

REPROVE GENTLY.

He who checks a child with terror,
Stops its play and stills its song,
Not alone commits an error,
But a grievous moral wrong.

Would you stop the flowing river,
Thinking it would cease to flow?
Onward must it flow for ever—
Better teach it where to go.

—All fact-collectors, who have no aim beyond their facts, are one-story men. Two-story men compare, reason, generalize, using the labors of the fact-collectors as well as their own. Three-story men idealize, imagine, predict; their best illumination comes from above, through the skylight.—
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

No less important than a resolute, sincere purpose, is an intelligent preparation for the work of teaching. One great defect in our teachers is, that they are too much inclined to avail themselves of the appliances by which teaching is made easy. Nothing is more fatal to good teaching. Let the teacher make use of text-book, manuals, and the like, to simplify tasks for his pupils, as far as he thinks judicious, but he should train himself to an absolute independence of them, rather than any easy use of them. An intelligent teacher will no more lean upon such supports, than a well man will walk with crutches. The best remedy for this trouble would be the providing of higher instruction for teachers. Am I unjust in saying that even the normal schools are not up to the needs of the time?
—*Professor Agassiz.*

—The practice of marking the recitations of pupils has been discontinued in a considerable number of schools in Ohio, and written examinations, usually occurring monthly, have been substituted to determine the pupil's progress. We have taken some pains to ascertain how this change has effected the daily preparation of lessons. The general testimony is, that the examinations are as effective an incentive to study as the daily record, while the greater freedom of both teachers and pupils has improved the character of the recitations. The teachers are less narrow and text-bookish in their instruction, and they give increased personal attention to those pupils

who are not doing satisfactory work. Much, of course, depends on the spirit of the school and the manner in which the teachers do their work. When the time of examinations is announced several days in advance, and the intervening time is devoted to the special preparation of the class for the ordeal, pupils learn to depend on this cramming, and there is less faithfulness in daily study. Examinations are most constant and effective as an incentive when they are held without previous notice and are made a test of the pupils' daily work. They are a poor incentive when the vigorous crammer stands higher than the faithful student.
—*National Teacher.*

MORE CAREFUL WORK.—The characteristic element of modern science is the quantitative element. We want careful work everywhere; we want analysis; we want measurement; we want exact comparison; we want the universal recognition of the absolute value of the truth, and the relative worthlessness of anything short of it. We want the courage and devotion that perseveres in the dark, having an abiding faith that afterward there shall be light. You remember how corals grow. The reef is not a building constructed by them; it is their own life that crystalizes within them, and it is left behind them as they climb upward toward the light. And as they climb, the seabottom sinks beneath them, and the surface, only a short distance below which they can live, seems doubtless unattainable to their patient labors. Yet by-and-by it is gained, though the coral-makers die in reaching it, and over the records of their ceaseless toil appear at length the verdant fields and fruitful palms of islands that lie like gems upon the bosom of the sea.

So must we labor, climbing ever through the dim sea toward the blue sky and the perfect day, leaving our lives behind us as we climb. The great ocean of human thought grows deeper underneath as we ascend; we get further from the bottom, yet not nearer to the top. When we reach the unclouded sunlight, it will be to die. Yet in some bright hour of the ages to come, generations of men illuminated with knowledge and clad in peaceful strength, shall look curiously and reverently upon the foundation of their prosperity, examining the progress of our labors as we study the lives and labors of the coral-makers, and