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Those who do not recognise my quotation will think I have found an English Coriolanus; but these are the words of the republican Milton.

Now in some cases this strong but ignorant body feels its own ignorance, and is content to be led by the hand—possibly even by the nose. It grumbles indeed at the lawyers; but they make fun of it, and get in into such a pickle that at last it excites the compassion even of the heads of the profession themselves, and men like Lord Selborne and Lord Cairns turn law reformers. It grumbles at the doctors, but it swallows their physic and pays their fees. But it adopts a very different tone with the clergyman and the schoolmaster. Here public opinion asserts its rights, and is not to be hoodwinked by any of your professional hocus pocus. There is no man so mean as not to think himself the equal of the parson in theology and of the schoolmaster in education. "Every Englishman has a right to his opinion." Of course he has. He has also a right to shut his eyes when he is crossing Cheapside; and if his opinion happens to be erroneous, his right in the one case is just as valuable as in the other.

All teachers have had to do with a kind of public opinion in their pupils; and they will have found that the one thing which the public, young or old, steadily and doggedly refuses to do, is *to think*. One finds this sometimes with beginners in geometry. They are ready to adopt any statement you like, if they fancy they can defend themselves with it and escape thinking. You may get them to say that all angles are equal, or that two straight lines always enclose a space—anything, everything, rather than think what they are saying. Grown public opinion is perhaps not quite so receptive as this. But it has various ingenious ways for escaping thought, the handiest being to catch up some stock phrase, and without considering its limitations, or even its exact meaning, to bring it in on all occasions as an axiom from which there can be no appeal. Many hundred years ago some one, actuated no doubt by the purest philanthropy (for he evidently wished to prevent the writing of bad poetry), invented one of these phrases, which seems capable of doing any amount of duty—the *poet is born, not made*. Upon this public opinion

### On the Training of Young Teachers.

BY REV. H. H. QUICK, M. A., Professor to the College.

(Delivered at the College of Preceptors, 17 Feb., 1876.)

It would seem as if this "best of all possible worlds" was fast becoming better or worse (I won't determine which) by the steadily increasing strength of public opinion. Yes; the sceptre has passed into the hands of Mrs. Grundy; and our first inquiry in all cases should be, "What will be *her Majesty's* views on the subject?" Now, of public opinion regarded as force, I have a very high estimation; but of public opinion regarded as light, I am sorry to say I have quite the opposite.

Although I believe it was announced that this lecture would be open to the public, I take for granted that the public has prudently kept away, and that I have a strictly professional audience. Professionals always incline to a depreciatory view of public opinion. They are wont to look upon "the public" as a blind Samson, a good fellow enough so long as he will go on grinding their mill for them, but extremely objectionable directly he takes to pulling the house about their ears. So to my professional audience I may say what I like of "the people," and even quote a certain poet, who calls it "a herd confused, a miscellaneous rabble," who decide simply "as one leads the other."

"Th' intelligent among them and the wise  
Are few."