

have rejoiced to find a pupil whispering about his work, for it gave evidence that his mind was *voluntarily* commencing to work. The best sign a pupil can give of progress is a spirit of inquiry. I am careful never to repress it when once it begins to be active. Frequently I have been obliged to quietly hint in a private way that he must be careful about his S's, suggesting that they are hissing sibilants. Generally this is sufficient, but if not I talk to him alone, being very careful to keep his confidence, and urge on the spirit of inquiry awakened into activity.

Some teachers seem to be more anxious to keep order and stop whispering, than rousing into action the sleeping energies of the children. Activity is the only evidence of life. A whispering, and even whistling, boy is worth a thousand times as much as a sleepy dolt who hasn't energy enough to kill a mosquito. I have seen a dull pupil so perfectly trained by a "first-class disciplinarian" (?) that he would sit for five minutes with folded hands, eyes fixed on vacuity, and let a mosquito bite him on his nose, and not dare to raise a hand to brush it off. I wouldn't give a fig for such a pupil as that, or the twentieth part of a fig for such a teacher.

A teacher has something else to do than to spend his time in continually talking about order. I have heard such an address as this at the opening of a school:—

"Now, pupils, be careful to keep very quiet to-day. I am expecting visitors, and it would disgrace us for them to see any of you whispering. Don't laugh, move very quietly, and when you are out at recess *make no noise*. Remember our motto: 'Order is heaven's first law.'"

Isn't that a good maxim? I have always been taught that it lay at the foundation of all school government.

It is the most pernicious maxim ever posted on the walls of a school-room. The thought is right, if interpreted properly, but most teachers understand it to mean that classes must move in exact military precision, and that every recitation must be guided by the law of *suppression* rather than activity and growth. The maxim should read—

"System is heaven's first law."

The worst teaching I ever saw was in a most "orderly" school. Everything moved like clock work. Each question