

it, and all will feel better and nobler for the effort so spent. WILL. HARRY GANE.

LOVE.—Love is an element connected with every nature. It holds the sway of a monarch, and demands entire submission. It is, compared to power, like the air to thunder. It germinates in the heart of the child long before it can lisp a single word. It is the very light and life of the school-room, take it away and it would be like taking the sun from the world. The quivering lip, the sorrow for disobedience, the trickling tear, the breaking heart, are all proofs of its presence. Oh, teachers, our great Master was all love; let us, taking a lesson from nature, carry it into our school rooms, in our smiling faces and glad hearts, and God will give us an influence that worketh like the midnight dew, or the invisible air. WILL. HARRY GANE.

"All roads lead to Rome," so all lines of educational improvement converge into one central object,—*the teacher*. The importance of other elements that go to make up a good school may be, and often are, over-estimated. No so with the teacher. The teacher is the school. How to secure to every school a teacher who understands and loves his work,—this is the supreme educational problem at all times and in every place. It is a comparatively easy matter to build good school-houses, and make a judicious choice of text books, and draw up a rational and sound scheme of instruction; but to furnish such teachers as are needed is a very different thing.

"John, what is the past of *see*?" "*Seen*, sir." "No, it is *saw*—recollect that." "Yes, sir. Then if a *sea*-fish swims by me, it becomes a *saw*-fish when it is *past*, and can't be *seen*." . . . The most original spelling we have ever seen is the following. It beats phonetics. So you be—a tub. So oh! pea—a top. Be so—bat. See so—cat. Pea so—pat. Are so—rat. See a double ell—call. . . . A noted wag in a Western college one morning read a theme of unusual merit. The president being suspicious, asked pointedly if it was original. "Why, yes, sir," was the reply, "it had original over it in the paper I took it from." . . . A new verb to express the sudden access to heat in the atmosphere has been invented—"It *Vesuviates*." . . . Compulsory Education—Forced to learn a trade in the peni-

tentiary. . . . The worst kind of education—To be brought up by a policeman.

GOOD WRITING.—There are two or three things more or less essential to the command of a chaste, vigorous, and noble speech.

1. A sweet and hearty affection for nature. This made Walton the only classic of his time, and has kept fresh for centuries the noble wit of Chaucer. To this the soundest literature of all times owes that pure vigor which is as much an element of valuable writing as it is of all valuable thinking and doing.

2. True and high companionship. Nothing in many ways gives one such solid furtherance as occasional contact with elevated and vigorous natures. It teaches him, as nothing else can, the true excellence of fresh and living speech. It stimulates also by that greater bounty and vigor which lie back of speech in the strongholds of character.

3. A true and searching acquaintance with a solid and vigorous literature. The one fine and incorruptible test of greatness in literature, as in all art, is, that it should be simple and true. Remark the excellence of Montaigne. How simple the old man is, and yet how finely he appeals to one's highest experience. We marvel at his plainness, and yet gradually as we read him, we find that he is master of all the finer and solid elements of style.

But adopting the language of advice, let us compress all this into a few clear sentences, which will better cleave to the memory: Read noble books. Learn to love high and sincere art.

Study, if in a vigorous and heroic mood, or if you wish to be put in one, the more modern Emerson. Here, certainly, is a true writer, and one who writes only to true readers. How he fortifies us with his clean, solid wisdom, and how fit is the utterance he gives it. Read for a fine example of scientific style, the clear, full-brained Spencer, and see how admirably this man recognizes the simple greatness of thought and speech.

The valuable thing in letters, says Mr. Matthew Arnold, a noble master of clear and graceful English, is "the acquainting one's self with the best which has been thought and said in the world." In this sense reading is a noble exercise, and only