her heart cannot retain the affection of her husband nor win the willing obedience of her children; if a preacher wanting in love cannot gather around him the members of his flock, and inspire confidence and goodwill; a teacher lacking in this quality can neither arouse real intellectual earnestness nor kindle those finer feelings which are recognized as the highest possession of ideal manhood and womanhood.

Teddy O'Rourke was not far astray when he remarked that "a pig is the only animal that should be driven instead of being led." Boys and girls there are all over this western land waiting to be led. Are you going to lead a few of them? Are you going to take them with you on excursions into the wide and fruitful fields of truth and beauty and goodness? Are you already picturing the homecoming at the end of the year, when they shall all return from their harvesting, bringing with them their precious sheaves? To you, if to any workers on this green earth were the words of the old hymn intended:

Go labor on, spend and be spent,
Thy joy to do the Father's will,
This is the way the Master went,
Shall not the servant tread it still?