

grouped together in classes, each one is stimulated to put forth more effort and to do better work than he would were each working alone.

There is another benefit derived from our common school that we must not overlook. It is a miniature world, where each must take his place and play his part as best he may; learn to *hoe* his *own row*, without asking *favours*. Scholars, by associating together, learn to form a juster estimate of themselves, and if this estimate is not always in their own favor, so much the better. An English nobleman tells a story upon himself after this fashion: "I had never been in a school-room until I was twelve years old, when I was sent to Eton. Soon after arriving I went out into the playground dressed like a cock sparrow. In a few minutes a boy came up to me and asked my name; I answered 'Henry Vance Viscount Southam, son to Lord Castlerough.' He looked at me a moment, took me by the collar and kicked me *three times*, saying as he did so, 'One for Southam and two for Castlerough.' All the prestige of rank was kicked out of me, and I learned to stand on my own footing. It was a good lesson, and no teacher could have imparted it better."

Our common school education is the foundation upon which all higher education must be built. The better the foundation the better the superstructure. So we see that it is of the utmost importance that the teachers should be thoroughly fitted for their work, and they should make each scholar a special study, so as to impart instruction in such a way as to bring out the best that is in him.

I remarked that our common schools are the only ones from which nine-tenths of the boys and girls will ever graduate. But their influence and teaching is largely supplemented and aided by the newspaper, the pulpit, the public lecturer, books and magazines, Chautauqua reading clubs; all these, and many more I might mention, tend to stir intellectual activity and to broaden the field of general knowledge among all classes, so that we in the United States probably surpass any other nation on the globe in amount of general knowledge among the masses. But we lack definite scientific knowledge combined with mechanical skill and training in the various departments of productive