

COMMUNICATION.

OBSERVATIONS.

ON THE ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO TEACHERS.

A proper education in the early part of life is known to be of vast importance to mankind in general, in their succeeding years; and it is commonly admitted, that that part of it which is acquired at school, has considerable influence in forming the man. It is therefore very essential that the first ideas should be inculcated by competent instructors; or, in other words, that those who act as teachers of youth, should not only know perfectly what they teach, but that they should understand perfectly, the best method of imparting it to others; that they should not only be men of good understanding, but of good practice, and be practically teachers of precept and example. These qualifications in the teacher are necessary to the one instructed, that he may not imbibe error with truth, for it is generally found harder "to unlearn an old error, than to learn a new truth." I am of the opinion that many are mistaken in their ideas respecting the price of tuition, thinking that teachers live an easy life and that they can afford to teach low. I am satisfied that this opinion, being common in many neighborhoods, and having the interest of employers in its support, has been the cause of many valuable teachers, deserting their employment. For it is known by many, that if a teacher does his duty, so as to profit those who employ him he must be industrious in his school, and it becomes a laborious employment; much more laborious than it is commonly thought to be. On a farm, or in any other private employment, though the body has to labour, yet the mind of the labourer is frequently, during the labour, exercised in an agreeable contemplation, which is brightened and enlivened by the objects that surround him. If a farmer, for example, he knows that if he sleeps, or if he is idle, his crop is growing; or even if a day's sickness detains him from it, he returns to it, and beholds a considerable increase in his school, a man has a constant, and laborious employment of his mind, and a confined and irksome exercise of his body. Let the day be ever so beautiful, the weather ever so charming, to his house he must be confined, and frequently when his expected compensation is small, with nothing to warm his heart but the love he has for the objects of his care, and a distant hope that he is treading the path of his duty. At every hour when his school is not going on, he recollects that not a cent he is earning; and if a day's sickness, or other accident prevent him from attending to his business, all is still and until he can lift his hand again to labour, he must fall back towards a state of indigent dependence. It is not pretended that this will not apply to tradesmen, as well as to teachers; but the object is to show, that as the teacher is subjected to the same disadvantages as tradesmen, his income should be equal to theirs.

It is presumed that no one who reads or hears this, will pretend to deny the propriety and usefulness of school education; if any does, with such the present essay has no concern. They who acknowledge its usefulness, and yet withhold a liberal encouragement, are the persons to whom this is addressed; and let me add, that I believe one dollar and fifty cents a quarter (a price quite common, in the country adjacent to this place) is not a liberal encouragement. Now, as our country is professedly Republican in which all are considered on an equal footing and each individual equally entitled to the price of his labour; as it is professedly Christian, in which people believe that they should do as they would be done by, it admits of a free discussion of the subject. Let us therefore examine, with an eye of impartiality and a mind free from self interest and preconceived opinions, the encouragement given to teaching comparatively with other employments; and some of the principal objections, usually made to the price of tuition.

By every individual's acting in his place like the wheels of a well regulated time piece, all will act for the advancement of one general end, the general good of the community. For, "society, when formed, requires distinctions of property, diversity of condition, a subordination of ranks, and a multiplicity of employments, in order to advance the general good." And kind Providence has been so wise in the distribution of talents and qualifications, that the geniuses of men are scattered in exact proportion to the number of persons required for the performance of every necessary business. This position being admitted by most wise and virtuous men, it follows, that for a man to be a good Teacher, he should be specially qualified by nature, as well as by education, for that business. And hence the absurdity of endeavouring

to push such into the business as are not qualified, (for a low price perhaps,) or of employing those who are wishing to undertake that business in order to rid themselves of labour, &c. is plain; and likewise the reason why such, when employed, do not give satisfaction; why they are unprofitable servants, and why there are so many poor schools in our country.

An objection to a more liberal price for tuition is that it is now high when compared with what a farmer makes; that the labour is not so hard; and that if a teacher cannot live by the prices now given, what is to become of the farmer, who does not make half so much? But persons who reason thus do not take every circumstance into view. A farmer with a moderate degree of industry makes a handsome living for his family, however numerous. He is independent. He knows not what his living costs him, and this is the great reason why he objects to the teachers salary. Were he to pay a fair price for each day's supply of vegetables, not to mention the articles of solid food consumed by his family, he would find that the amount at the year's end, would far exceed his expectations; and if he were to pay for every pound of raw materials manufactured into clothing at home, he would find his bill still increased. And what seems a little surprising is that the farmer is generally willing to pay a mechanic such prices for his labour as will give him a comfortable support, while the same is withheld from the teacher, who is subjected to every inconvenience of the mechanic.

A second objection frequently is that the farmers and tradesmen by the laborious nature of their employments fatigue the body impair their health, exhaust the vigour of the constitution, and shorten their lives; whereas it is alleged that the teacher's business is easy, he is saving himself from these inconveniences, and after many years shall have passed away will be possessed of all the comfortable vivacity of youth. But this reasoning is likewise groundless, for it is known and asserted by most informed men, that action and even a considerable exercise are necessary to the health and prosperity of the body, and that the labour common to an agricultural or mechanical business unless carried to a foolish extreme, is a most profitable thing to the mind and body, at the same time that it is producing a handsome support. But the business of a teacher has been found from long experience to be rather an unhealthy employment. From a violent exercise of the mind, and a want of that exercise of the body, debility in the system is produced, & the teachers subjected to consumption, and other formidable diseases, which are brought on by a sedentary life. It is very doubtful whether the period of a man's life in that business would equal that of another in some mechanical profession, which requires much bodily exertion.

