

own intellectual discipline so as to be in keeping with their aspirations and interests, and cites cases in which political economy developed mental powers after classics and mathematics failed to awaken them.

—A recent French book on the United States illustrates the demoralization of our society by the case of a teacher allowing a girl who misspels a word to be kissed by a boy, and gravely adds that thus the girls have forgotten their orthography, while the boys make remarkable progress.

—Some nice words for a spelling-bee are in a late medical journal: "My mind still hovers between two conclusions, viz: as to whether it is an aborted specimen of cycloctuloid macromiacoordium, or a highly developed cryptococcusmegalogalocyst of a strongylopleuron batracholeucocopricon megalocyst of a strongylopleuron batracholeucocopricon."

—There is much truth in the popular notion that ignorance is the mother of vice; but it is certainly not true that mastery of the alphabet and the multiplication table will suffice in itself to create habits of virtue, and it may lead to just the opposite result. Knowledge of whatever sort is power, in the sense that it supplies new facilities of action; but it is a power which, like wealth or bodily strength, may be either used or misused, and its mere possession is no guarantee for its being used aright.—*Saturday Review*.

—A country is nothing without men, men are nothing without mind, and mind is little without culture. It follows that cultured mind is the most important product of a nation. The product of the farm, the shop, the mill, the mine, are of incomparably less value than the products of the school. If the schools of a people are well taught, all else will prosper. Wherever schools are neglected, it is a sure sign of national degradation and decay. The central point of every wisely-administered government is its system of education. The education of youth well cared for by a nation, out of it will grow science, art, wealth, strength, and all else that is esteemed great in the judgment of men.

A SNAKE DUEL.—The rattle-snakes of our own country have a dangerous enemy

in the common black-snake, *Bascanion constrictor*. In one of these duels, which are both spirited and deadly, an eye-witness, Mr. Wm. Kincaid Davis, of South Carolina, says the rattler was compelled to commit unintentional suicide in a moment of temporary insanity. When first discovered the rattle-snake was coiled with head erect and ready to spring. The black-snake circled about him repeatedly, being careful never to approach near enough to be reached by the fangs of the rattler, who, turning his head to watch his antagonist as he circled round, became dizzy and crazed, and finally struck blindly and straightened himself his whole length. The black-snake now ran across the straightened form of the other, who, feeling the contact, struck, and missing his foe, but biting his own body, died of the venom from his own fangs.—(*From March "Home and School."*)

—AN OLD TEACHER'S ADVICE.—Let the speaker here add a word to those spoke by his imaginary interlocutor. My brother men, hear the advice of an old school-master, who now, the class-room deserted, has other mission and pursuit, and must send his own boys to other men for their training. Choose the best man among those who offer; choose him carefully, after counsel sought from all capable to give it, and when you have chosen your son's master, let him alone. Pay, gladly pay, all that he demands for his hard-service, and let him perform it in his own way, because he knows how to do it, or ought to know, and you neither know nor are expected to have such knowledge. Let all your effort be of a preparatory kind in the matter of selection. And here there is room enough and need enough for caution; for perhaps the majority of so-called "professors" are utterly incompetent to teach, and are only professors.—(*From March "Home and School."*)

SCHOOL VENTILATION IN NEW YORK.—At a meeting of the Board of Education of New York on Thursday afternoon Superintendent Kiddle reported that for the month of February there were on the register 111,574 pupils, a gain of 5,271 over last year. The average attendance was 97,493, 3,623 less than during January, on account of sickness among children. Admission to the schools was refused to 290 pupils for want of accommodation. The Committee on By-Laws made a report that many of the

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