

The blow fell soon after, and in April 1839 the furniture, library and apparatus were sold to pay the debts.

Miss Peabody—Mr. Alcott's assistant—has given in her volume, "The Record of a School," full details of the plan and scope of the teacher's system. It is dry reading, and portions of the diary are unutterably tedious, but for all that it is a good book to dip into now and then, and a very clear idea may be gathered from it regarding the school-master and his wonderful school. You can also read in more spirited language, perhaps, the romance of the Plumfield school, in Miss Alcott's "Little Men," the scenes of which were suggested by the Temple school. The copy is faithfully modelled on the original.

Harriet Martineau was startled at what she called Mr. Alcott's strange management of children, and in the third volume of her *Society in America*,—an affected and conceited book by the way, and one which you will hardly care to read,—she gives quite freely and dogmatically her opinion about it. On her return to England from America she spoke to Mr. Greaves—a follower and early friend of Pestalozzi;—about Mr. Alcott, and enlisted the attention at once of that gentleman, who wrote a long letter and actually meditated a visit to America for the sole purpose of seeing Alcott and learning his views. He even gave the name of "Alcott House" to the school which he had established near London, on the Pestalozzian principle. Mr. Greaves died, however, before he could carry into execution his intention of visiting the United States.

In 1837 Mr. Alcott was the father of Transcendentalism, the moving spirit, the guide, philosopher and friend of the movement. He regularly attended the meetings of the peripatetic club which met at the private houses of the members from 1836 to 1850, and always gave it his warmest support and sympathy. In speculative thought he was a leader. In spiritual philosophy he was an earnest teacher. He was never the critic that Ripley is, nor the