

## Miscellaneous.

From the New-York District School Journal.

### THE OLD SCHOOL-HOUSE.

The following lines are by Miss A. Randall, daughter of the Hon. S. S. Randall, of Albany, N. Y. Miss R. is not 20 years of age.

Where the silver brook went dancing  
Beneath the green trees' shade ;  
Where the birds that sing in summer,  
Their nests in beauty made ;  
Where the little path wound gently  
Around the green hill's base,  
And the vines that waved above it,  
Bent down with careless grace.—

Stood the dear remembered schoolhouse,  
Its lattice green with vines,  
Where the music rose up sweetly  
Through the bright leaves of the pines ;  
There the beaming eyes of childhood  
Brightly shone with joy and mirth,  
Undimmed by all the sorrows  
That haunt the path of earth.

There the silver laugh rang gaily  
Upon the quiet air ;  
And the voice of childhood's pleasure  
Was echoed sweetly there ;  
There the tones of holy worship  
Went up in prayer, above ;  
And the hymn in notes of music,  
Swell'd to the Throne of Love.

And when memory looketh backward,  
Through life's mingled bliss and care,  
The dear old schoolhouse riseth,  
A star of beauty there ;  
And when remembrance casteth  
On by-gone days her light,  
Those school days rise before me,  
With beauteous radiance bright.

### EDUCATION OF WOMAN.

A woman, whom a good education has provided with ample resources, says Burnap, can never feel the oppression of an idle or a solitary hour. Her house will probably be the resort of the cultivated and refined, and she will thus have all that is most valuable in society, without its vanities and toils. In such a home, so fitted and formed to develop mind, she need have no anxiety for the education of her children. Her conversation, and that of her friends whose intimacy she cultivates, will do more to educate them, to give them intellectual tastes and habits, than a thousand schools and colleges.

For after all, the best part of education is not the dry knowledge obtained from books, and maps, and diagrams, but it is imparted when teaching and being taught is farthest from our minds. It is breathed into us by the subtle infection of pure aims and lofty aspirations.—It is imparted by the electric communication of right feelings and noble sentiments. Nowhere can the mind gain knowledge so rapidly and so well, as in listening to the conversation of the accomplished and well informed woman.

The best part of education must be received at home, the education of the heart, by the influence of a sympathy with those we love, too delicate to be analyzed or defined. There we daily look into the souls of those whom nature hath taught us most to reverence and imitate. If there we see, as in a pure mirror the images of the noblest virtues, integrity, truth, honor, justice, piety to God and kindness to men, we are more likely to be transformed into the same likeness, than by any amount of eloquence or ingenuity.

The best part of education is that which forms the character and gives us just views of human life,—that we are not sent here eagerly to grasp at and tenaciously to retain all the advantages over our fellow beings that we can gain, to take our ease while others toil, to seek our own selfish ends regardless of the rights and feelings of others; but with disinterestedness, firmness, patience, and humanity, to take our share in the good or ill of all. It should ever be our motto,

"Trust no future howe'er pleasant,  
Let the dead past bury its dead,  
Act, act in the living present,  
Heart within and God o'erhead."

**LIBRARIES IN ENGLAND AND IN OTHER STATES.**—A voluminous and able Report on Public Libraries, presented to the House of Commons, and recently published, furnishes some curious and interesting

facts. We learn from an English paper, "that among the details in the late official report on public libraries is a curious map exhibiting the relative amount or provision of books in libraries, publicly accessible in the principal states of Europe, as compared with their respective populations. The proportions, are, to every 100 of the population in the British Isles and Holland, 63 to 53 books; in Russia and Portugal 80 to 76; in Belgium, Spain, and Sardinia, about 100; in France, 129; in the Italian States 150; in the Austrian Empire and Hungary, 167; in Prussia, 200; in Sweden and Norway, 309; in Bavaria, 339; in Switzerland, 350; in Denmark, 412; and in the smaller German States, nearly 450! Is it not sad to think that the British Isles, which rank so high above all other states in other points of pre-eminence, are here the lowest of the low? These figures are black enough certainly, but the map, which is scored with black lines—close and numerous in proportion to the comparative paucity of books or—literary darkness, shall we say?—gives a still more glaring relief to our bad pre-eminence in this respect. The British Isles are black as ink can make them—blackier than semi-barbarous Russia, while the one little bright spot, *par excellence*, is limited to the narrow outline of the smaller German States."

**HUMAN MIND NOT PROGRESSIVE.**—Much as we believe in the superiority of the human mind, as that which belongs to the lord of creation, we have no faith whatever in its natural progress. Who among the present great men of the earth, is equal to Moses as a statesman, Demosthenes as an orator, Cæsar as a general, Homer as a poet, Plutarch as a biographer? Every new general commences existence in perfect ignorance. The child torn from the bosom of its Christian mother, would be a barbarian if reared among savages. It is education, (and we would add the Christian religion,) which elevates one nation above another, and it is only the never-failing memory of the Press which gives to one nation a superior advantage for progress above another. In mental and moral philosophy, the world has not advanced an inch in two thousand years. In some of the arts, we are behind the past, while in others we have made great improvements. It is in physical discovery, mechanics, chemistry,—that we have made the greatest progress, and have truly surpassed the ancients as far as the east is from the west. When we look abroad upon the field of physical discovery, we see a fair and lovely scene to contemplate; but it is not so when we look upon mental and moral philosophy. Crime is abundant, and as black now as it was a thousand years ago. It may, like the chameleon, have changed its hue, but not its nature. Superstition has only assumed a different type from that of the days of old.—*Scientific American*.

**UNSECTARIAN COLLEGES.**—The President of the Belfast College says, in his address at the termination of the session: "a triumphant proof has been afforded, during the last eight months, within these walls, that united education is perfectly practicable and highly beneficial. Here, in the peaceful walks of science and literature, two hundred young men of different denominations have mingled in the same class rooms, sat upon the same benches, imbibed knowledge from the same authors, and not one instance has occurred arising out of the union of denominations, to interrupt that social harmony which leads the professors and students, now separating for four months to wish each other a most cordial farewell."

**COUNSELS FOR THE YOUNG.**—Never be cast down by trifles. If a spider breaks a thread twenty times, twenty times will he mend again. Make up your minds to do a thing, and you will do it. Fear not, if trouble come upon you; keep up your spirits, though the day be a dark one.

Troubles never stop forever;  
The darkest day will pass away.

If the sun is going down, look up at the stars; if the earth is dark, keep your eyes on heaven! With God's presence and God's promise, a man or a child may be cheerful.

Some thing sterling that will stay,  
When gold and silver fly away.

Mind what you run after. Never be content with a bubble that will burst, or a fire-work that will end in smoke and darkness. Get that which you can keep, and which is worth keeping.

Never despair when fog's in the air,  
A sunshiny morning comes without warning.