

indicate that there has been a constant advance from lower to higher types, and hence that forms of which these are descendants, had already been in existence. Traces, indeed of the latter are to be found in the earlier rocks, and under the influence of changing conditions, migrations, etc., were subject to the general law of development. Still the life of the era, as we find it displayed on our old Cambrian beach, was essentially *embryonic*, and only prophetic of what was yet to come. Of the development thus prophesied, both in the physiography and in the life of the globe, we shall speak in later articles.

A word with our boys—with those who think it is a manly thing to step up to a bar and take a drink,—with those who think their systems require a stimulant. Boys, it is a mistake. Drinking will not make a man out of you, but it will rob you of your manhood; it will rob you of your self-respect; it will rob you of your friends; it will rob you of the promotion in the world that might be your's; it will rob your family of the bread that should be their's; it will rob you of all that is beautiful and elevating in life, and will give you nothing in return except a wrecked career and an early, miserable grave. This is no fancy sketch; it is not intended as a temperance sermon, either. It is intended simply as a practical, every-day illustration of what indulgence in strong drink will do. It is published with a view to saving some boy or some young man from the awful consequences of a folly that too often is entered upon without consideration, and which leads to ruin in nine cases out of ten.—*The Beacon*.

Teachers who are not altogether sure of the value of cramming may derive some comfort from the following from the *London Teacher*: Cramming in the sense of loading the mind with a mass of words which have no clear and definite ideas to correspond with them is silly, but cramming in the sense of mastering a series of understood facts which an examiner may require is a sensible precaution.

Many of our teachers present incidentally the value of kindness to animals, but the teachers of the public schools of Chicago have been ordered to set aside half an hour in each week for that purpose.

The Passenger Pigeon.

BY W. LOCHHEAD.

Not many years ago the passenger pigeon was a very common bird, and great flocks, comprising hundreds of thousands, were often observed during their periods of flight. Its range extended along Eastern North America, as far west as the Mississippi valley and northward to Hudson Bay. It nested in the northern portions of its range. Now, however, it is so rare that there are doubts as to its very existence in America.

The cause of the disappearance of such useful, beautiful, tender-voiced birds in the course of a single generation is not far to seek. They were thoughtlessly slaughtered by the thousands, in order to provide sport and food for a few days. It is stated by a trustworthy eye-witness that "people would come from all parts of the country with wagons, axes, beds and cooking utensils, camping on the ground with their families for days, where they could plunder the nests of the roosts of the vast army of passenger pigeons." Accordingly, the passenger pigeon has gone the way of the buffalo which existed once in countless numbers on the prairies of the west,—awful examples of the work of destruction of people who had no thought of tomorrow.

An effort is now being made by persons interested in the preservation of such a fine bird to save it from utter extinction if there be any alive. At a recent meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union the matter was brought up by Prof. C. F. Hodge, of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and as a result of the discussion that followed Colonel Kuser offered an award of \$300 for the first information of a nesting pair of wild passenger pigeons *undisturbed*. Before this award will be paid, such information, exclusive and confidential, must be furnished as will enable a committee of expert ornithologists to visit the nest and confirm the finding. If the nest and parent birds are found *undisturbed* the award will be promptly paid, through Prof. Hodge. The object of this generous award is to induce a search for nesting passenger pigeons throughout the length and breadth of Canada and the United States; and when they are found to organize adequate protective work through legislation and warden service, so that the birds may be permitted to feed in absolute safety