

names nobody can understand, and after a while I reckon you'll be fly-ing the British flag in the front yard and singing 'God Save the King.' There's a good deal too much foreign influence. This country's good enough for me. I'm an American, and this is an American school. I say fly the American flag and sing American songs, and have American systems and shove the foreigner's out. We can run our own business. Why don't you get a bust of General Washington?"

Director Ferguson asked if he might be permitted to interrogate the principal, and having obtained permission he asked:

"Don't you think we are going just a little too fast?"

"In what particular?" inquired the principal.

"Well in putting in this metric system, just at this time, for example."

"I think myself," interposed the president, "that the movement is somewhat premature."

"And then," continued Director Ferguson, "I found my boy last night rassling with algebra and nearly crying over it. I told him to drop it, and I'd have it dropped in the school if I run the school. I never knowed no algebra, and I'll be satisfied if my boy makes out as well as I did."

The principal attempted briefly to indicate the nature and purposes of algebra.

"That is all very well, Mr. Brown," said Director Ferguson. "It's your business, of course, to care for such things, but we are practical people, with no nonsense about us. Figgers is for figgerin'

and letters is for letterin'. There's no use of tryin' to figger with letters while there's plenty of figgers to figger with. Now is there?"

"You see-----" began the principal.

"I don't care to argue about it," said Mr. Ferguson, interrupting him, "but the fact is, you can't any more subtract 'a' from 'b' like my boy was tryin' to do last night, than you can subtract the dinner-bell from the poker. It ain't in the nature of things."

The principal did not reply.

"My boy also says," continued Mr. Ferguson, "that his teacher won't allow him to say 'knowed.' Why not?"

"Knowed?" asked the principal. "K-n-o-w-e-d?"

"Yes, knowed. He said his teacher tried to make him say 'knew.'"

"Of course," said the principal. "Know, knew. That's right, there is no such word as 'knowed.'"

"I guess there is," answered Director Ferguson, with a scornful laugh.

"I guess so, too," echoed Mr. Matlack, "and it's a good deal better to say 'knowed' than to be putting Dant (Dante) up on the shelf and bringing the children's minds under European influences."

"Knowed is not good English," said the principal.

"Maybe not," said Mr. Matlack, "but it's good American, and that's the best there is."

"You say mowed," asked Mr. Ferguson, "and rowed, and show, showed, and stow stowed, and glow, glowed, don't you?"

"Yes."

"Very well, then, you say know,