

ing two miles?" Measure a step, give the length of a room, and let us see if a practical demonstration of a simpler example will not lead to a genuine understanding of the more difficult. Imaginary situations need not be excluded. Our girls will be interested in calculating material for a dress, amounts of ribbon and lace requisite for a certain article, and, if they can be led to fancy themselves in dire extremity, the carpeting of a room or the papering of a wall, will be a source of interest as well as profit. Then when the abstract work comes, as it must inevitably do since no amount of objects can supersede this preparation for the higher mathematics, may we hope that there will be intelligent reasoning instead of a blind groping amidst arbitrary rules?

Concerning geography, enlightened people are awakening to a sense of its importance, ranking it as an independent science. An address delivered before the British Association upon the subject of geography, fairly startles one with the new significance it imparts to it. Its value to the military man, to the soldier, to the statesman, is forcibly presented, and every loyal citizen is exhorted to pay more earnest heed to this much neglected branch. A prize was even offered by the Royal Geographical Society, and discontinued because of unsatisfactory results. An exhibition was given in which illustrations of life in foreign countries were shown in an attractive form to stimulate interest and research. One lecturer spoke of the location, outline, and surface of any section of country as actually determining the physical characteristics, the occupations and the prosperity of people. Just here lies our work. While insisting upon an accurate knowledge of location, a most difficult and dreary task, we can make it have a practical bearing and lively interest by genial conversations

upon these points, aided by books, which we may always have, illustrations of pictures and specimens where we can obtain them. Would it not be worth trying to lead these rising Americans to a realizing sense of the resources of their country, to an appreciation of its unrivalled natural beauties, and to the extraordinary difference in temperament and in occupations of the people subject to its one government?

Grammar, reading, composition and spelling are all cognate subjects; each helping the other and demonstrating its value. As for the set rules in grammar, we will not even allude to the endless question of their worth or otherwise. Since they must be learned, is there no advantage to be gained? If the work of scholars, they are worth knowing in their entirety, and the accuracy necessary to master them is a healthful discipline for the mind. It teaches that words have meaning, that one may not be omitted and another introduced, but that in the complete definition each part is essential to the whole. Our set rules in parsing may be applied to constantly occurring errors in writing and speaking, while in reading this analytical work is of great assistance. The knowledge of subject and predicate, of various modifiers, will inevitably lead to a more accurate understanding of the subject-matter, and establish a habit of investigating the meaning and relations of words so fixed that slipshod reading of prose and poetry will be in great measure prevented.

It is astonishing how quickly this commonplace work will reveal to the unthinking minds of children that a verse of poetry is something more than sound. It is well that amidst this superficial ease we may pause and see if there is the substratum of an idea. Unwittingly, if persevering,