

PUBLIC OPINION.

To my mind it is the moral education of young children—up to the age of fifteen or sixteen—that presents the most serious difficulty. After that age boys become more self-helpful, and their experience has given them a much deeper knowledge of the nature of evil. As they grow older, and their eyes are opened to the real state of things within and around them, the sense of their own moral responsibility in the conduct of their lives must become to them a real motive force, which they may resist or co-operate with according as their wills are wrongly or rightly inclined. But before that age, boys obviously need careful supervision as to morals. Evil is within them; but they are only imperfectly acquainted with its nature and modes of operation. There is indeed in the human mind an intuitive perception of the difference between right and wrong. I think one has recollections of such a perception existing from the first, however faintly, in one's mind; but this original intuitive perception is a very different thing from the fuller knowledge and realization of the nature of evil, which only experience and maturity can gain. And, therefore, I say that children fall into grave sins, and contract bad habits and tendencies which may handicap them terribly in their after career, from lack of instruction and enlightenment, and from the faintness of their sense of responsibility.

AMERICANS AND BRITONS :—The superficial sort of education which obtains in the United States, the undue pushing forward of young men and the relegating of old men of experience, coolness and sound judgment to the rear, have much to do with creat-

ing the conditions under which the Americans are continually blundering and making ridiculous, often dishonourable, fiascos that bring upon them and their country the hearty contempt of all who love fair play.

The system of education in the United States makes the people there superficial and frothy; the English system is the very opposite. In the United States men of mature years and experience are sent to the rear in business and impetuous young men given the preference. For a time and under certain conditions the young blood may make a stir and hum, but they lack coolness and judgment, and when trouble comes they have not the resources, born of experience, to overcome the difficulty.

A long continuance of these conditions in the United States has produced the national characteristics which render possible such regrettable trickery as has been exhibited in the Cornell crew's conduct at Henley and the two fiascos at New York.—*The Toronto Star*.

Police Magistrate Denison is of the opinion that the school system is being conducted entirely without regard to morals as relating to property, for so many children educated in the public schools are vandals who will destroy what they cannot steal, and are not forced to observe those decencies and politenesses of life which are really the best equipment for a youth or girl who desires to get through life easily.

I had no idea, and I am loath to believe, that there is such a general weakness and failure in our school system as not to afford instruction in honesty and politeness.