

favor of girls' rights in this respect? The storms of penury and adversity would seem less cheerless and dreary to the heart of woman, if her mind had been more thoroughly disciplined by the hand of right culture. If she had not been educated for some ideal mission, some field of ease and comfort, she would be far better qualified to meet the stern demands of real life.

But it is an unpardonable infringement upon the rights of girls, to deny them, by false notions of popular sentiment, the thorough, mental culture given to boys. The design of education is to strengthen as well as to refine, to mature as well as to cultivate. Can there be any reason then, why the right to thorough and practical, mental training should be denied to girls? Look at the picture of human misery. Behold the sufferings of woman. Ask yourself how much of this suffering might be palliated and perhaps avoided, were girls permitted to enjoy their natural and imperative rights. There is a sickly, popular sentiment, I am aware, which regards ignorance and indifference in regard to all the practical duties of life, as positive proof of female delicacy. This sentiment would have the course of study for girls, very delicately carved and very carefully pursued. Let them pay much attention to the "fine arts." Let them not be required to deal with the stern and difficult in the pathway of knowledge.

Thus they rapidly advance to womanhood, plants of tender growth, fit only for the green-house of affluence and luxury, and not able to withstand one ray from the full orb of life, or the tempests which ever and anon sweep through its dark ravines. No one must infer from this, that the "fine arts" can be pursued too attentively. The fault is not that the beautiful is studied too much, but the forms of beauty do not assume proper strength. Other things of equal importance are sadly neglected. The right to study the beautiful is the common inheritance of the girls and boys. If a thorough course of mathematical study is best adapted to call into systematic life the powers of mind, why should this be denied to the girls? And if music, painting, &c., are calculated to soften and refine human nature, why should it be esteemed a matter of indifference whether boys study them or not?

There are very few departments of science, which are of practical value to any body, improper for woman to be acquainted with. The legitimate province of education is to lead the human mind into all the mysteries of art and science.

Another right may be mentioned. I am very certain that the right of girls to be educated with boys is "inalienable" and imperative. The home circle is very incomplete without brothers and sisters. There are deep and pure fountains in the human heart, which these relations alone can unseal. Social life would be a comparative blank, without the mutual influences of the race. Every department of life, most emphatically, establishes that old, antediluvian truth, that "it is not good for man to be alone." Yet in despite of this, you will find "boarding schools for boys," and colleges for boys all over the land. And that there are fashionable boarding schools for young ladies, female seminaries, &c. I would not speak disrespectfully of any school, but I know I speak the experience of many teachers in saying, that it is many times less trouble to manage one hundred boys and girls, than the same number of either alone. Many of the "boarding schools for boys," breed moral pestilence and imbecility. There is no restraining influence which female character always exerts, felt there. And the female seminaries of our land graduate a multitude of weak and inefficient characters, fit only to loiter in the velvet walks of life. Very much of the roughness and impetuosity of boys' nature might be overcome or modified, by associating, under proper circumstances, with girls. Nothing is more becoming in the circles of education, than a class of boys and girls, sitting, side by side, upon the same recitation seat, intent upon progress, and alive with mutual emulation. And the teacher who can not bring all such associations under proper regulations, is not a master workman to say the least.

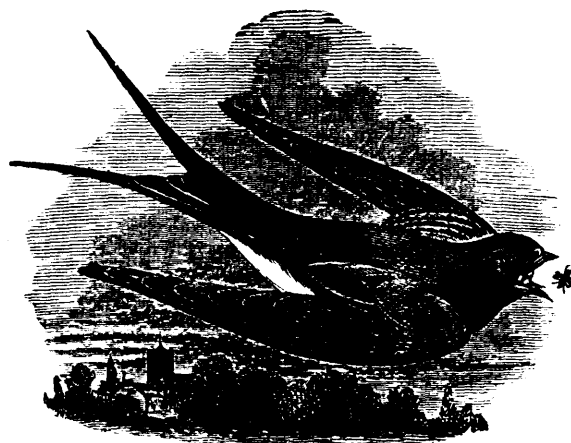
Let girls as well as woman, assert and maintain their rights.—*N. Y. Teacher.*

IV. Papers on Natural History.

1. TO BOYS—DESTRUCTION OF BIRDS FORBIDDEN IN GERMANY.

The destruction of all birds, except game to eat, has been recently prohibited in many of the small German states, on the Rhine, and in parts of Germany. The motives urged are these—wherever the farmers have killed the rooks, jays, and even sparrows, the crops have been less than where they had been unmolested. Very able naturalists have examined this, and have reported that the vast quantity of noxious vermin which the birds destroy, greatly exceeds the small quantity of grain they destroy in searching for the insects on which they feed. Investigation in this country has developed

the same fact. The destruction of the birds gives hosts of insect tribes a chance for life, and those feed upon the crops and cause a far more general destruction of fruits, vegetables and cereals than is



occasioned by the birds themselves. Now as the Spring approaches, and with it the time of the singing of birds, measures should be taken to protect these warblers from murderous attacks of boys.—*New York Com. Adv.* (See page 52.)

2. CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG THE GOLD-FISH.

Whenever you meet with folks who keep gold-fishes in the old-fashioned glass globes, you will be sure to hear the melancholy complaint that they *will* die in spite of every care taken to preserve them. The water is changed most regularly, the glass kept beautifully clean, the vessel shaded from the sunshine; yet, alas! alas! death is always busy among them. Is it internal disease? Is it external fungi? No; the cause is *starvation*. Every other pet is expected to eat, but these gold-carp are expected to subsist on—nothing! "But don't they eat the animalculæ?" Nonsense! Give them a few small earth-worms, or anglers' gentles, twice a week, and to prevent the necessity of frequently changing the water, throw in a handful of Anacharis (water-weed); and, instead of floating in succession "on their watery bier," they will get plump and healthy, and grow as rapidly as in their native waters. Some of our gold-fishes have been in our possession seven years, and have increased in size three times what they were originally.—*Recreative Science.*

3. SOUNDING SHELLS.

There are few persons who cannot remember the childish wonder with which they are filled, when a sea-shell was first placed to the ear; and the still greater wonder they experienced when told that the strange resonance which they heard was the roar of the sea; this being the common explanation given to children. There are, doubtless, many adult persons who do not know the phenomena of the sounding shell. It is caused by its hollow form and polished surface; these enable it to receive and return the beatings of all the sounds which tremble in the air that surrounds it.

4. NATURAL COMPASS.

In the vast prairies of Texas, a little plant is found, which, under all circumstances of climate, change of weather, rain, frost, or sunshine, invariably turns its leaves and flowers to the north. If a solitary traveller be making his way across those wilds, without a star to guide or compass to direct him, he finds a monitor in this humble plant, and follows its guidance, certain that it will not mislead him.

5. AGRICULTURAL DISTRIBUTION BY THE U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

The Patent office has ready for distribution over 30,000 well-rooted tea plants; 12,000 foreign and domestic grape-vines; 900 rooted seedless pomegranate cuttings, and various foreign, medicinal, and ornamental plants. The delay in distribution has been owing to the reduced appropriation made by Congress for agricultural purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860.