

XIII. Miscellaneous.

1. LORD DERBY'S ADVICE TO BOYS.

One of the most characteristic and excellent addresses ever delivered by Lord Derby was given by his lordship recently to the lads of the Liverpool College, at the distribution of the prizes to that institution. Instead of delivering a learned homily, as the place and the occasion might seem to demand, he contented himself with giving a plain lecture, specially designed for the good of boys who are not very clever, and who don't get the prizes. "Do not mind," he said, "missing the prizes; the race of life wants endurance more than speed"—the start is something, but it is not much against steady, resolute determination to keep on running. "Do not any of you be disheartened," he continued, "because you think yourselves slow or stupid, even though you may really at present appear to have good ground for the belief." It might seem to some people as if he were wilfully indulging in a paradox when he declared his belief that intellectual sharpness is by no means the first qualification for a successful career; but he believed this was the simple truth. "Talent is the edge of the knife that makes it penetrate easily; but whether it penetrates deeply or not depends quite as much on the force applied to it as on the sharpness of the blade." This was indeed a nice Christmas-box for all the dull and true-hearted boys in the College. Lord Derby went on to tell them what are the magic spells of life, and to assure them that these spells are within the reach of the dullest boy. "Training and energy" are the two words that must be kept in mind. The boy must himself, in the first place, learn the thing by which he means to live; and energy may be indefinitely increased by fostering good physical health. Without a normally healthy condition there could, as a rule, be no good work; and this might be secured and preserved, speaking broadly, by living natural, wholesome lives, by preserving mind and body in just and balanced proportions, above all, perhaps, by the avoidance of all undue hurry and nervous excitement. Mental labour hurts nobody, unless it be in excess; what does hurt is fretting and fidgeting over a task. The advantage is with the man who takes things coolly, which, after all, is quite as much a matter of discipline as of nature. Keep yourself well with exercise, remembering that they who have not time for wholesome exercising will sooner or later have to find time for illness. Work in the morning rather than at night, if you have a choice in the matter; have some favourite intellectual pursuit outside the ordinary business of your life; read books, so that if your existence is parochial, they may inspire you with interests of imperial magnitude; and if you are rich and not dependent on any exertion of your own for a livelihood, guard against the peril in which you are placed, for self is the hardest of all masters, and pleasure is a thing which comes most to those who seek it least. Such was the sum of Lord Derby's advice to the boys at Liverpool; and both as to substance and form, his speech might properly be included in a popular reading-book for schools. It was sparingly but effectively lighted up with illustrations. He told the story of two great statesmen, one known to himself, who had both at school been habitual objects of good natured ridicule for their slowness of comprehension; with these he contrasted the Cambridge wranglers and Oxford double firsts who are struggling for bare subsistence, perhaps at wretched literary hackwork, or keeping sheep and jobbing in Australia for an employer, who very probably can neither read nor write. He pointed to the German army, which won its great success, not by the genius of the few, but by the microscopic attention to every detail of duty which has become a tradition in that service. The close of the address was admirable. "Right and wrong, honour duty and country, benevolence towards men, and responsibility towards the unseen Power by which human action is guided and controlled—these are not ideal phrases. In all countries and ages they have retained their meaning. They are realities which correspond with the deepest wants and feelings of our nature; and no man will feel himself utterly cast down who can say in his heart—'Whether I am happy or unhappy is not my chief affair. What most and first concerns me, is to find my work in life, to recognize it, and to do it.'"—*Christian World*.

2. WHAT'S THE USE?

"What's the use?" is the common saying with boys in regard to hard, distasteful studies. They mean to do something in life far different from anything that will require their dull, dry studies to be brought into play. But, leaving out of the question the mental discipline got from them, which is, after all, the main object of study, these very things may be turned to excellent account in after years. "My teacher made me study surveying, twenty-five years ago," said a gentleman, who had lately lost his property; "and

now I am glad of it, for I can get a good situation by this means, and a high salary." A certain French king used to regret, with great bitterness, the deficiency of his education, when surrounded by men of learning and the highest culture. He reproached the memory of those who had been so indulgent of his idleness, and said, with bitter sarcasm: "Was there not birch enough in the forests of Fontainebleau?" Better a sharp strict master, who insists upon thoroughness in all you undertake, than a frivolous, superficial one, who permits you to slide over your lessons in an easy way, which you will regret with like bitterness in later years.

ALL right training consults the aptitudes of the mind, favours the natural bent of the genius, and charms the faculties into exercise. In the training of the young it is assumed that the disposition must be a natural growth, not a manufactured product; that every character has its own law of development; that you cannot deal with the lily as you can with the sunflower.

XIV. Departmental Notices.

THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

In reply to inquiries on this subject, we beg to say that the Easter Holidays commence on the Wednesday next before Easter, and end on the Tuesday next after it, that is, School will close on the afternoon of April 1st, and commence on the forenoon of Tuesday, April 7th.

CORRESPONDENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

1. Letters should be addressed to the "Education Office," or "Education Department," and not to the "Normal School," which is a Branch of the Department, having its own letter-box at the Post Office.

2. Application for Maps, Apparatus, Prize or Library Books should (as stated on the face of them) be accompanied with the remittance named in the application. It should not be enclosed in a separate envelope, unless the fact is specially noted on the application. Very often the application (stating that a certain sum is enclosed) comes in one envelope and the money in another. This discrepancy should not occur without an explanation being given in the letter. The Post Office authorities do not now allow the form of application filled up to pass through the post as printed matter.

3. The name of the Post Office of the writer, or School Section, should invariably be mentioned in the letter. Frequently letters are received without either the date or post office being given in them.

4. Letters are often posted and registered at one office, while another one is mentioned in the letters themselves. This fact should be noted in the letter by the writer, otherwise the discrepancy causes confusion and inconvenience in the letter registry of money receipts.

CANADIAN SCHOOL MAPS AND APPARATUS.

Sets of the new series of maps of Canadian manufacture are now ready, and can be had, by school authorities, at the Educational Depository, Toronto, either singly, in wall cases, or on rotary stands, embracing Maps of the World, Europe, Asia, Africa, America, the British Isles and Canaan and Palestine. The Map of British North America (too large for cases) is mounted separately on rollers.

Terrestrial and Celestial Globes, of Canadian manufacture, of the following sizes: *three* (hemisphere), *six*, *twelve*, and *eighteen* inches in diameter, and on various kinds of frames.

SHORT ADVERTISEMENTS inserted in the *Journal of Education* for 20 cents per line, which may be remitted in postage stamps or otherwise.

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