

patrons. It is your sober earnestness, your pains-taking devotion to your work, your general intelligence and attainment, that they regard; and it is on these you have to build your hopes of future success. Not unfrequently do you see a young man begin life with a Normal School or College reputation, a most able and interesting teacher, and the very life of a company. He works admirably in his school, and he is a great attraction at an evening party or a jovial supper. And if he could only stop there, it would be all very well. He might still spend many a quiet evening in healthful and improving study. By-and-bye, however, the excitement of the jovial board, and the insidious influence of social drinking, seduce him wholly from his quiet evenings, and his keen relish for knowledge yields in enjoyment to the funny story or tid-bit of gossip. He may stop here, and get no worse; but he is no longer an advancing man. Too frequently, however, he abandons himself to jollity. His work may be done at school, one might say well, but still it has lost the spring which it once had. The teacher gets occasionally absent-minded, his thoughts and his pleasures are elsewhere. Late hours, and the effects of liquor, perhaps never indulged in to brutal excess, conjoined with the tear-and-wear of school work, render him listless or undermine his constitution; and too frequently such a career closes with an utter wreck of worldly prospects, or possibly with an untimely death, and all for the bubble reputation of the supper table or the tavern. Social intercourse and social enjoyment are gifts of a good and kind Providence, but none require to be more discreetly handled. We should never forget that pleasures are kept sweet and fresh by self-denial, and that self-restraint to-day is only postponing enjoyment till to-morrow.

In conclusion, I would only say that you may think my remarks somewhat censorious. I have acted on the principle, however, that the exuberance of youth needs more to be pruned than to be forced. If my memory does not fail me, the severest of my remarks are mildness itself, compared with what you have heard from your rector and masters. Possibly, if I had had the advantage before I began that you have now of special instruction in the work of teaching, many of the experiences I have made would have been prevented. From the instruction you get here, you can begin as young men with all the wisdom of those who have grown wise in their profession through years of practice. Still, from what I found in my own case, and in that of many young teachers, much that I have said is well worthy of your consideration; and if I have only given a good parting knock to drive it still further into your memory, my few rambling words will not be in vain.

Beginning life as you do, with all the confidence of talent, well trained and carefully cultivated, you should never forget that the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. The disposal of your lot is in the hands of the Lord. You should temper, therefore, your high hopes and noble self-reliance with the modesty and trust of the Christian, and ever reverently praying, "Thy will be done on earth it is in heaven," be prepared to run with moderation or with courage the career appointed you.—*The Museum.*

### Habit Stronger Than Principle.

We have some where read the paradox "Good principles are a good thing, but good, strong, well-grounded habits are a better"; and, as we have thought upon it, it has appeared to us more and more as involving a valuable truth, and one especially worthy the attention of teachers. In one point of view principles are of the highest importance: looking God-ward, or even to the highest earthly development of character, they are the essential foundation and ground-work; but looking rather to the average man and woman of society, it may well be questioned whether such are not governed more by habit than by firm, fixed principle.

Habit's iron bonds hold us all firmer than we are aware, and they are not easily broken. All men know better than they do, and often, when wishing and earnestly desiring to do otherwise,

they are led captive by habits that they cannot break away from. No drunkard ever justifies the use of the intoxicating cup; no user of tobacco desires his child to use it also; and yet, in both cases, the habit formed is the master of the weak will.

To the great law of habit, undoubtedly, Solomon refers when he says "Train up a child in the way he should go," etc. Theoretically, as teachers, we know all this: practically, we apply it very little.

How many teachers even—we blush to say it—can we find, who can talk eloquently to their boys against the use of tobacco, and yet do not refrain from it themselves! How many can 'analyze and parse' the most uncouth and intricate sentences, who yet, from the force of life-long habit, violate all the rules of grammar in their ordinary daily conversation! How many can descant long and learnedly upon the laws of health, physiology and hygiene, ventilation, and the influence of bad postures upon the young and growing body, who still transgress all hygienic laws, neglect all ventilation, and take no note of the postures of the children before them! Intellectual training is all they propose to themselves, forgetting that this is, after all, but a part, and it may be a very small part, of their duty as teachers,—their highest duty being to make the best and noblest and most perfect men and women possible out of the material intrusted to their care.

It is of comparatively small moment whether a man knows that a verb agrees with its nominative case in number and person, but it is of great moment that he does not in his conversation say 'they is' or 'I are'; but little to be able to give the rules for the use of auxiliary verbs and participles, but much whether he say 'I done it' or 'I have n't saw it'.

To name all the bones in the body is well, but it is far better to keep that body upright and all its powers under command. It is very desirable that a child should be a proficient in his arithmetic, but much more that he have health and strength, a sound body and a sound mind, wherewith to fight the battles of life.

—*Illinois Teacher.*

### Little Ignorances.

A few boys and girls acquire the art by some process which seems intuitive, and spell perfectly years before they can by possibility have read half the words they are ultimately required to use..... Printers all know how very little the spelling even of the best educated is to be trusted, and we have reason to believe that if English journalists were weeded by an examination in which etymological accuracy was the *sine qua non*, the profession would lose some very competent members. One occasional contributor to this journal, a man whose education has been of a singularly perfect kind, and who is a true scholar in his way, never sends in a contribution without half a dozen etymological errors, and there are double-firsts who would rather trust themselves to Greek than English without a pocket dictionary. It is a curious proof of the accuracy of this view, that the commercial schools, which profess to teach, and do teach, spelling, do not turn out spellers half as accurate as the public schools, which profess to teach nothing of the kind, and that hundreds of persons learn to spell, or rather begin to spell well habitually, only in manhood, that is, when the attention has at last been aroused. Whether the extreme case, that of a man of high culture, who absolutely *could* not learn to spell ever happened, we are uncertain; but almost all men who have to read much manuscript believe it, and a kindred inability, that of recollecting dates and figures, certainly does exist. But an inability to spell, arising from a certain failure of interest in words, is a distinct characteristic of English minds, and one which it requires extraordinary effort to eradicate, more especially among women.

Spelling, however, is not the only deficiency of this kind, though it is, of course, the one most observed, and owing to the curious caste feeling mentioned above, a feeling entirely absent a hundred years ago, it is the one most resented. The ignorance of