

civilized world will cease and their population will desert them.—*Prof. Morris Loeb, in the Educational Review for March.*

OUR SCHOOL.—That is a good school where each pupil is made to feel that something of its prosperity

depends on him. When he comes to it in the morning and leaves it at night as a man leaves his store or his office, having interest there, he is sure to be benefited; he also confers benefits. It is a happy faculty to make all the pupils help carry the burdens and pleasures of the school.—*School Journal.*

### OUR COMMON SCHOOLS AND FARMERS.

THE difficulty with agriculture is twofold—farming does not pay, and farm life is not attractive. The result is that our population, which one hundred years ago was ninety per cent. agricultural, is now but little over sixty per cent. such; and the ratio is increasing. The first great break with barbarism was when land tilling began to create permanent homes and the home instinct; and the next was when each family could have its separate house and its individual tastes. Any reaction toward the herding instinct is a movement backward. It was Jefferson's profound conviction that agriculture must underlie a republican government as the basis of prosperity. "The American people," he said, "will remain virtuous as long as agriculture is our principal object. When we get to be piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as they." But farming does pay; it is paying, that is, in right hands with right methods. So long as any race holds to old-fashioned culture and methods of life, all goes well; but by-and-by the new ideas and new methods are inevitable, and there is a lack of something. They are unable to readjust themselves to the new order. But

we cannot expect to resurrect the eighteenth century. We must find out our difficulty, and that is, as I shall aim to show, that our common school education is almost precisely what it was one hundred years ago, and in no way fitted to the other revolutions in farm life.

Our fathers on the farm were producers in the main for home consumption. Each homestead was expected to be self-supporting, or nearly so. But to-day the farmer everywhere is a trader. In Dakota he raises his truck for Chicago, his wheat for London, his corn for New York. On the other hand, he buys his fuel, lights, clothes, most of his food and his comforts. This flings him in with the world of speculators and adventurers. On the old plan the farmer was everywhere moderately successful. He was educated for that style of work and to be content with that style of life. Now machinery has elbowed him out of his pride, skill and art; and his wife also is left without her craft. He no longer swings his scythe with pride, or his axe with rhythm. She does not sew and knit. The change involves new needs, new desires, new methods. It is impossible to make the farm universally profitable on such a system. The bot-