

## EDELWEISS.

Take, dear lady, take those flowers,  
Children born of sun and showers.  
Summer sun and winter snow  
Crushed the rock from which they grow;  
Strength of immemorial chalk  
Fed the fibres of their stalk;  
Lightning, hurricane and storm  
Shaped their pliancy of form;  
Gleam and gloom with varying sway  
Stained their petals ashen grey,  
Which, like loving hearts, enfold  
In the midst one spot of gold;  
Fearless head and steady foot  
Tracked the cradle of their root,  
Now a link in friendship's chain  
From the mountain to the main.  
Nurseries of the central sea,  
Each as fast I gave to thee,  
Lull the set sea, charm the eye,  
Bloom and wither, breathe and die;  
These, by steady process made,  
Shewy graders, slowly fade,  
And they bring where'er they fare  
Just a whiff of Alpine air.  
Lady, take these simple flowers,  
Emblem meet of sun and showers.

—Oscar Browning, in Macmillan's.

## INEQUALITY OF THE SEXES.

There are some well-informed but misguided men who think that man's intellect is superior to woman's. This appears to have been the contention of some unfortunate gentlemen at a certain meeting of the Ottawa Teachers' Association. One argued that, from his own experience as an educator, girls up to a certain limit were the equals of boys, beyond that limit they did not attempt to compete with boys. He acknowledged that there were exceptions to the rule, and named Miss Watson as an eminent mathematician. But another "lord of creation," also a mathematician, would not even admit the exception, and declared Miss Watson's work "erroneous and unsatisfactory." These estimable gentlemen appear to have considered their position unassailable. But a Nemesis was on their path. At a later meeting of the Association, Miss S. Stewart took up the cudgels in behalf of her injured sex, and demolishes the "lords" in a style that will provoke the verdict—served them right. We quote from her address, which appears in the *Canada Educational Monthly*.

\* \* \* Miss Watson died at the early age of 22 years. Under the circumstances, I think it was the wisest course she could pursue. Should any young lady present be turning her ambitious eyes towards the field of mathematics, I trust Miss Watson's unfortunate career will constrain her to desist. You ask, then, ladies and gentlemen, do I consider the intellect of woman equal to that of man? I go one step farther, and say I consider it to be superior. With your kind permission, I will present the subject in a thoroughly practical manner. Place a man and a woman in equally trying circumstances; say, for instance, that Johnnie demands a story, baby is fractious and must be amused, and there are twenty-four yards of bias ruffling to be cut out at one and the same time; and I am willing to allow your representative man to be the most thoroughly conscientious Christian man you can find, while any average woman will do to represent the other side. Who do you suppose will pass the afternoon with the greatest serenity of mind, and cut out the bias frills with mathematical accuracy? I leave the answer to this conundrum to the attentive listener. If you say the man has had no previous practice in cutting out bias frills, why I would not be unkind; I am willing to allow him to substitute the putting up of a stove for the frills. Take the simple operation of putting up a stove alone, and even with his wife's superintendence, direction and help, I would like to see the man who would maintain throughout an affable and polite demeanour. In the words of Betsy Prig, the friend and partner of Dickens' illustrious character, the immortal Snarey Gamp, I would simply say, "I don't believe there aint no sich." Again I maintain that in debate, woman is superior to man. Listen to an argument between a man and his wife, as to whose fault it was that the coal fire went out in the night. The clear, true and forcible manner in which the woman puts forward her side of the question will at once convince you of this fact. \* \* \* From a business point of view also, I think it must be admitted that woman takes precedence of man: Send a man

to match a skein of embroidery-silk or to buy baby a dress, what will be the result? In nine cases out of ten the embroidery-silk will be of the wrong shade, and baby's dress will be of a colour and texture that would please the eye of a wild Indian, and sufficient to clothe an elephant. When reasoned on the folly and wickedness of such conduct, he will, in all probability, reply, "Well, you should have gone for it yourself."

A woman can follow up a train of thought more clearly than can a man. It is raining heavily, and the new silk umbrella which Mrs. Jones has never had out but once is lost. Whose fault is it? Mr. Jones will try, but his efforts will be futile, to throw the blame on his wife.

Mrs. Jones will systematically, step by step, follow up that umbrella till she proves, and that conclusively, that Mr. Jones, deliberately, in cold blood, and with malice aforethought, loaned that good umbrella when his wife was on a visit to her mother. It will be shown, as a side issue, that this course of conduct, will, if persisted in, land himself and his family in destitution and penury. The character of ladies' associations is of a higher tone than those of men, though some men try to detract from the elevated nature of the proceedings, by making the assertion that sewing societies and meetings of a similar kind, which ladies delight to frequent, are but schools of scandal. It may be that a great deal of valuable information is disseminated at these laudable institutions; but, for pure unadulterated scandal, you must enter the arena of politics which men have so far monopolized. The character, history and private affairs of not only every possible candidate for parliamentary honours, but that of all his wife's relations, are freely discussed and commented upon. If we read the leading organs of both political parties, and credit the state of things which they represent, we will be forced to the conclusion that in our legislative halls we have not one disinterested statesman, not one patriot, not one honest man. If this state of things be true, does it not seem strange that men should take pleasure in publishing their own shame, and, if it be not true, it is not equally strange, that men, for such paltry considerations as office and emoluments should be willing to sully the honour of their country?

