

Another thing I have noticed is that our teachers insist upon the "Thank you" and "Excuse me" firmly and gently, but fail to teach the proper response to these expressions. Within the last few years I have heard so often from the pupils in answer to "Thank you," "Yes'm" or "That's all right," that I have been forced to wonder if some of the child's educators have not been guilty of using these expressions just as I know that some of them use the vulgar "How?" when they have not understood what has been said to them.

Of course, an important lesson is that every favour received, should be acknowledged either in person or by letter. The thoughtful mother whose little daughter takes anything without the "Thank you," will be apt to say "And what does my little daughter say?" Some such kind reminder may come from the teacher, who must under no circumstance forget to thank a child for a service rendered. But even those who pay the proper attention to the spoken word of thanks are sometimes careless themselves about sending the written thanks. One who cannot spare time to write and express his gratitude for a favour has no right to accept it. That this lesson needs to be taught formally was brought to my attention this fall. At the expense of a good deal of time and trouble, I secured a situation for a pupil of mine outside of the city. I have since received no letter of thanks for what I did. I regret nothing but that as a teacher I failed to give a lesson quite as important as any geography or grammar lesson I could give. This lesson of writing a note of thanks for any kindness shown us, if taught early in life, is ineffaceable. When I was a child we had relatives living at a distance, who always remembered us at Christmas time with pretty Christmas gifts. From the time I could manage a pen,

my mother required me to write promptly my thanks for any presents sent me, so that I cannot now enjoy without a guilty conscience a single present I receive at Christmas until I have expressed my pleasure at its receipt. While speaking on the subject of letters, one of the lessons we must teach is that a business letter should be answered promptly and courteously. That there are those engaged in teaching who do not live up to this rule I have found from my experience as secretary of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Teachers' Association. That we are busy is no excuse for a lack of courtesy. We owe it to ourselves as a solemn duty to curtail the amount of work we are doing when it does not leave us time to be civil.

Another thing we should teach is that when we write for information of any kind to one not a personal friend of ours, we should enclose a stamp for reply. The envelope stamped and addressed is still better.

No pupils should finish the common school course without having had sufficient practice in writing notes and letters to fix proper forms of address, etc., in their minds. Good forms should become second nature. This afternoon I looked over the replies to a note that one of our teachers had sent to all the parents of the children in her school, relative to an exercise for Columbian Day, in which she wished the children to take part.

Only two districts in the city would be supposed to rank in education with this district. Yet I was almost overpowered with the thought of how much of the training of these pupils in good English and good manners would devolve upon their teachers. Customs change in some of these things, and the teacher who studied rhetoric a number of years ago, will need to notice the letters of bright