

XII. A LETTER CRITICISING AN EXERCISE.

NOTE TO TEACHERS.--In the plan of this book it is an essential feature that pupils should become the critics of one another's performances. Facility and correctness of expression can be acquired only by frequent and continuous practice, and exercises can be made frequent only when the teacher is relieved from the task of correcting masses of papers. Now, one of the best ways of doing this work is for the pupil to make his criticism in the form of a letter addressed to the teacher. It is only by reiterated practice that boys and girls attain correctness in the arrangement of the parts of a letter--in the dating, address, paragraphing, etc. Criticisms made in letter form will give the necessary drill, and as the scholars will always have some definite subject to write upon, the task will be done with pleasure and alacrity. The criticism need not be required to go beyond what the pupil has already learned.

We will now write a criticism in the form of a letter addressed to the teacher. The following model will show how this should be done.

The Exercise.

The sheep is a verry useful animal if it were not for the sheep we should have no close. Some farmers has them and get there wool. John Smith.

The Letter of Criticism.

Toronto, Ont., May 1, 1863.

Dear Sir,

I have to make the following report on John Smith's composition.

There *should be three sentences* in this composition, but it has only two periods. There should be a period after the word "animal," which ends the first sentence.

In spelling, I find three errors. "Verry" is spelled *very*; "clothes" is spelled *close*; and "their" is spelled *there*.

The last sentence contains a blunder in the use of the verb. The writer says "some farmers *has*;" but the verb should be *have*, according to the rule. "Verbs agree with their subjects in number."

Very truly yours,

Gould Brown.

To Mr. Richard Meredith.