

regard to the truth of any sentiments advanced in the lesson. They may also be questioned about the meaning of words, their composition and derivation, about the name of the writer, and respecting anything else suggested by the lesson, that is connected with the enlightening of the child's mind.

The importance of intellectual reading to the children of this Country appears from the fact, that the government here is in the hands of the people. Unless those who have the right of suffrage have also intelligence, they will be very likely to abuse the right.

I have no doubt there would be more harmony on moral, religious, and political subjects, if the number of intelligent readers of books were increased. There are in this land of liberty, where every one has the privilege of reading and thinking for himself, very many, who depend on others to think for them. Their opinions on all subjects are derived from some influential leader, whom they regard as an oracle of wisdom. This is a kind of liberty that ought not to be tolerated in this country; the liberty of receiving our opinions from others, without venturing to read and think for ourselves, is reducing the mind to a state of slavery. This will, to some extent, be the condition of every one who is not in childhood and youth taught to read understandingly.

Said an eminent teacher in days of yore, "Were youth, while under the superintendence of parents, taught to *think* instead of chatter, the world would not be troubled with so many absurd and erroneous opinions, or such conceited matter."

It is true that all think in a certain sense; but that constant stream of thought that runs through the mind without any consciousness of effort, as when,

"..... in friendly chat,
We talk of this and then of that,"

is not the kind of thinking whose fruit is sound practical wisdom. Prone to mental as well as corporeal indolence, very many believe whatever they hear, rather than spend their strength in searching out "what is truth."

"To follow foolish precedents, and wink
With both our eyes, is easier than to think."

Unless the young are taught to examine subjects for themselves, by careful and laborious thought, they will not be likely to adopt correct principles for the regulation of their future conduct. They will be turned from an upright and honourable course by every alluring phantom, and whirled about, like a weathercock, by the breath proceeding from every mouth. Those who depend on others to think for them, are mere passive receivers of their opinions. They act just as they are acted upon, and become mere tools, to be handled by a few thinking and designing ones, who are ambitious to form a party and be dignified with the name of leaders.

The *rhetorical* part of reading consists chiefly in entering into the spirit of the author, so as to imbibe his temper and feelings. A scholar may read correctly and intelligently, but without any rhetorical effect. Perhaps it is not possible for every scholar to attain a high degree of excellence in this department. There are but few good orators, and but few good musicians; for a