

scholarship and ability always command esteem ; they must try that professional success may bring with it the same sort of respect that attaches to other lines of life. They can do a great deal for themselves ; but it is open to the Government to do a great deal more. Has it ever been pointed out before that every other calling in life has received that recognition from the fountain of honour which consists in bestowing rank and title ? There are many, very many, living schoolmasters as eminent in their own line as any engineer or lawyer in his—men who have voluntarily chosen the master's desk as their place of real work. The profession is a labour of love and pride ; they have brought to it those qualities which most adorn the business of a life—a genuine enthusiasm, the highest scholarship of the age, and the breeding of a gentleman. It is on such men as these that such honors as a title can give should be bestowed ; nor is it right, so long as men desire rank, that exceptions should be made to the prejudice of any profession. A Premier does not disdain the alliance of his daughter with a schoolmaster ; should he then withhold honours, intrinsically worthless, perhaps, that would go far to raise, in the eyes of the world, the profession of teacher ?—*The Educational Times.*

Her Majesty's School Inspectors on Compulsory Education, 1872-73.

Most of the Inspectors refer to this subject, and, with differences on minor points, they agree in holding the general adoption of compulsion to be essential to the efficient working of the Act of 1870.

Mr. Bowstead, after alluding to the great hindrance to educational progress, occasioned by the general irregularity of attendance in his district, writes :—"It is evidently one of the first evils to be grappled with, if we wish to carry out the intentions of the Elementary Education Act ; and, fortunately, there is great unanimity as to the remedy to be applied. All the practical educationists with whom I have been brought into contact agree that compulsion, in one form or another, must be applied. They differ, indeed, as to the kind of compulsion, as to the parties who should enforce it, and as to the manner of using it ; but all unite in calling for some compulsory power. The more timid would be satisfied with indirect compulsion ; that is, they would allow no child to be employed in any sort of remunerative work until it had received a certain minimum of instruction ; and if every family in the kingdom were an industrious family,—if every child were being brought up to earn a livelihood by honest labour, there might be much efficacy in such a plan. But what would it do for the little arab of the streets—for that immense number of children in our large towns, who have no settled occupation before them, and are destined to be vagabonds if not rescued in their infancy ? Indirect compulsion is, indeed, an excellent thing, and it may be most desirable that it should be extended to every species of industry, and utilised as far as possible ; but I hold it to be quite insufficient of itself for our present circumstances, and for the realisation of all the benefits of the Act of Parliament."

The Rev. G. Steele says :—"It is very remarkable to observe how completely thoughtful people of all political opinions have come round to recognise the necessity of compulsion. Even in places like Preston, which enjoys the distinction of being the largest town in England in which nothing has been done, there seems little difference of opinion as to the principle, but only as to the method of enforcing it. Local authorities here and elsewhere have delayed to elect School Boards on the plea that they expect compulsory powers to be put into their hands. This,

I, for my part, say candidly, I hope will never be done ; because, though every one knows the high standard of intellectual culture prevalent among Town Councillors and Poor Law Guardians, and their eminent fitness to guide the minds and morals of the young, I believe that Schools Boards elected for the express purpose, and from gentlemen who are interested in education, would do the work better. But, however this may be, there is no doubt that manufacturing districts, to go no further, are ripe for general compulsion ; and this great boon, I think, ought no longer to be a matter for local caprice or prejudice to grant or deny."

The Rev. C. D. Du Port, speaking for the agricultural district of Berkshire, quotes statistics to show "the absolute and immediate necessity of a compulsory law regarding the education of our agricultural districts ;" and, with respect to the results achieved by compulsion, where it has already been introduced, he says :—"I think no one will question but that compulsory difficulties have turned out vastly less, and compulsory successes vastly greater, than those anticipated by panic-stricken opponents on the one hand, or by sanguine supporters on the other."

The Rev. F. Watkins writes no less strongly :—"By the Education Act of 1870, all of a certain age are required to attend school unless some sufficient reason be given for their non-attendance. Every one knows that this requirement is not carried out at present. There are thousands and tens of thousands of children of school age who never go to school at all. There are as many who only go at times, irregularly, unpunctually, altogether unprofitably, who gain little instruction and form no good habits. Compulsion of some kind must be used for such children as these."—*The Schoolmaster.*

Piano Pummelling.

BY MRS. H. V. REED.

It is a matter of regret that Fashion should dictate that every girl, who is at all accomplished, must be a musician. She might as well dictate that every woman should be a sculptor, or every man an artist. Musicians, like poets, are "born not made," and while natural poets and musicians need much culture, the same years of discipline are worse than wasted upon those whom nature has designed for something else. It ought to be no more discredit to a woman to say of her that she will never become a good pianist, than to say of a man that he will never excel in sculpture or oratory. There are thousands of school girls in America, who are compelled to spend many weary hours a day at the piano, who have little or no taste for it, and to whom the hours of practice are almost hours of torture. It is true that the sway of fashion is so strong, that they will often submit to it in this case, as to tight corsets, without a murmur, and sometimes even claim that they like it ; but the empty, mechanical sounds that issue from their pianos, belie their claims, and prove positively that no years of instruction or practice can ever make them really good performers.

There can be no correct estimate of the amount of valuable time wasted in trying to force the art upon those who can never excel in this department.

Nature usually gives to an intelligent child some particular talent, which, if found and improved, will prove both rich and valuable ; but it by no means follows that every intelligent brain should be a music box. Many a Florence Nightingale or Rosa Bonheur has been spoiled by persistent years of piano pummelling. We know that