

laid out, and the studies properly arranged, the more labor bestowed upon the elementary part of each, the better will it be for the future progress of the learner.

Subjects which require a certain amount of preparatory knowledge, and maturity of judgment in order to be understood, fail of their object when prematurely introduced, and lose, perhaps forever, the power of creating interest in the mind. It matters not how important and useful in themselves such studies may be; they can be more advantageously pursued at a future time.

Thoroughness, therefore, *thoroughness*, for the sake of the knowledge, and still more for the sake of the habit, should at all events, be enforced; and a pupil should never be permitted to leave any subject, until he can reach his arms quite around it, and clench his hands on the opposite side.

It is of far more consequence to give the mind a degree of power, which it shall be able to apply to any future study when needed, than it is to store it with any conceivable amount of learning.

Miscellaneous.

A PICTURE.

In a school-room small and low,
This is the way the minutes go—
If you further wish to know,
Call, and facts will plainly show :

Eyelids drooping,
Figures stooping;
Classes listless,
Scholars restless;
Teacher weary,
School-room dreary,
Looking sadly,
Lessons badly;
Many sighing,
Some are crying;
Others idling,
Sitting sideling;
Left their seat
To pinch or beat;
Study loudly,
Answer proudly;
Circumvention
Claims attention;
Air is horrid,
Faces florid;
Learning never,
Sickness ever.

THE PICTURE REVERSED.

To a school-room large and airy
Hastens many a little fairy;
Floors are blooming all around,
Wide and smooth the green play ground
Boughs are waving in the breeze,
Birds are singing in the trees,
Sunlight streaming gayly over
Fields of waving grain and clover;
Some are shouting, some are singing,
Till the clear-toned school-bell ringing,
Calls them from their happy play
To the labors of the day.

Sunny locks and rosy faces,
Wearing childhood's thousand graces,
Bow in solemn silence there
While they lip the morning prayer;
And each sparkling eye is hid
By its fringed and drooping lid.
Softly falls, with holy seeming,
Love, from realms of glory streaming,

While each spirit eye is open
To behold some heavenly token
Of a blessing on the hours
They shall spend in learning's bowers.

Happy seems each little creature—
Happy, too, their smiling teacher,
While 'mid truth and bloom and song
Glide the rapid hours along.

Those young hearts are learning well
Nature's most enchanting spell;
Souls to holier life are bounding
By the influences surrounding;
Spirits plume their new-fledged pinions
For a holier home's dominions,
And in wisdom's pleasant ways
Fleets the morning of their days.

Connecticut C. S. Journal.

IGNORANT TEACHERS FOR CHILDREN.

"There are certain fathers, now-a-days," says Plutarch, "who deserve that men should spit upon them with contempt for intrusting their children with unskillful teachers, even those who they are assured beforehand are wholly incompetent for their work; which is an error of like nature with that of the sick man who, to please his friends, forbears to send for a physician that might save his life, and employs a mountebank, that quickly dispatches him out of the world. Was it not of such that Crates spake, when he said that it he could get up to the highest place in the city he would lift up his voice, and thence make this proclamation: 'What mean you, fellow-citizens, that you thus turn every stone to scrape wealth together, and take so little care of your children, those to whom you must one day relinquish all?'"

"Many fathers there are", continues Plutarch, "who so love their money and hate their children that, lest it should cost them more than they are willing to spare to hire a good master for them, they rather choose such persons to instruct their children as are of no worth, thereby beating down the market that they may purchase a cheap ignorance." He then relates the anecdote of Aristippus, who, being asked by a sottish father for what sum he would teach his child, replied, "A thousand drachms." Whereupon the father cried out, "Oh, I could buy a slave at that rate!" The philosopher replied, "Do it, then, and instead of one thou shalt have two slaves for thy money—Him whom thou buyest for one, and thy son for the other."—*Illinois Journal.*

WORDS OF KINDNESS.

Let all thy words be words of kindness and love; let kindness beam on thy countenance, and smile in every look. Friends will cluster around thee, and their pleasant greetings and smiles of welcome will make the most delicious music to thy soul. Speak gently! sunshine will stream around thy path, and shed a halo of light around thy footsteps, and perfume the air with their delightful fragrance. Speak gently! another world will be all sunshine—bright, golden, gorgeous sunshine—and though clouds may arise and shadows play around, their shade will only add a tender chord to the silvery notes; for shadows are but mosaics set in sunshine, and gentle words will give to them a gilding which gloom can never hide.

BRITISH RAILWAYS.

At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. Stephenson, M.P., president, applied himself to the great question of the British Railways, which were spread over the United Kingdom to the extent of 8,645 miles completed—more than enough of single rails to make a belt of iron round the globe. The cost of these had been £286,000,000. With regard to railway works, these had penetrated the earth with tunnels more than 50 miles in length; there were eleven miles of viaduct in the neighborhood of the metropolis alone; the earthworks measured 550,000,000 cubic yards, which would form a pyramid a mile and a half in height, with a base larger than St. James' Park. 80,000,000 of train miles were annually run on the rails. 5,000, engines and 150,000 vehicles composed the working stock. 2,000,000 of tons of coals were annually consumed, "so that in every minute of time four tons of coal flashed into steam twenty tons of water." The wear and tear was great; 20,000 tons of iron were annually required for repairs, and 300,000 trees were felled each year for sleepers. 90,000 men were employed directly, and 40,000 collaterally. These 130,000 men with their wives and families represented a population of 500,000, so that one in fifty of the entire population might be said to be dependent on railways. In 1854, 111 millions of passengers were conveyed on railways, each passenger averaging 12 miles. The receipts in the same year amounted to £20,215,000. As to accidents, on the first half of 1854 one accident occurred to every 7,195,343 travellers. How frequent, in comparison, were the accidents in the streets; how fearful the misadventures to those "who go down to the sea in ships!" Railway communication was free from the difficulties of the old road and canal traffic, and every obstacle that had opposed science had hitherto been effectually surmounted. The postal facilities afforded by railways were very great. Without them, indeed, the penny postage plan never could have been carried out. On Friday night, when the weekly papers were transmitted, from eight to ten vans were