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On Educational Training.

AN ESSAY, BY NEIL ARNOTT, M. D., F. R. S., F. G. S., ETC.

PART I.

1. In comparing man with the inferior races of animals it is seen that his great superiority to all is due not to his bodily strength or the acuteness of particular senses, for in these respects he is surpassed by many, but to his mind, with its great power of gradually acquiring knowledge of the universe around him, and of contriving arts to subject events to his will. His knowledge becomes power, and a man of cultivated understanding is as far superior to an uncultivated man as the latter is to a brute.

2. A most striking point of difference is that man can form and use language, whilst brutes cannot. A brute can know only what its individual experience may teach it concerning the one spot of earth on which it resides, and the one small portion of time during which it lives; but any man, through language, may learn what other men have known or done. And after the inventions of writing and printing, which made language visible and permanent, a numerous society, or indeed the whole human race, may be regarded as

forming only one vast rational being, with millions of eyes and hands, and separate yet connected minds, all laboring for the common good, and with memory which never forgets what has once been known. This great compound being has evidently yet the characteristics of youth, and is manifesting rapidly increasing vigor.

3. A savage man cannot contend in strength with the elephant or lion, nor run with the deer, nor see in the night like the owl, nor smell like the setter dog, etc., but the son of civilization constructs and controls, as if it were part of himself, the noble steam-engine, with force of a hundred elephants, if he wills it, to do any work; against the assailing lion or tiger he can point his fire-arms with instant effect; the deer or grey-hound is a sluggard to him as he glides along on his railway; the owl's sight is blindness compared to his when aided by his telescope; and with his microscope he discovers worlds of life and activity, where the sharp eye of the wren can see nothing. Then he goes on steadily making additions to his powers.

4. Such facts exhibit man as a progressive being, in strong contrast with the other races of animals, which have changed as little since the beginning of human records as the trees and herbs of the thickets which gave them shelter. Men, from a primitive state of naked, houseless strangers in a land offering them only raw vegetables for sustenance, have gradually by the use of their reason attained their present high eminence. The inferior animals were formed by their Creator, such that within one life or generation, they should attain all the advancement of which their nature was susceptible. Some wants were at once supplied, as instanced in the clothing of feathers to birds, and of furs to quadrupeds; others were provided for by remarkable aptitude, conferred on the young to learn quickly the use of their limbs or organs, as in running, flying, swimming, etc.; and where more considerable mechanical skill seem to be required, as by the bee in making its honey cells, or by the bird in constructing its beautiful nest, there a peculiar instinct was bestowed. Thus a crocodile which issues from an egg hatched in the warm sand, and never sees its parent, become as perfect and knowing as any crocodile which