

singing, another dashes along, rumbling like a clumey wagon on a pavement, another has a style which seems to proclaim that what he reads is of little consequence, and proclaims, also, his want of efficient training.

There are hundreds of teachers who are very indifferent readers, and hundreds more who can read well themselves, but do not understand how to teach reading properly and critically. They read too little for their pupils, and fail to point out to them their faults—to point out the difference between good and bad, or indifferent reading. As well might a person be expected to make a proficiency in vocal music, without hearing an instructor sing, or a child to learn to talk without hearing his parent speak, as to expect the pupils to learn with any ease and consistency without an example to listen to.—[*Wisconsin Journal of Education*.]

Purity of Character.

Over the beauty of the plum and the apricot, there grows a bloom and beauty more exquisite than the fruit itself—a soft, delicate flesh that over-spreads its blushing cheek. Now if you strike your hand over that, and it is once gone, it is gone forever, for it never grows but once. The flower that hangs in the morning, impearled with dew—arrayed as no queenly woman ever was arrayed with jewels—once shake it, so that the beads roll off, and you may sprinkle water over it as you please, yet it never can be thine again what it was when the dew fell silently upon it from heaven! On a frosty morning you may see the panes of glass covered with landscapes—mountains, lakes; and trees blending in a beautiful, fantastic picture. Now lay your hand upon the glass, and by the scratch of your finger, or the warmth of the palm, all the delicate tracery will be obliterated. So there is in youth a beauty and purity of character, which, when

once touched and defiled, can never be restored; a fringe more delicate than frostwork, and which when torn and broken, can never be re-embroidered. A man who has spotted and soiled his garments in youth, though he may seek to make them white again, can never wholly do it, even were he to wash them with his tears. When a young man leaves his father's house, with the blessing of his early purity of character, it is a loss which he can never make whole again. Such is the consequence of crime. Its effects cannot be eradicated; it can only be forgiven.

H. W. BEECHER.

Punctuality.

Punctuality has been aptly termed the "hinge of business." It is a virtue that almost every person will regard with reverence as far as relates to the theory, and persons are always found ready to praise of its excellencies and advantages, but it is not every one who reduces it to practice in the business relations of daily life. We admire a punctual man, for we know he will regard our convenience, while he thinks enough of himself to honor his own word; and we detest an unpunctual man, because he often discommodates us by interfering with our matured plans, consumes our time, and leaves us to draw out the tacit inference that he does not hold us in sufficient estimation to render his engagements obligatory upon him. As it is usually possessed in common with other good traits, its absence denotes the want of other qualities essential to success in life. Individuals oftentimes through miscalculation, and imprudence in attaching obligations to themselves when they are aware of the probabilities of their inability to perform, occasion frequent disappointments to the persons in anxious expectation. The lives of great men show, in numerous instances, that pecuniary considerations have been sacrificed by them for the purpose of fulfilling an engagement. Blackstone;