

To that, we owe the frequent applications for permission for a child to go home for a day or two; or to visit a friend; or to repair on Saturday to the city. All, positive evils. All, destructive of good order. All, weakeners of discipline. All, derangers of study. Why should it be so? The child goes to school to study, and be trained. The training is by atmospheric pressure, moral and religious. To let it up, is to lose its influence. It should never be, on the sternest necessity. What would a parent say, if every now and then, schools were disbanded for a day or two? Yet, on each individual child, the effect is just the same. It is common to suppose that absence on Sunday is unimportant. Quite the reverse. The soothing calmness of that sacred day does much to harmonize and to subdue the heart. And the order of religious teaching is a great part of the whole plan of education. Would that all this might be avoided!

To that we owe the unnecessary indulgence in spending money; for the most part, to do nothing but evil. To that, we owe the boxes and baskets of indigestion, and the like, that come in the shape of cakes and sweetmeats and nuts; to nourish selfishness, or to distribute head-ache. To that, we owe a train of inconveniences and disadvantages, which were long to enumerate; but which these honest words may serve sufficiently to exemplify. To the wise, a word is sufficient.