

to tread the common paths of life. Work is the lot of all ; it was the command to Adam that he was to care for the garden in which he was placed. How shall man's work be hallowed ? That is the problem that must stand before the teacher, not to show how work can be avoided. The man who addressed a large school of boys and urged them to study hard or they would have to work for a living was all wrong. He might have justly told them they would all have to work, but by knowledge and by trained minds they could choose that kind which would be most appropriate, and that is about all.

In this busy on-rushing world what is it that sustains mankind ? The main object put before our youth out of school is unfortunately money. Too often those who address schools speak of men who started in life with nothing and ended with a million. But if this were a great accomplishment it is in the reach of but few ; labor all must, whether much or little be reached. In the battle of life it is spiritual upholding that men need ; no matter in what path the boy's steps may wander, how long and severe, or how short the hours he may labor ; how few the things he may own or how abundant his possessions he will need to feel that life, his life, is a mission.

This is not so stated to demand that religious forms have a place in the school. When it is seen how poorly attended the churches are it will be apparent that religious forms fail to satisfy the heart of man. It is the spiritual nature of the child that must be addressed, and it is in this that the schools fail ; they aim at figures, but that is but the means to the high end of cultivating the spirit. The teacher who looks at a class become perfect in the multiplication table and finds in himself a glow of satisfaction should be startled. He is not there for that. The "little flower in the crannied wall" is there for a spiritual purpose, and so the teacher is in the school for something more than to teach addition.

If, then, the boy goes to the plough from his Fourth Reader that has given his imagination some glimpses of another world in an extract from the Nibelungen days, let it not be counted as a loss of time ; let the opportunity be welcomed and seized to impress his spiritual nature ; give wings to his spirit and cause his heart to beat rhythmically to high aspirations. It is possible to impregnate him with an idea which, like the music imprisoned in the strings of an instrument and set free by the touch of the artist, may be expanded by influences of the lilies of the field and the stars in the heavens and dominate his entire life.