

glimps of the clear upper sphere in which the poet moves, and fix in his mind many an image of purity and loveliness, of tried virtue and high souled sacrifice, that will preserve it, in some measure, from the contamination of ignoble thoughts and desires. I think no one will maintain that boys or girls twelve years old, of fair parts and tolerably educated, are incapable of understanding and enjoying the greater part of Addison, Pope, Goldsmith, Robertson, Hume, Cowper, Southey, Macaulay, Scott, and Crabbe. And yet how many such youth there are, who never read beyond a page or two of these authors, nor even heard their names! Indeed, if a person, recollecting the delightful hours they furnished him when first gratifying his love of intellectual pleasures, should propose them to the youth of this generation, he would be likely to be regarded with a look of curiosity, as a man born out of due time, or, at any rate, quite behind the age which has provided more suitable aliment for the tender mind, in the preparations of "Peter Parley" and his prolific school. This is a serious matter and well-deserving attention; but I can only say, in conclusion, that we may carry our systems of school-instruction to the highest point of perfection, yet, so long as the juvenile literature of our times maintains its present place in the popular estimation, it will be in vain to expect a generation of vigorous self-relying, healthy minds.—*Mental Hygiene*

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### PRAYER A TELEGRAPH.

"It was a noble achievement of modern science, when the Atlantic and Pacific shores of our country were brought into immediate intercourse. Still more sublime was the event of instantaneous communication between two remote continents—when persons began to talk across and under the ocean, and it was supposed that almost as readily as messages are sent at night from the outer door to the pillow of a physician, they might be sent through the dark and silent sea to a friend thousands of miles away. No intercontinental event so stirring has transpired since Columbus' first voyage of more than two hundred days. It was fitting that there should be demonstrations of delight in the ringing of bells, in processions and illuminations, at an occurrence which was announced simultaneously in the evening journals of two hemispheres, and which was to give impulse to the whole civilized world, helping on to a practical ubiquity of enterprising minds, and to a recognition of the brotherhood of all nations.

If now from this world, as Valentin Harbor, there were carried a cable across the vast ocean of space, touching at the moon, then at the nearest planet of our system; thence to the farthest one; thence to some fixed star; and so onward from constellation to constellation, till that distant place were reached where we may suppose is the more immediate presence of God—the Trinity Bay of the universe—and thus between that remote abode and our world, this mere islet of the great sea, instantaneous communications could take place, what a sensation ought it to create! How should the mountain tops be lighted up! How would the spheres give a new and louder chorus; the sun come forth from his tabernacle with a more smiling face, and the pale moon fill her horns anew:

"While all the stars that round her burn,  
And all the planets in their turn,  
Confirm the tidings as they roll,  
And spread the truth from pole to pole."

Such a spiritual telegraph exists; it was laid centuries ago, and has held two worlds in unbroken connection. This spiritual telegraph is no private enterprise; nor is it designed for the few, but for the many, and is open gratuitously to all. The old man and the child, the learned man and the one who can neither read nor write, the millionaire and the beggar, are alike welcome to the freest use.

There are no mistakes in transmission. Much as it may be crowded, various as messages may be in length, topic and character, they are sent forward without loss of a word. Be the language what it may, grammatical imperfections what they may, there is no confusion and no inaccuracy when despatches reach their destination. Peter on the housetop, the thief on the cross, Daniel in the lion's