

day on the merits of those bygone controversies, it cannot be denied that they furnished an excellent means of mental training. Articles and confessions of faith were analyzed and compared, and the ponderous works by great divines were ransacked for argument. The intellectual tussles over the decrees called for keener thought and more accurate statement than the modern debating club or the political meeting.

The old log school house was as primitive in its internal equipment and its daily management as in its outward appearance. The desk provision was often inadequate and always of a rough and inconvenient form. The benches or stools were without backs, and constructed without any regard to the size of the pupils. The torture of long sittings without support for back or feet, remains as an unpleasant memory of school life.

The evolution in school literature is an interesting study. The universal Spelling Book had its day. Its aim was almost as comprehensive as that of the founder of Cornell University "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study" said Ezra Cornell. The Universal Spelling Book, was a primer, speller, reader, and grammar combined, and the author explained in his preface that in the accomplishment of his work he had furnished material to counteract the machinations of "Popish Emissaries."

I did not encounter this formidable text-book in my school experience, but I remember when it was to be found on the old book-shelf. One of its reading lessons, "The Entertaining Story of Tommy and Harry," I read with much interest. Tommy was a good boy who obediently rocked the cradle for his mother and became a great and good man. Harry was disobedient, played truant, and robbed birds' nests. The end of Harry was disclosed by a hideous picture of a wild-beast in the act of devouring him on the coast of Africa where he had escaped from a wreck.

Lindley Murray, was the great Napoleon of English school literature up to the middle of the present century, and his empire was not successfully disputed when I made my first acquaintance with schools and school-masters. His English Spelling Book, interspersed with quaint reading lessons, was an excellent book, while his "Introduction to the English Reader," and the