

their own character, and the benefit to the world at large. These are also the tests which must finally be applied for determining the value of the education of boys. It is inconceivable that the capacity to beat a drum would be of any immediate advantage to the seal if he were cast back into his native waters. It is imaginable, however, that after generations of education the animal might utilize his ability to beat a drum to attract fishes to his maw, to obtain an easier sustenance, to increase his social status, to win the admiration and respect of his fellows, to overcome by his superior attainments the stolidity, perseverance, and doggedness of one rival, or the cunning of another.

Although we have now come close to the borders of folly, we have arrived at an explanation of the universal practice of sending a boy to school, namely that he shall be elevated from the working class into the exploiting class. The native East Indian is the great exponent of this principle. He says quite frankly that his object in going to school is to rid himself of the necessity of toiling with his hands. The remedy which is proposed by persons who have never done a full day's work with their hands is to inculcate the dignity of labour. The cure for that form of cant is five hours' work at some uncongenial task, a coarse bite in the shelter of a hedge or factory, and then five hours more, with the prospect of receiving thirty shillings or its equivalent at the end of a week and public charity at the end of a life of such labour. Handiwork has always been regarded as identical with or but little removed from slavery. In olden times men avoided it by entering the ranks of the clerics or going to the wars. Now they strive to emancipate their boys by sending them to school, resolute that they shall not continue to endure the yoke and the additional responsibility of free men to support themselves when they can work no longer. It is not surprising then that the workman sends his boy to school as the first step towards compelling others to toil for his support.

Or we might arrive at the principles of education by a historical enquiry into the methods which were employed in a