

CHAPTER IV.

MISTAKES IN MANNER.

It is a mistake to scold. To do so merely irritates a class at first, and excites their ridicule and contempt afterwards. No person tells the exact truth when he scolds; and it is a bad thing for a teacher to get credit for making unjust accusations, or saying what he does not really mean.

It is a mistake to threaten. Penalties should be learned practically. If a teacher makes threats that a certain punishment shall follow the doing of certain things, he robs himself of one of his highest prerogatives: the power of adjusting punishment to the peculiar circumstances of each individual case. The very making of a threat erects a barrier between the teacher and his class which prevents sympathy 106