

sarcastic, sneering student, he is perpetually exercising his faculty in this direction, and certainly in the school-room abundant opportunity is offered him, for there the blighting blight of his incredulous innuendos and festering scratches of what he effects to consider to be depraved human nature, have full scope for action. If the enthusiastic revolutionizer his soul immediately commences fermenting and radicalizing (as he considers it). Thirty or forty children, who perhaps never heard of a "crank," much less saw a live specimen of the very extract of one, are surprised and astounded by the most unheard of changes. Open mouthed, ear distended, neck stretched, and eye popped, the poor fledgelings stare helplessly and stupidly on while this prodigy of a steeple-chase-brained-reformer ruthlessly demolishes everything of value in the management of the school, and sets up his own haphazard and lunatical vagaries. If the hard pan, bread and butter student he takes the job up after the wood-sawyer plan—so much material to be sawn, split and piled away upon the shelves in so many heads, and he there to do it to the best of his ability.

Thus school life presents itself to each, and bears fruits accordingly. The first perchance, if he does not enter upon a work of compiling a new system of metaphysics, and commit suicide before some publisher shoots him, becomes at least a double-barrelled walking Encyclopædia, a kind of moving scrap bag of all the odds and ends which eight year old humanity has flung him. Our Second pockets his money satisfactorily, and with a chuckle guesses he got his own out of them. "His own!" Hungry-eyed wretch! If his pessimistic soul were able to comprehend or imagine it, would be the entire globe with a shower of Jupiters' coming down every afternoon, and then he would not be satisfied. Third sneers his term out and leaves the school, a rankling nest of bickering and discontent. Fourth—unless kicked out before his term ends by the disgusted public—leaves matters about in the condition of a badly regulated family at house cleaning time—a reeking pandemonium of disorder and helpless confusion. Fifth conscientiously saws his wood, does his duty, and, hence, satisfies not only himself but his employers.

But apart from all these particular experiences, certain general phases of it are shared in by all, and the student does not escape. Who is the happy teacher, who hasn't ground his soul down to the very last grain, trying to teach that proverbial dunce to spell cat e-a-t, and then wished for strength and ambition enough to take a last look at the sun, and leave the cat to somebody else to have him drawl out with the most unconscious and heart rendering innocence, d-o-g. What blessed one is there, who has not felt the truth of the remark, 'All men are mortals,' and didn't himself for that very moment feel mortally like throttling that class whom, for the last six months he has been trying to show that the earth is round, and then have them wisely and significantly ask if that was the reason people cover their wells? for, reason they, if they didn't, the water would all run out! And O, the ominous stride of the country school trustee. "How my heart trembles as my pen relates." His erudite swagger, his knowing glance round as if he comprehended every thing which had been written on the black boards during the last ten years, his own profound sense of responsibility—all are calculated to give the teacher a feeling as if the Arctic Pole were commencing at his head, and the Antarctic at his feet, and both were making for his heart, so cold does it feel, so loudly it thumps.

No student can accept such a position without having a profound feeling of responsibility, and earnestness settle upon him. He is dealing with young probabilities and great possibilities; easy to be impressed for good, eager to do evil if the example be set, but wonderfully capable of being put in a wrong direction, and only too quick to follow in the footsteps of a bad leader.

It is besides an encouragement of a very strengthening and helpful character to a student to thus deal with comparatively uneducated beings, for it vividly shows him what he himself once was, and how much he (sometimes despondent of ever reaching anything) really has accomplished, and by comparing the knowledge of children to his own, and then to what might be his, he is inspired with fresh vigour to go on, climb higher ranges of learning, and obtain still more commanding views of life's wonderful panorama.