

unerring scrutiny by the pupils. When it gives cause for suspicion the respect of the people is decreased. Our responsibility in this respect is perhaps greater than in any other, for the plastic condition of the youthful mind causes it to yield easily to influences, good or bad, brought to bear upon it. A celebrated infidel has said, "Give me the first ten years of child life and I will make the world infidels." The way we behave, the opinions we express, the advice we give, the promises we make and neglect to keep, the threats we advance and fail to fulfil, all are duly noted by the scholars, talked about at home, and freely discussed before the parents; and the conclusion too often hastily arrived at is that the teacher is unguarded and unreliable, and scarcely the right person to have the training of the young at the most critical period of their life. In order to have the respect of parents it is absolutely necessary that we have the confidence of the pupils, for the child frequently moulds and guides the parent's opinion in regard to his teacher. It is therefore worth our consideration how we may be best able to secure this. Our school work must be carefully prepared so that we may be enabled to make the exercises at once pleasant and profitable. Our enthusiasm in the work of the school-room becomes infectious, and the children soon learn to regard with affectionate confidence the source of so much mental enjoyment. Thorough earnestness in teaching, preceded by honest and conscientious preparation, will rouse the dullest pupils to see that we have their highest welfare at heart, and when they realize this the effect upon the school is most salutary. Another way to win the affections of pupils is to take part in their amusements. I am aware that many intelligent persons strongly object to this as leading to too much familiarity on the part of scholars. There is, no doubt, truth in the well-worn saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt," yet I hold that we may engage in children's sports to a limited extent and no injurious results follow, but on the contrary beneficial ones. We thus become more in-

timately acquainted with their dispositions, we secure their sympathy, their co-operation, and even their admiration; for the pupils are heard to whisper, "I like the master for he is such a fine fellow at play." We should, however, guard against losing either our dignity or influence by undue familiarity.

In conclusion let me say that of all professions none is so important as that of the public school teacher. The moulding of the character of this nation rests largely in our hands; if we act worthy of our vocation it will be well with us, and well for the destiny of our country; if our duties are badly performed it is impossible to estimate the enormity of the evil that may follow. If we allow our qualifications, our integrity, our general demeanour, to come up for adverse criticism at every fireside we can do but little. We need the support of the parents, we need their sympathy, we need their approval, we must have their hearty co-operation if we would be a power for good to their children. Let us meet with them as often as practicable to awaken them to a sense of the responsibility resting upon them in the education of their children. Let us often examine ourselves to see that we are rightly discharging the important duties in which we are engaged. Let us be true to ourselves and true to our profession, and though many discouragements and petty annoyances may cross our path, we will never lose sight of the "Delectable Mountains."

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

DR. CARPENTER, in a late number of the *Nineteenth Century*, gives some interesting information respecting the "Challenger" expedition, in the shape of facts and reasonings based upon the results of his investigations. The ocean beds are found not to be of the irregular conformation hitherto supposed, but prove to be comparatively level, resembling, in fact, the North American prairies, or the South American pampas. The deepest sounding made was 4,475 fathoms, or more than five miles, which oc-