

withholding incentives necessary to youthful encouragement and progress.

It must be admitted that parents have a higher interest in, and regard for, their children than can be felt by any other being. We are prone to regard the fathers and mothers of our pupils as if they not only possess no knowledge of teaching, but are altogether incapable of governing their own children. Indeed, teachers are many who consider the parent in the light of an enemy to the school, to the teacher, and to all forms of discipline, and who treat him accordingly. This is one of the gravest of errors.

Many of our patrons have never taught, it is true, and most who have done so, may know but little of modern improvements in the art. But both politeness and policy demand respect to their opinions. We are all of us quite slow to surrender old and fixed notions for those which are new and untried. We, therefore, need to wear the mantle of charity for those who are no more unyielding than ourselves. Children cannot, if they would, represent to their parents truly what transpires at school; and hence, from a one-sided view, parents may withhold from the teacher the support that is his due, and upon which his success so largely depends.

The experience of over a third of a century has taught the writer that nothing is lost in forming an early acquaintance with every patron whose children come within the teacher's charge.

Slightest attentions and most trivial courtesies open to us the hearts of others. The usual "good morning," and a pleasant smile are but rays of sunlight shed upon others. We cannot cross a patron's threshold without coming in closer relations to him, and awakening an interest that was not felt before. What though we take a morning walk of a half a mile to acquaint a mother with some important fact unknown to her, touching the status of her son or daughter at school.

If we are gentle and courteous, we shall certainly have enlarged her confidence in our good intentions at least, thereby gaining a support otherwise withheld. What though a parent, from an imperfect knowledge of our work, shows some disapproval of our methods of teaching or government. It is our part to show the intrinsic qualities of the gentleman or lady under all circumstances, no matter what transpires. The more aggravating the circumstances, the more serene should be our temper, the more guarded and polite should be our language. Here we have the best of all opportunities to show our self-