

its business, then, it must be obvious that the teachers' vocation is one of no ordinary nature. The teacher shares largely with the parent in the progress of the past and present, and the prospects of the future of society; each claims to have done some good, and each looks forward to future good arising out of past efforts.

It is said that, when "Jupiter offered the prize of immortality to him who was most useful to mankind, the court of Olympus was crowded with competitors. The mariner boasted of his patriotism, but Jupiter thundered; the rich man boasted of his munificence, and Jupiter showed him a widow's woe; the pontiff held up the keys of heaven, and Jupiter pushed the doors wide open; the painter boasted of his power to give life to inanimate canvas, and Jupiter breathed aloud in derision; the orator boasted of his power to sway a nation with his voice, and Jupiter marshalled the obedient hosts of heaven with a nod; the poet of his power to move even the gods by praise, Jupiter blushed; the musician claimed to practice the only human science that had been transported to heaven, Jupiter hesitated; when, seeing a venerable man looking with interest upon the group of competitors, but presenting no claim,— "What art thou?" said the benignant monarch. "Only a spectator," said the grey-headed sage; "all these were once my pupils," "Crown him! CROWN HIM!" said Jupiter; "crown the faithful TEACHER with immortality and make room for him at my right hand."

"The great object and aim of education," says one, "is to give children resources that will endure as long as life endures; habits that time will ameliorate, not destroy; occupations that will render sickness tolerable, solitude pleasant, age venerable, life more dignified and useful, and death less terrible."

How often is it said, that farmer so-and-so has been a very industrious

man, he has accumulated much property, has "brought up" a large family, and given each of his sons a farm, and each daughter a number of cows, sheep, etc.; but not a word is said about their education;—in a word, the minds of this exemplary family may be but little elevated above the cattle and sheep with which their farms are stocked. Still, farmer "so-and-so" is a wonderful good kind of man, and much respected.

How often praise is thus bestowed, while not a word is said in commendation of those who have been, so to speak, the guardians of mind.

To mold and instruct aright the tender and impressible mind of childhood, is of infinitely more importance than houses and lands, valuable though they be. The mind has got to be enlightened and stored with useful knowledge; the moral character requires to be purified and enlightened, so that it may withstand error and the assaults of vice.

The duty of the teacher is, to take the child in all his weakness, ignorance, and dependence, exposed to vice on all sides, and lead him through the mutations of early life, and finally place him upon the arena of active existence, to take his part in the battle of life. And when thus taught, and the mind richly stored with the treasures of knowledge, he goes on to play his part upon the stage of society; and if he plays aright, as he grows in years he will grow in knowledge, and will become more and more ripe for a more lofty existence when the last sand in his glass of time shall have run.

The vocation of teaching is one of greatness, and the successful teacher deserves to be crowned with all the honors in the world's power to confer.

The world with all its inherent grandeur is mere nothing compared to mind; and mind without cultivation only tends to destroy and blight the world; so that there is a mighty responsibility devolved upon the in-