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IMPOSITIONS.

Having recently stated my views on "Corporal punishment" in the pages of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD, I am led by a natural process to think of another form of punishment known alike to schoolmasters and schoolboys by the name of Impositions or Impos. The title at first sight seems singular, and not very appropriate. Its origin is unknown to me. Perhaps some Master thought that by assigning such tasks he was in the strict sense imposing a burden on the boy. Perchance some boy may have conceived that on his side an opportunity was offered him of imposing on, or cheating, a Master by failing to perform correctly or entirely the work thus set.

Next to corporal punishment, the Imposition, as generally understood, is the easiest, the least troublesome form of discipline to a Master. This fact is no doubt an incentive to its use. A Master may be disposed to employ the birch, or cane, or taws, because they demand but little time. They cause next to no care or trouble, and yet their application may be serious enough to create fear, and thereby to preclude a repetition of the offence of which they were the penalty. Herein lies one of the dangers incidental to corporal punishment. Teachers are mortal. They should never look on the infliction of discipline as a gratification of outraged patience or exasperated feelings. They should regard it as a means of curing a fault and preserving a strict and high tone of industry and school morals. Hence they should be