

independent and upright character formed.

People see their own troubles because of their proximity, not those of their neighbour because of their distance. How often have I found the sons of ministers declining to follow the sacred profession of their father, because they saw the hardships to which he had been exposed in finding sustenance for his family, and rushing into other walks of life where their temptations have been greater and the respect paid to them much less. The best public defense of a man is his character, and his inward support the consciousness of acting righteously.

Over against his trials the teacher has more encouragements than are found in most walks of life. They may surely have great and pure gratification when they see this pupil and that pupil growing like the plant in knowledge and in all that is good. There will be fathers and mothers showing deep gratitude for the care taken of their children. It is well known that children are not apt to have as much affection for their parents as their parents have had for them. In like manner, it is scarcely to be expected that the scholars should love their teachers as their teachers have loved them. Still there will be numerous cases in which the pupils through life cherish an affection for their old masters and show them a respect which is not paid in almost any other profession. In all cases the fruit of a faithful instructor will remain and go down to the generation following. The good which he has done will thus spread throughout the whole region in which his pupils are scattered.

It has to be admitted that the teacher has not always had the position in society which he ought to have from the important nature of his office and work. In ancient times

the work of educating the children of a family was often committed to slaves. In modern times the teacher has not always so high a status allowed him as the other learned professions. But I am sure that the status of the instructor of youth will advance with the advance of civilization. In this as in so many other cases, he who would mount up must climb; he cannot be lifted up by another. I am persuaded that the time is not distant when teachers of youth, lower and higher, will rank with the lower and higher grades of ministers and lawyers. The teachers should remember that their success in this commendable enterprise will depend on their gentlemanlike and ladylike bearing.

My readers would feel it to be an omission if, in speaking so fully of pedagogues, I did not mention that most of them are apt to have characters of their own—some of them eccentricities and oddities. Their peculiarities are apt to be produced by the nature of their work. They are rulers in their domains. The Queen of England and the President of the United States have no such absolute power. The teacher questions all his subjects and is questioned of none. The consequence is that he is commonly independent and is apt to show his independence. We have all known teachers who have been noted for their opinionativeness—that is, they had opinions of their own, and were sure to obtrude them in season and out of season. Our men and women of sense take pains to restrain this tendency. As they rise in the scale of society their sharp points will be rubbed off and we shall have fewer of those Dominie Sampsons who have so amused us.

It is to be understood that these remarks apply throughout not only to the schoolmasters but to the professors in our academies and colleges.