

HASZARD'S GAZETTE, FEBRUARY 18.

the other goods left to turn labor needly to get my own home to do my duty in that case if life and to eat is his God to call me.

We cite these answers, because they exhibit a kind of instruction not infrequent in schools for all classes of society; and depending partly upon the natural tendency of the teacher to do, but more upon ignorance of the manner in which the facilities of the mind can be got at and called into play, and of the nature which can be got at special training in the case of some individuals. We do not believe in great stupidity as a common natural gift. Doubtless, it sometimes is so; but as we see among grown-up people, it is often artificial. The bad teacher complains of the pupil. There is a well-known instance of a girl who, at fifteen, was thought so stupid, that her father despairingly abandoned the attempt to educate her. This girl was Elizabeth Carter, who lived to be, perhaps, the most learned woman that England has ever produced. In boys schools it is usual to urge that a system must be adopted for the majority; and that any study of individual characters is superfluous; but good schools are much smaller, and the pupils are more easily subjected to direct personal influence. Their minds might be especially studied by their teacher with very little difficulty; if she only knew the importance of the work, and how to set about it; if she could withdraw her mind from teaching, and could try to realize what is meant by education.

The training of the feelings is a most important point in the management of girls, especially when much exposed, as they often are, to the subtle emotional influence of discipline. But most teachers are content to repress by punishment the signs of temper and other emotions, and then think that they have done their duty. Human feelings, however, are highly elastic, and will be sure to re-assent their power when such pressure is removed, and when the events of life call them into activity. This is seldom the case during the first few years after leaving school, often the sunniest period of a girl's existence. But, when this period is past, how many homes are embittered by foolishness or jealousy—how many illnesses aggravated by perverseness or discontent, for want of knowing how to commence the difficult task of self-government! As this is assuredly one of the first duties of life, its accomplishment should be the first duty of the schoolmaster. By this means, less trouble will be given, for example. To supply these, some knowledge of the mind's mechanism is required; but, where knowledge is wanting, its place can only be supplied by the delicate tact of the maternal instinct.

And if Miss Thompson inquires, as she possibly may do, what all this has to do with health, we shall be prepared to answer her. There is nothing so conducive to health as equanimity; and, in a life chequered by the ordinary amount of care and trials, equanimity can be secured only by a liberal control (not suppression) of the feelings, and by habitual and intelligent application of the art of temperance and discretion. To procure such habits should be the aim and end of education; any desired kind of learning will be sure to follow in their train; and the power to execute correctly Listz's wildest designs, or to repeat backwards all the questions and answers in Miss Maginn's book, is not to be put in comparison with them.

We have confined our observations to schools for girls; not because we think those for boys are perfect, but because girls suffer most from injurious influences such as we have endeavored to describe.

GLEANINGS FROM ENGLISH PAPERS.

PROPOSED SURF CANAL FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.—While we have been knocking our heads against the North Pole, the narrow isthmus which separates the two continents of America remains but little known, partially explored, and the right of way disputed. Of what incalculable service to mankind would it have been had a few millions been devoted to dredging a passage through the American isthmus! This we have not done, while we have wasted hundreds of millions upon powder and ball, gunships and shells. Such expenditure must, we are well aware, still take place. Whatever the Peace Party may say, we are still far enough removed from the time when the smiling infant shall lay its hand with impunity upon the spiced snuff, or Russian diplomats cease to covet the right of territory. Let us do what is necessary for ourselves, and let the world do the same, upon which the empire depends, but at the same time, when we turn our thoughts aside to works of peace, of science, of discovery, to great enterprises in foreign lands, and to the welfare of man, and necessary work, we shall pass through the isthmus as a point of convenience unimpeded.

The narrow isthmus between the north of South America and the Pacific Ocean communicates with the Nicaraguan Lake to that of the Atrato which falls into the Gulf of Darien and is broken, but at some point or another, into English, American and French engineers are keeping themselves vanquished, it should be done. The scheme has been almost entirely in the hands of projectors; it has not been annexed to the map of the continent, and common sense. Some 100,000,000 dollars have from time to time been brought together, some of them apparently commanding a large sum for the work, but at some point or another, the plan seems to stand forth, but, save as a matter of curiosity and sport, of course, the immature plan which was to be carried out by a union of English and American capital; this dropped through other causes. At length arrived when this matter should be taken into serious consideration as a work to do. First, there is the practicability ascertained,—will it go?—and, secondly, will it be profitable. It is to be seen whether the cost of the project will be so great as to make it a loss, or whether the profits will be sufficient to cover the expenses.

Third, there is the practicability ascertained,—

“Will it be profitable?”

“Will it be profitable?”</p