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ADDRESS, JAS. A. STEWART, Gagetown, N. B.

Correspondence.

Spicy News Items Gathered by Gazette Correspondents. Music in the Public Schools.

What I have to say on this subject I will arrange under three heads.

1. The musical faculty can be cultivated. 2. This cultivation is a part of a complete education. 3. It is a legitimate part of school work.

As to the first, I know that all are not agreed. If there were not a few who hold that in some the musical faculty is lacking, it would certainly be phenomenal. While every boy is not a De Reszke, or every girl a Patti, or Ja Malba, yet, to a certain point every one is a singer and may learn music and its tones. If a child can distinguish that one note differs from another in pitch and length, he has musical capacity.

We sometimes meet persons who say that they cannot even distinguish one tone from another. If this is true, the fault is not in their ear, or sense of hearing, but in the fact early training along the musical line was lacking.

Now speaking in a general way, I think that every one can learn to sing. By a systematic training of the ear a musical taste can be cultivated in nearly every instance. I think that sufficient reason has been given why any one should not receive a thorough musical training. The training, however, must be begun in childhood for the vocal organs are readily susceptible to the cultivating influence.

Music, if neglected to adult years, can be cultivated then only with great difficulty, and frequently not at all.

Musical education is a part of a complete education. Music is one of those things that tend to educate the mind, to give it a taste for things that are beautiful, delicate, exalted; and to lift us up beyond the sordid cares and considerations of a practical life, and whisper to us of something spiritual and whispier to us of something that we could not well exist, for life, in itself, is very stern and hard, and extremely unpoetic.

To be well educated one must be well rounded, developed in all directions. No parent offers so much pleasure or profit in itself that to fit one for it we can afford to omit this cultivation of an appreciation of beauty in harmony.

The typical American of to-day, is prone to give himself up entirely to that thing in which he is engaged, thereby failing to grasp much that would add nothing but pleasure to his life. He measures things by the good they will do him in his line of work. How much money will it put in his pocket if he can read with enjoyment the productions of our poets? How many more customers will he gain by admiring, and perhaps possessing, some few choice works of art? Is his time and money well invested in listening to the merry carols of a child, or to the stirring melodies of some renowned singer?

This principle, I think, is wrong. Life cannot be measured in this way. He who has the keenest pleasures of life that fails to realize that it is "more than meat," much "more than raiment," and vastly more than the "abundance of things he possesseth."

We cannot describe this something that fills in, rounds up, and beautifies ordinary living. We don't even know what it is; it can only be felt. But we do know some of the things that produce it, and nothing else has a wider and as the same time a more direct and powerful influence in bringing it about than does the culture gained from music.

Again it is part of a complete education, because of its great moral influence. This has always been recognized and acted upon. In days when Greece was mistress of the world, every well-educated Athenian must know how to sing, and the education of some of her great men was thought to be deficient, because they had not this accomplishment. Napoleon said "a piece of moral music, from a master, infallibly touches the feelings, and has more influence than a good book, which convinces the reason without influencing the habits."

The culture derived from music may become a powerful preservative against the dangers of other pleasures. Realizing this, ought not much thought to be given to the kind of music introduced into our schools? Music literature has its low and sensational forms, which tend to degrade both taste and feeling. We should be careful to choose that which has a tendency to arouse the higher nature, to repress self and to restrain the lower propensities. This culture is a legitimate part of school work. Singing should be practiced daily in every department, not only for the immediate pleasure it gives and the culture it affords, but for its beneficial results in school discipline. Child-nature responds easily and gladly to music. Singing makes it happy, and will often drive away all memories of apparent harshness, or neglect and will subdue restlessness and uneasiness. It calms them if agitated and disturbed, and infuses new life when languid and disinterested. And how much pleasure is added when all the movements of the school can be regulated by music. Again, anything that will develop, strengthen, and fit for right living, whether it be moral, intellectual or physical, has its authority for being a part of regular school work. It has been proven that the daily practice of music by children has aided in physical development by fortifying the lungs and giving suppleness to all the vocal organs. Our instructions should be carried so far that our pupils will have school able to read musical notation, not particularly such music as we call "classical" but such music as they are likely to meet, both in school and social songs. They should be able to read this, not slowly and laboriously, but with such intelligence and facility as shall make the exercise a pleasure to them and therefore secure their perseverance in it through life. Such is the degree of musical skill which the public school should aim at imparting, and which it may reasonably hope to impart. Give special attention to expression, watch such faults as loudness, heavy dragging, indistinct articulation. Let the tone be subdued and the words clearly enunciated. It is not simply singing that cultivates taste and makes the practice of the art a pleasant recreation, but singing with expression. D. P. KIRKPATRICK, Gaspareaux Station, Q. Co., N. B., Oct. 28, 1899.

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School Collector's Notice

The undermentioned non-residents of School District No. 17, Olinville, in the Parish of Fredericton, County of Queens, are hereby requested to pay to the undersigned, School Secretary, the amount of School Tax as set opposite their names, for the year 1899, together with the cost of this advertisement, 40 cents each, within two months from date of this notice, to prevent the same, daily attended, to the undersigned, Secretary of the Parish, the amount of School Tax as set opposite their names. NAME. AMOUNT TAX. Belyea, William H. (Estate) \$2 24. Stage, Ann J. " " " 24. McLaren, (Estate) 1 08. McCutcheon, George, " " 2 30. Treat, John (Estate) 1 12. Vincent, John A. 1 08.

JOHN A. JACKSON, Secretary of School Trustees, Dated at Olinville, Queens County, N. B., August 30th, 1899.

A. W. EBBETT - H. H. PICKETT, B.C.L. EBBETT & PICKETT, BARRISTERS-AT-LAW, ETC., CHURCH'S CORNER - ST. JOHN, N. B.

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NOTICE.

All persons owing claims against the estate of the late William Brander, of Gagetown, Queens County, are requested to present the same, duly attested, to the undersigned within one month of the date hereof, and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to me. ANNABEL BRANDER, Executor. Dated at Gagetown, Queens County his 18th day of July, 1899.

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The Subscriber offers for Sale a very handsome new Top Buggy, will be sold as a Bargain. Any person wanting one will do well to examine it at once, as it will be picked up quickly. T. S. PETERS, Gagetown, May 23rd, 1899.

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NOTICE.

The subscriber wishes to inform the public that he has opened a shoemaking, cobbler and harness repairing shop in the building lately occupied by Wm. Brander, deceased. All kinds of work attended to at short notice. Terms strictly cash. WM. NEVERS, Gagetown, July 3, 1899.

NOTICE.

Mrs. Joseph Robins wishes to thank the customers of her late husband for their patronage during the three years he was engaged in general merchandise business in this place; and also solicits the continuation of the patronage of the general public, as she intends to carry on the business in future in her own name. She also requests those who are indebted to the estate to kindly settle their accounts at earliest convenience.

Farm for Sale.

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FOR SALE.

The subscriber offers for sale the lot adjoining the one occupied by his residence known as the Stockport Lot. WM. HAMILTON, Gagetown, April 26