

sweeter contemplation of her surroundings. The charities of Christ are sweeter to the soul than the mockeries of Mephistopheles. It is more refreshing to think kindly than to judge sternly; and with our almost innumerable deficiencies it is but the mocking of life to cast the stones of illiberality beneath our neighbor's feet. Dreaming by the side of his much-loved Avonmore, the poet whose bones now rest in St. Jerome, sang:

"And, oh, it were a kindly deed
 "To show before mankind,
 "How every race and every creed
 "May be by love combined—
 "May be combined, yet not forget
 "The fountains whence they rose,
 "As filled by many a rivulet
 "The lordly Shannon flows.

Peace to thy ashes, Davis, for thou didst act the burden of thy dream! If the longings of the priests of nature, the poet-writers of the world, were realized how gladly would the heart of humanity leap, as the demons of strife were retired within their congenial shades. Then, indeed, would the vision of the future be the perfect image of God. Then indeed would the law of life be the measure of a limitless liberality, of an all-embracing charity, for even as heroism is, at once the purchase-price and crown of fidelity so is generosity to our fellows the ransom of the peoples, and the immortal wreath to crown the brows of the nations bound in love.

JAMES J. GAHAN.

A Hint to Teachers.

Courtesy of manner is one of the greatest essentials to a teacher or any one who aims at success in guiding children on the road to knowledge. Not that they should go through all the formulas that Chesterfield lays down as essential to intercourse between ladies and gentlemen; but they must show a studied kindness for their welfare, and a regard for their feelings, which is shewn to far too little an extent. And there is a great deal in the tact which leads children to think that they are having their own way. It is easy for a teacher to say that a child must and shall; but it always leaves a trace of rebellion long after the hard words are spoken, and the will of superior force and years has been carried into effect. But it will be found far easier to adapt yourself to means and dispositions, and be kind and gentle, and deferential to wills that are quite as strong as your own, if not to judgments that are not as matured. Every parent and teacher should possess extensive knowledge of human nature as manifested in children. Sensible and cautious, they should know when to censure and when to praise, when to rule their passions, when to guide their affections, and when to direct and govern their ambition. Kindness of disposition and courtesy of manner will enable them to rule the young without difficulty. Let every teacher, male or female, therefore endeavour to possess those noble and amiable characteristics. In public or in private he should so act as to merit and win confidence and esteem, instead of aiming to show his power and importance at all times. Whenever he meets his pupils he should always recognise them courteously, with smiles not with frowns; with kind and affectionate looks not with a stern countenance. He should teach his pupils politeness, not only by precept, but by example. He should never fail to impress their minds with the duty that they should rise up before the

hoary head, and honour the face of the old man. The capability of a pupil should also have kindly consideration; and no attempt should be made to enforce too great a task on the young mind. In these fast days, when youth holds such undoubted sway, there is too little respect shown to old age. We are too often found in the place of the Athenians in the ancient story which teaches what true politeness is. On the occasion spoken of in the story, a number of Greeks assembled at an Athenian theatre. The Spartan ambassador and his countrymen were seated in a part of the house opposite to that assigned to the Athenian aristocracy. During an interval in the play, an old man, a citizen of Athens, came in whose head was white with the snows of age. The young Athenian aristocrats resolved to have a joke at his expense, and pretending to make place for him, beckoned that he should come over to them and take a seat. He did so; but when about to sit down, the unmannerly youths closed upon either sides, and reoccupied the vacant space. They then laughed at the disappointment of the old man. The gallant young Spartans having observed this rude and insolent behaviour, instantly rose and remained standing, whilst one of their number went over to the old gentleman, and kindly offered to conduct him to a seat. The old man, leaning on the arm of the noble youth, crossed to the other side of the house, when he was requested to take the most honourable seat. Having done so, the young Spartans quietly resumed their seats. The spectators in the galleries observing this noble conduct, loudly cheered the Spartan youths and the rude Athenians, now blushing at their own conduct, held down their heads with shame. After the cheers had subsided the venerable sage arose, and after thanking the Spartans for their polite attention and example, said in the language of the poet

The Athenians learn their duty well; but lo!
 The Spartans practice what the Athenians know.

Real courtesy should be the practice as well as the lesson of every teacher—true politeness, that springs from the heart, and arises from benevolence and regard for the feelings of others, not a hollow show and parade for the purpose of receiving the praises of their fellows.

A. M.,
 Teacher.

Our National Literature.

The literature of a nation is the test of its refinement; and in many cases is the measure of its greatness. Hence it is incumbent upon the people to foster native talent, to promote the advancement of letters, and thus to make an elevated standard of public opinion the guide and guardian of public sentiment. The ancient nations of Europe as they emerged from the chaos of barbarism and founded themselves in order and civil polity, recognized the force of this principle. The benign influences of Christianity softened the rugged passions of the rude warriors whose arms had overturned the olden philosophies and literature with the power of Pagan Rome; and as the flag of Christian truth waved over the hosts redeemed from Pagan error, the intellect of humanity, strengthened by the recognition of the One, Indivisible, Personal Deity, bathed in the refreshing streams of knowledge, which flowed from the sacred fount of truth revealed. Bursting the bonds of error, mankind revelled in a newer and fresher beauty. The coarse