

THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

APRIL, 1880.

"THE SCHOOLS OF OTHER TIMES AND OF OTHER LANDS.

WHEN William Penn founded the State of Pennsylvania in 1681, his first counsel given to the colonists was to "educate the people." The last recommendation made by George Washington to the new Republic was "educate the people." The constant advice of Thomas Jefferson also to "educate the people." Counsel, advice and recommendation have been so earnestly followed that to-day the public school systems on this continent stand foremost amongst the world's educational schemes. As in the case of so many other excellent designs, errors have crept in, incompetency has been manifested and there is a suspicion abroad that the amount of money yearly set aside for our public schools is not expended to the best possible advantage. At this moment when education is engaging the attention of so large a portion of the community, it will be pertinent and interesting to spend a short time in hurriedly looking back and around at some of the various schools of the past and present throughout the world. It is mainly of schools as settled institutions akin to

or contemporary with ours of to-day that the attention of the reader is directed. Although the development of the physical forces occupied the principal place among the ancient Greeks and Romans, neither in Rome nor Athens, nor in any of the great cities of antiquity, was intellectual culture neglected. The education of children commenced when they were seven years of age in schools which, although generally private enterprises, were all under the state surveillance. In Athens the time to be devoted to lessons and the number of scholars which one master should teach were regulated by law; the school was not to open either before the rise or after the setting of the sun. In Rome the exercises often commenced before sunrise and by lamp-light, while the number of pupils under each master must have often been considerable, if one may judge from the recital of an old writer, who speaks very quietly of sixty children at school crushed under a gallery platform. It must not be supposed that either in the heyday of Greece or under the Roman Republic were the schools very splendid affairs. Dionysius, the tyrant of Syracuse, taught the

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