

These are the things I prize  
 And hold of dearest worth;  
 Light of the sapphire skies,  
 Peace of the silent hills,  
 Shelter of forests, comfort of the grass,  
 Music of birds, murmur of little rills,  
 Shadow of clouds that swiftly pass,  
 And, after showers,  
 The smell of flowers,  
 And of the good brown earth—  
 And best of all along the way, friendship and mirth.

At another convenient place in the programme you are prepared to tell them some interesting fact in nature. Best of all is the short story which you have prepared. You do not read it. You *tell* it and "to be a good story-teller is to be a king among children," so establish this coveted kingship on the very first day. The story should be one of the choicest and best you know. If possible, illustrate that good story on the blackboard.

Then let the children sing. They will be delighted to sing to you their favorites. As each song is finished, say something pleasant to them about the song or about their singing. Tell them you like it, that they sang it well, that it is a pretty song, who wrote it and what it means. Above all, find no fault with any harsh tones or too loud voices,—only make a mental note of these. They can be rectified later in the school work. Let the children sing on, song after song, if they all wish it.

The gymnastics and marching will be usually enjoyable if, in addition to the usual movements, you can show them other and new motions.

The drawing lesson, always enjoyed, should, if possible, have a place in the first day's programme. Carefully prepare some design which you will first draw, then colour, at the blackboard, while the children watch you. If uncertain of your ability, practice upon it several days before school opens. Your design should be very simple but effective. It may be but a stubby little twig with an apple and three green leaves clinging to it, but the children are led to see that the red colour in your apple exactly matches the red in that real apple on your desk—for of course there is one like it on your desk—and the green of your leaves is like the real green leaf on your desk. The children see that you had a plan and that you accomplished it directly and successfully.

Distribute papers and let them try to do the same with pencil outlining, ink and brush work, or water colors.

Plan to speak of some current event that is of

present interest to the whole country. Inform yourself about it; simplify the facts and tell them to the children in simple language.

In all that you plan to have the children do this first day, aim to have the work such that, while not easy, it can at least be done by all and well done. Tact in asking questions, assigning board work, reading or seat work, is required. A child dreads to fail outright the first day of all days. He is more disheartened than at other times.

A good teacher is a gift direct from God just as surely as is a good poet or artist; and looking back upon our own education we can trace our best work, our noblest aspirations, our very character, to the influence of one true and noble man or woman, and not to any one text-book or any particular study.

As the last child leaves the room at the close of the first day, and you sit in silence before the empty seats and think of the day, you will naturally ask, "What have I accomplished today?" Little in any text-book, perhaps, but you have gained and kept their attention, you have won obedience, promptness, accuracy; you have gained kindness, order, interest, and, best of all, most treasured of all, their love.

Is not this a good beginning?—*Adapted from Popular Educator.*

### The Beginning of a Western Town.

A correspondent writing from Rosenroll, Alberta, gives a suggestive sketch of the rise of a western town. The letter is dated about the first of May. By this time it has probably doubled in population and buildings. She says:

"Camrose, our new town, expects to be a railway terminus this fall. It was laid out last September. Lots sold at good rates from the first, but some that were sold for \$200 last fall have had \$500 refused for them since. Two churches are occupied and two others are being built. Modest little structures they are, but they form the centre of considerable of the life of the surrounding country. The two licensed hotels tell the story of another kind of life. Most of the two dozen and more buildings are business places.

"Camrose has a good site on a pretty slope rising from Stoney Creek. For awhile there was anxiety about the water supply but several good wells have lately been bored. Water was obtained at 80 or 90 feet.

"In the December REVIEW in speaking of the government support given to schools, there was an error. The amount received from the central government until late years was seventy per cent. of the district's expenses. This has been somewhat reduced. The money is paid on a different basis. Quite a large proportion of the grant depends on average attendance, equipment, etc. This is an incentive to provide good buildings, fences and apparatus."

B. E. D.