

portion to the ignorance of its followers. But, on the other hand, if farmers impress upon their children the importance of mental and moral culture, we may reasonably expect to see them intelligent and useful. It is supposed that three-fourths of the people of this country are agriculturists. It is our duty, therefore, as citizens belonging to that numerous class, to consider the fate of our institutions, government and laws, and the general condition of society, if farmers neglect to instil into the minds and hearts of their children the importance of being well educated.

*School Registers.*—Many persons suppose that it is of little consequence whether a register is kept in the school or not. If the Teachers do not keep registers of their schools, and return them to the committee when finished, the school committee cannot make the returns of the schools required by law; and if the returns are not made, the town will forfeit its share of the interest of the School Fund. Others, knowing that the law requires returns of the schools to be annually made, regard the law as arbitrary and useless. A little reflection will convince any one, not blinded by prejudice, that the law is far from being useless, and that it is a good one, and its influence on our schools highly salutary.

*Importance of the Common Schools.*—It is too late in the day to talk about the utility of Common Schools. Their general influence is worth more to the rich and independent, to all who are not immediately or personally interested, more, far more, than they have appropriated for their support, even with their greatest liberality. If the schools are poorly sustained,—if it is a mere formality that you appoint your officers from year to year, to be entrusted with their interests,—that you vote your money for their support,—then it might be well to try an experiment for a little while. Just disband your schools; burn down your school-houses; dismiss your teachers; call home your children; destroy their books; let the voice of mirth and gladness no longer be heard from these lovely bands in every district, morning, noon, and night; let these youthful minds, this interesting field, go uncultivated; and your committee are of the opinion that there would still be a harvest,—it would be a harvest,—and it would be gathered, not into our family circles of domestic peace, and enjoyment, and prosperity; not into the lighthouse of science and virtue; not into the treasury of public good, of intelligence and moral elevation; but it would be gathered into our jails, and prisons, and penitentiaries.

*Cause of a country's enterprise and prosperity.*—When the question was asked by a traveller from a foreign country, passing in the stage-coach,—“What is the cause of the enterprise and prosperity of New-England?”—the answer was given by one whose eye then rested upon the steeple of a church and upon a school-house.—“These,” said he, “account for the enterprise and prosperity of New-England. The house of God first, and the school-house next;—the one the result of the other, and both going hand in hand to enrich and bless the whole community.”

The mountain rivulet is bound for the valley, and the lowest place in the valley. To turn or stay its course you must make an effort; but only leave it to itself and its determined way is downward.