

the absence of the first chosen. Much of the drudgery of the class-room is taken from the work of the teacher, and, as we know, the responsibility of a duty gives pleasure to children. By this plan the routine of the class-room will be conducted without a disruption of order in the reign of the substitute.

Another help: In passing papers, the most natural and orderly method is to pass to the left or right. The possibility of noisy turning, not seeing the papers that come from the rear, etc., is thus precluded.—*The Teacher.*

Many a teacher longs for a manual training department in her school. Did you know that a great many things that the children do in schools fortunate enough to have this department, might be done by your children if you would have a little time and patience to spare for it. The little girls in one room which I visited were making doll dresses, another roomful of lassies were endeavouring to make buttonholes or they were doing simple sewing or darning. Knitting is also taught, and now that crocheting is again the style, I presume they will be doing that. You can teach the boys the proper way to sew on buttons, and to darn a tear. They can whittle out pencil boxes, make stands to hold their ink wells, etc., and you might teach them how to preserve botanical and zoological specimens.—*Selected.*

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.—*Milton.*

Any man who would ridicule our public schools or attempt to depreciate the splendid work that the teachers are doing, is a person devoid of discernment and lacking of knowledge. It is safe to say that school teachers in America do more work for less pay than any other class of persons with equal intelligence that can be named. And the love, loyalty, devotion and patience that are shown in the work by many teachers in our public schools are worthy of the highest esteem. And the teaching timber is continually improving—I know that. I am quite aware that the schoolroom that does not now have many traces of beauty and attempts at harmony is exceptional. I know, too, that kindness and patience are now to be found where once was force approaching brutality.—*Elbert Hubbard.*

### Week Days and Their Names.

Formerly the days of the week were numbered one, two, three, four, five and six, beginning with the Sabbath. Even now the custom still prevails among certain modern Greeks, the Slavs and the Finns. Many old-fashioned and orthodox Quakers, particularly in the north of England, still hold to this custom, which was the common one in the days of the Apostles and down to the fourth century, as well as usual among the Jews and the Arabs. The orthodox Quakers use the numerical system in preference to the ordinary on the ground that the gods and goddesses, from whom the names were taken, were not of the highest respectability in point of morals.

The week was originally only a convenient quarter of the lunar month. Hence it began on Monday or moon day. The Italians still call Monday the first and Sunday the seventh day of the week. Tuesday is derived from the Norse Tiw, who corresponded to Mars, the god of war, a most disreputable person in the eyes of Quakers. Thursday was Thor's day, Thor being a good warrior who was, morally, no better than he ought to be. Wednesday again was Woden's day, Woden being the god of battle-rage. The Romans called this day Mercury's. Friday was supposed to be the luckiest day of the week—for women. It was called after the Norse Frija, the goddess of love, and is the best day for weddings. For the pagan Romans it was also the day of Venus, though the Christian Romans called it the day of ill-luck because Christ had been crucified on that day. Saturday was called after Saturn and Sunday was known to the Christians as resurrection or sun-day.

The week of seven days was imported from Alexandria into Greece, and into Italy about the time of Christ. The Greeks had previously divided their month into sets of ten days, the Romans into sets of eight days, three and a half sets being equal to one month.

I received the "Canadian History Notes." They are simply splendid, and I am sure will prove invaluable in my work. . . . I could not do without the REVIEW, I have taken it ever since I left Normal School, and each month it seems better than the preceding.

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