

secured. *White, beautiful, fair, are adjectives.*

There are other particulars which the teacher should observe if he would make the subject of grammar intelligible to young children:—

1.—He should employ oral teaching before employing textbooks. By this means he can not only dispose of difficulties which are foreseen, by simple and familiar illustrations, but also deal with others as they arise, and which books cannot anticipate.

2.—He should keep back every rule until its necessity has first been felt.

3.—He should allow no rule to be committed to the memory until it has first passed through the understanding.

4.—He should use familiar metaphors where there is a difficulty in comprehending the definition of the harder parts of speech. Conjunctions may be called *hooks*: prepositions are *pointers* or *finger-posts*.

5.—Rules and definitions should be first given which are general; *the rules without the exceptions, and the definitions without the inflexions.* The great, broad, roads of the district are to be traversed, and the by-paths left at present for after and closer investigation. The larger and more prominent features of the edifice are to be made familiar to the mind, rather than each individual stone of which the edifice is composed.

Questions to which the above remarks supply materials for answers:—*What particular faculties of the child does the subject of grammar appeal to? Upon what previous question depends the question as to the order in which school subjects may be taken? By what method may Grammar be brought down to the level of younger children? Give examples of their method. What advantages does oral teaching possess over teaching by books? Enumerate some general rule which should be observed in early lessons on Grammar.*

Papers for the Schoolmaster.

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### HOME INFLUENCES.

HOME of my childhood! What words fall upon the ear with so much of music in their cadence as those which recall the scenes of innocent and happy childhood, now numbered with the memories of the past. How fond recol-

lection delights to dwell upon the events which marked our early pathway, when the unbroken home-circle presented a scene of loveliness, vainly sought but in the bosom of a happy family! Intervening years have not dimmed the vivid colouring with which memory has adorned those joyous hours of youthful innocence. We are again borne on the wings of imagination, to the place made sacred by the remembrance of a father's care, a mother's love, and the cherished associations of brothers and sisters.

But, awakening from the bright dream—too bright for realization—we find ourselves far down the current of Time, which, then but a sparkling rivulet, playfully meandering through flowery meads, has swelled to a broad and rapid stream, upon whose bosom we are carried forward, with the vast moving world, to the shoreless sea of eternity. Where are those who watched with anxious solicitude our early course? Where now is that paternal counsellor, and that maternal guide, and those kindred spirits that then journeyed with us? The former, "gone with the years beyond the flood;" the remorseless spoiler. The parent stalks lie withered, ere yet their sun of life had begun to decline; and before their offspring had attained maturity of body or mind an inheritance of orphanage and sorrow was entailed upon us.

But, amid the general gloom cast over the mind by the early removal of parents, there is sweet consolation in the recollection of their virtues, and their earnest efforts to lead us in the way to heaven. The teachings of a pious, though long since departed mother, are treasured up in the heart of the grateful child, as the richest legacy earth can bestow. He blesses Heaven for the inestimable gift of a godly mother; and resolves, through divine assistance, to attain to holiness and heaven. And even of the wayward child, how often does the silent influence of a mother's love overcome the stubborn heart; and the seed sown in tears, and with trembling, bring forth fruit to the glory of God! Honoured is that mother, and thrice blessed her children, who, in the fear of the Lord, trains young immortals for the kingdom of glory. May the mothers whom I address be thus honoured, and their children be thus blessed.