

From the Common School Journal.

ADDRESS TO PARENTS.

Extract from a Teacher's Address to the Parents of his Charge.

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Yes, parents, whatever be that treasure, whatever be the object, or the objects which you most prize, around that object your heart, your affections, your deepest interests will twine. The efforts of your hands will obey the dictates of your hearts, and no labour will be spared to render the object of your love still more valuable and still more worthy of your high appreciation.

Do you hold railroad or bank stock? How eagerly do you watch for the amount of the annual dividends! You frequently meet with your brother stockholders to examine the security of your investments, and to concert measures for the advancement of your individual and corporate interests. Are you a farmer? How often do you visit your labourers at their work, and how minutely do you inquire of them at night, respecting their labours during the day. The market prices of produce are carefully examined weekly, that you may not lose by fluctuations at the weekly sales. All this is right. But still more; you are a *Parent*, and in your children you have an investment whose value no finite powers of calculation can determine or compute. How often do you visit the school-room to witness the progress of your children as they are advancing in their preparation for the high and responsible stations of active life?

How often have you sought an interview with teachers to inquire after the conduct and progress of your children in school; to inquire whether they are obedient or refractory; whether they are industrious or idle; whether they are making progress commensurate with your wishes and the privileges which they enjoy; or whether they are spending their time in idleness or play?

I know full well that your excuse for not visiting the school is a "*want of time.*" But, parents, is this a valid excuse? Reflect for a moment. Is it true that the most precious treasure committed to your care is your children? Is it true that their characters, their happiness and usefulness in this life, and their happiness in a future state are to depend, in great measure, upon their education while young? Is it true that your children are soon, *very soon*, to become men and women? that they are to form a conspicuous part of society? that they are to dictate laws, habits and morals to future generations? Is it true that they are possessed of powers of mind, capable of indefinite expansion,—powers that may be made the means of illimitable usefulness or injury? Is it true that these minds are destined to an immortal duration? Is it true that these minds, now in embryo as it were, are entrusted to your care to be reared up and fitted for high and responsible stations in life, and, so far as your influence may go, for final felicity? Is it true that the *Common School* is the most effectual auxiliary in aiding you in this important enterprise and labour? To these queries, you give your entire assent. Is it true then, or, rather, ought it to be true, that *you find no time to visit the school?*

Parents and teachers ought to be one,—one in their interests, one in their feelings, one in their aims, one in their efforts. They ought to feel that they are labouring for the same great end.