Macaulay tells us of a time in the "brave days of old"

When none was for a party, but all were for the state

That time has passed, and now we have the reverse of the picture—"Grit is to a Tory more hateful than a foe," and *vice versa*. Every man is for his party, and the state must take care of herself. If Diogenes could reappear upon the scene, to resume his fruitless quest of yore, and, if he have gained wisdom in the meantime, which it is to be sincerely hoped he has, he will seek for, and find honesty and integrity of mind; not in the ranks of men, but in a different quarter. A gentle and cultured young lady, upon being questioned by her father as to her feeling towards an aspirant for her hand, said: "No, papa, I do not wish to marry yet; what I want is a husband with lofty ideals, noble aspirations, one who will eschew all the vanities and frivolities of life, and strive to make his existence as a beautiful song." Her father looked thoughtfully into the fire for a few moments, then, with tears in his eyes, and in a tone of deep depression, remarked, "My daughter, you are but a stranger here, your place is in a better world than this." It matters not how much a woman may have at stake in the country, how ardently she may desire to see rights maintained, to see wrongs redressed—she may be intelligent, cultured, refined—all this counts for nothing in this land in which the highest ruler is a woman whose administrative abilities have been unquestioned: a man may be ignorant, uneducated, illiterate—able only to make his mark upon the ballot paper—his vote to him merely a merchantable piece of property, but he is a man, he must have a voice in the councils of the people.

If ever the time comes when politicians are single minded and sincere, when lawyers are truthful and honest, when ministers preach sermons only twenty minutes long, and when women have a vote, then, I think we may safely say that the millennium is close at hand.

How many of your pupils are able to sit down and write a business letter in correct form? This is something that they will all be called upon to do in after life and if you do not teach them in the schools it is certain that many of them will never be taught. There is pedagogical truth in that saying of Garfield's that the student should first study what he most needs to know, and that the order of his needs should be the order of his work.

## QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

(1) Would you kindly acquaint me with the name of some good book containing simple outlines for oral lessons? (2) Also, one treating of the sounds of letters, and word-building from sounds, and where I can obtain such books?

(1) There are many such works as you ask for, and his 's and models are to be found in almost every standard work on Pedagogy. Perhaps the best for your purpose would be "Object Teaching and Method for Primary Schools," published by Thomas Laurie, 12 Stationer's Hall Court, Ludgate Hill, London, E. C. Price 12s. The Kensington books, I. to VI. are also excellent, and have the merit of cheapness, costing from 4d to 1s. each; same publisher. Maxwell's Primary Lessons in language and composition, and Barnes' short studies in English are excellent works. They may be had of A. S. Barnes & Co., Publishers, New York. Price for examination 30 cents, and 60 cents.

(1) What is the object of lettering those three propositions in Smith's Geometry Book I. instead of numbering them? Why is the next one again numbered IX.? (2) What books would you think should be the first to be procured for a school library? A. F. P.

(1) Look at the Preface  
(2) Books of reference, such as a dictionary and gazetteer; then books of travel, discovery; illustrated works or natural history are next in importance. We cannot undertake to specify particular books. Write to J. & A. McMillan, St. John, A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, and other publishers for their catalogues, from which selections may be made.

(1) What trees incline toward the north and the reason therefore, and (2) Napoleon Bonaparte was made Emperor of the French in 1804. Please distinguish between "Emperor of the French" and "Emperor of France."

SARAH AUDE.

(1.) We do not know of any particular trees that point to the north. The tamarac and possibly other tall slender trees incline in the direction towards which prevalent winds blow. At least, this is the result of our observation. (2) Both Napoleon I. and Napoleon III had the title "Emperor of the French," the former having his title from the French Senate, sanctioned by the acclamations of the people, the latter by a plebiscite or popular vote. Napoleon III., by a *coup d'état*, overthrew the constitutional government of France. The former secured himself by his splendid military achievements; the latter, in 1852, appealed to the people, 8,000,000 voting for him, a quarter of a million only dissenting. "Emperor of France" would be the title of an hereditary ruler coming to the throne in his own right—such as the Emperor of Germany, and others.

To those who have opportunities of culture placed within their reach, these are the instruments of the divine discipline: "It is a part of discipline to put large opportunities in men's hands, and to leave it to themselves whether they will use or neglect them. There shall be no coercion to make us turn them to account. Occasions of learning and self-improvement come, stay with us for a while and then pass, and the wheels of time shall not be reversed to bring them back, once they are gone. If we neglect them we shall be permanent losers for this life—we cannot say how much we may be losers hereafter. But if we do what we can to use them while they are granted, we shall have learned our lesson of the heavenly discipline, and shall be, we may hope, better prepared for the others, whether of action or endurance, which are yet to come."

"There are in this loud storming tide,  
Of human care and crime,  
With whom the melodies abide  
Of the everlasting chime;  
Who carry music in their heart  
Through dusky lane and wrangling mart,  
Dying their daily task with busier feet,  
Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat."  
—Kelle.

"The longer I live the more I am certain that the great difference between men, between the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is energy, invincible determination, a purpose once fixed, and then death or victory. That quality will do anything that can be done in this world; and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities, will make a two-legged creature a man without it."—Sir Fitzell Burton.