

Teacher—"What is the matter, Alice?"

Alice—"My head is aching."

T.—"Would you not like to go home?"

A.—"No, I don't want to go home."
(Weeping afresh.)

T.—"Why not?"

A.—"Well, if pa knew I had a headache he would make me leave school, and I don't want to leave school."

T.—"Is your mother at home?"

A.—"No; she is out of town and there is nobody at home."

T.—"When will she be back?"

A.—"Next Monday, I think."

Under the circumstances, especially as Alice declared that the house was locked up, she was allowed to stay. That was Thursday. She was absent on Friday, and on Monday the teacher called at her home. Miss Alice was "up for an hour," attired in a wrapper, and looking very wretched, poor thing. She said, "I don't think I'll be able to come back to school till next week."

Mother—"No, she is not strong, Miss B—; she has been in bed with malarial fever; indeed, she was delirious on Saturday night and I wanted to have the doctor, but she won't have the doctor. Her pa and I did not want her to go to school at all, but she would go. I told her when I went away, a week ago, "Now you are not to go to school," and she went the very next day.

T.—"Has she been delicate long?"

M.—"Well, she had scarlet fever when she was eight years old, and she has never been real strong since. I did not want her to go to school last winter, but she would go."

T.—"I think she is hardly able for school work at present."

M.—"Well, now, that is just what I have been telling her."

A.—"No; I a'int goin' to leave school."

M.—"Now, Alice, you know—"

A.—"I don't care, I don't want to leave school, and I ain't goin' to."

T.—"I think you ought to do as your mother says."

A.—"Well, I don't care, I'll ask pa first."

Comment upon such a conversation is unnecessary. The remedy for such a state of things is in the hands of the parents, who are ultimately responsible for the maintenance and education of their children (a fact far too much ignored in our present system of State education), and the blame of many of the present evils lies at the doors of the home. Nothing—no system, no teacher, no outside advantages—can ever take the place of good home training, and the pulpit and the press, and the leaders of public opinion can find no more important matter to engage their attention than the necessity of that training and the preparation of the coming generation, so that they may impart it, in their turn, to their children.

[Since the above was in type the Hungarian Minister of Education has issued an ordinance for the appointment of Medical Inspectors of Schools. These doctors are to inspect school buildings as to their sanitary condition, to examine each pupil separately as regards general health, keep a record of those who are sick and a special account of the influence of school life on the mental and physical development of the pupil.]