

pupil advances, such lessons, and such only, as he either does understand, or may be made to understand, and let inflection, emphasis, rhetorical pause, etc., be naturally developed out of the proper expression of the thought, in which the child may be aided by carefully observing and imitating the teacher.

In practice, it will be found in most, if not all schools, that pupils who have made any advance have taken on bad habits of expression, and read words regardless of the thought they contain. To remedy these evils will require much skill and patience on the part of the teacher, but their removal is the first essential to success. We close this paper with a few suggestions.

The "sounds of the letters" are best taught by requiring the pupil to pronounce accurately and distinctly common words which contain the sounds or combination of sounds desired. A careful analysis of the word will reveal the specific sound, and the pupil may then practise it separately. We are persuaded that time is sometimes wasted in going through the "table of sounds" in the abstract, without any careful discrimination of where they are to be used. The ability to give proper sounds in the right place is the test of success.

If a pupil drawl or read in a sluggish, monotonous manner, let the teacher repeat a sentence or clause that has just been read, calling the attention of the pupil to its meaning, and lead him to repeat it with vivacity. Seek to make the book disappear as much as possible, and bring out the thought. We need not particularize; the judicious teacher will adopt such expedients as each particular case may require.

A rapid, indistinct utterance requires that the pupil have frequent exercise in pronouncing words singly, and even in measured time, coupled with free breathing, and whatever means will give self-possession and deliberateness.

See that whatever is read is thoroughly understood. Better a single sentence thoroughly and correctly read than several pages droned over.

Omit pieces of questionable utility, whether on account of the sentiments they contain, or of faulty construction, or because presenting elocutionary difficulties for which the pupil's previous training has not prepared him.

Read "with the spirit and with the understanding also."—*New York Teacher*.

## 2. THREE RULES FOR GOOD READING.

First—Finish each word. I use the phrase in the sense of a watch-maker or jeweller. The difference between two articles, which at a little look much the same, all lies in the finish. Each wheel in a watch must be thoroughly finished; and so each word in a sentence must be most completely and carefully pronounced. This will make reading both pleasant and audible. Careful pronunciation is more important than noise. Some time ago I heard a person make a speech in a large hall; he spoke distinctly, and I heard every word; unfortunately, he became warm in his subject, and spoke loudly and energetically, and immediately his speech became an inarticulate noise. Secondly—Do not drop the voice at the end of a sentence. Simple as this rule may seem, it is one most necessary to enforce. If the whole of a sentence be audible except the conclusion, the passage read becomes discontinuous, a series of intelligible portions interspersed with blanks. Confusion, of necessity, attaches to the whole. Thirdly—Always read from a full chest. The reading voice should always be a complete *voce di petto*; and the chest, which is truly the wind-chest of the human organ, should never be exhausted. This is as important for the speaker as the hearers, and for the hearers as for the speaker. The voice is delivered with ease, and becomes agreeable. Singers know well the importance, indeed the necessity, of taking breath at proper places. The same thing is important for reading, in a large building where attention to this matter is indispensable.—*The Dean of Ely, in the Englishman's Magazine*.

## 3. THE WORDS WE USE.

Be simple, unaffected; be honest in your speaking and writing. Never use a long word where a short one will do. Call a spade a spade, not a well known oblong instrument of manual industry; let home be a home, not a residence; a place a place, not a locality, and so of the rest. Where a short word will do, you always lose by using a long one. You lose in clearness, you lose in honest expression of your meaning; and in the estimation of all men who are competent to judge, you lose in reputation for ability.

The only true way to shine even in this false world, is to be modest and unassuming. Falsehood may be a very thick crust, but in the course of time truth will find a place to break through.

Elegance of language may not be in the power of all of us, but simplicity and straightforwardness are.

Write much as you would speak; speak as you think. If with your inferior, speak no coarser than usual; if your superior, speak no finer. Be what you say, and within the rules of prudence, say what you are. Avoid all oddity of expression. No one ever was a gainer by singularity of words, or of pronunciation. The truly wise man will so speak that no one will observe how he speaks. A man may show great knowledge of chemistry by carrying about bladders of strange gases to breathe, but he will enjoy better health, and find more time for business, who lives on common air.

When I hear a person use a queer expression, or pronounce a name in reading differently from his neighbour, the habit always goes down, minus sign before it; it stands on the side of deficit, not of credit. Avoid, likewise, all slang words. There is no greater nuisance in society than a talker of slang. It is only fit (when innocent, which it seldom is) for raw school boys and one term freshmen to astonish their sisters with. Talk as sensible men talk; use the easiest words in their commonest meaning. Let the sense conveyed, not the vehicle in which it is conveyed, be your subject of attention.

Once more: avoid in conversation all singularity of accuracy. One of the bores of society is the bore who is always setting you right; who, when you report from the paper that 10,000 men fell in some battle, tells you that it was 9,999; who when you describe your walk as two miles out and back, assures you that it lacked half a furlong of it. Truth does not consist in minute accuracy of detail, but in conveying a right impression; and there are vague ways of speaking that are truer than strict fact would be. When the Psalmist said "Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because men keep not thy law," he did not state the fact, but he stated a truth deeper than fact, and also truer.—*New York Teacher*.

## IV. Papers on Physical Geography.

### 1. IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERY IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The Peruvian Government have been successful in opening a route for direct steam communication between their rich mountains and the eastern coast of South America. A steamer drawing seven feet of water, sent to explore the great river Amazon, has found it navigable from one end to the other, having ascended the Amazon 2,100 miles, and 600 miles more of the Ucayli and Pachia rivers, which had never before been navigated except by Indian canoes, to Mayro, about three hundred miles from Lima. The important fact has thus been ascertained that vessels have been able to penetrate that great continent to the foot of the Andes, and thus to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans through a new country of wonderful fertility.

### 2. LONGEVITY GEOGRAPHICALLY CONSIDERED.

Some interesting statistics as to geographical contribution of health and disease have been published. According to these the chances of longevity are greatly in favour of the more northerly latitudes. Near the top of the scale are Norway, Sweden and parts of England. Of cities, Vienna stands the lowest, and the highest is London. A cool or cold climate near the sea is the most favorable for longevity. While formerly one out of every thirty of the population of England, France, and Germany died in each year, now the average is one in forty-five. The chances of life in England have nearly doubled within eight years.

### 3. OUTLETS OF LAKES.

The question much agitated among the physical geographers of England, whether a lake can have two outlets, has been decided in the affirmative. Many examples in British North America are cited in proof, as the Trout Lake, the Prairie Portage, the Q'Appelle, and the Backfat. The Jasper Lake in the Rocky Mountains has an outlet into Hudson's Bay, and also into the Pacific.

## V. Papers on Railways and Commerce.

### 1. RAILWAYS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The total working expenses of the railways of England and Wales for 1863 was \$63,298,090; of the railways in Scotland \$8,036,020; and of the Irish railways \$3,752,060. The length of lines at the end of the year 1863 was 12,322 miles showing an increase since the close of 1862 of 771 miles. The gross receipts of