Another objection to a liberal price for tuition which is frequently made, is, that the teacher has much leisure; that his business not confining him constantly, affords him time for other employments; and that he should not be paid for that time in which he is not employed in his school. This objection needs but little consideration. Few men have been known, though of the most industrious character, who could apply themselves, to any advantage, to more than one occupation of as much importance as that of teaching, at the same time. If such a course is even attempted, one or the other is sure to be neglected. Again: the teacher ought to spend as much time, each day, with his scholars as they can profitably employ in the pursuit of scientific subjects; if he does this punctually he will have but little time to spend more than he ought to occupy in taking his necessary refreshments.

A fourth and more reasonable cause why liberal encouragement is not offered to teachers, is, that the money paid to the teacher seldom produces any thing to the parent. Education is something the parent is conferring on his offspring at an early age, which is intended for their benefit when they arrive at the age of maturity, or at a season of life when they shall have left the service of the parent. This valuable donation bestowed at so early and inconsiderate an age, is frequently very unthankfully received, & that time which is intended for a lasting blessing in the succeeding years of the child, sometimes notwithstanding the assiduity of both parent and teacher, partly spent in idleness and folly. Moreover the parent knows not what is to become of his charge when he is from under his care. Many parents consider not, and some perhaps know not of what extensive and important use it will be to their children. They know that they may make a bad use of it. And upon these considerations, the literary institution of the children is frequently either neglected altogether, or obtained with as little expense as possible. These things

are not altogether without foundation. But will not these observations apply to education in general, as well as to that part of it which we call scientific? And will any parent presume to neglect the moral instruction of a child, because it is unknown whether the child, when he grows up, will live a moral life? Will any neglect to instruct their children in the pursuits of industry and economy because they will have it in their power to abandon them when out of their parents charge? Or will any parent neglect to cultivate a correct deportment in his children, and to instruct them in the rules of sobriety decency and order, because his labour may be in vain? It is presumed not? Every parent knows that it is a matter of incessant care and concern to raise up his tender offspring "in the way they should go." And almost every one also knows that he will be accountable to his children to society and to his Maker, if he neglect it. And he is in the same way accountable if he neglects to give those whom providence has placed under his care, that portion of literary instruction which they ought to have, or which it is in his power to give them.

In thus speaking of the price of tuition it is not meant nor intended that an extravagant price would be necessary or proper; but only such a price as will set teachers on an equal footing with others who have to be at considerable expense, both in time and practice, before they are well qualified to follow the business by which they intend to make their living. For besides the inestimable satisfaction which those who have education, derive from it, they are less liable to be imposed upon by designing men, and, as citizens, are more apt to have well qualified officers at the heads of government. Humane and benevolent principles are also more likely to be adopted and practised by an enlightened people, for savage barbarity generally exists amongst the extremely illiterate and vulgar. It is therefore of incalculable importance to a nation and to individuals that education should be generally diffused, & if education should be generally diffused, it would be wise to take those measures for the diffusion of it, which will be most likely to succeed. And in order to do this, well qualified instructors must be obtained; and well qualified teachers cannot be obtained, unless sufficient encouragement be given to call them amongst us, or to induce them to follow their business when here. It may perhaps, by this time, be inquired "what price should be given to teachers?" I would answer, *Exactly those prices which are given to tradesmen, after making the necessary allowance for all the expenses the one would be at in the pursuit of their business, more than the other.* If the people of this country would consider these things properly, and encourage good schools in their respective neighborhoods, so that their children might receive a reasonable portion of literary education, it would be doing for them a highly important service, and conferring on the nation an incalculable benefit. ADDISON.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Selected from Eastern Papers.

Great Britain and Ireland. Sir Francis Burdet brought forward his motion upon the subject of the Catholic claims, on the 5th of March. The debate was adjourned over to the 6th, when the "giants" of the debate who were pitted against each other, were the master of the Rolls, (Sir John Copley) against the motion, and Mr. Canning in favor of it. When Mr. Canning had concluded, the question was taken, and the motion lost, 276 to 272—the majority being four. Thus it seems that a great change has taken place in the popular branch of parliament, against the Catholics. This decision had produced much excitement in Ireland, and arrangements were making to send a large deputation, composed of members from all the counties, with an address to the king on the subject.

Orders were received at Portsmouth on the 10th, to discharge from the transport service, all the ships which were hired in Dec. to carry troops to Lisbon.

Rear admiral Sir Charles Ogle, is appointed to the command of the North American station.

The Globe announces that a most extensive failure has taken place at Calcutta. The amount is stated at 600,000.

Portugal and Spain. It was confidently reported in London on the 12th of March, that Sir H. Clinton has written home in the strongest terms for reinforcements. The general, it is said, has declared 5,000 additional troops absolutely necessary.

Madrid dates of the 22d Feb. states several British regiments had been engaged with the Portuguese royalists, and had beaten them. The aid-de-camp of gene-

ral Clinton was killed in the action. [We doubt the fact of there having been any engagement of the kind.]

Letters from Madrid state, that new difficulties have just arisen between the Spanish minister of foreign affairs and Mr. Lamb. The latter has complained that the principal part of the arms found on the Portuguese rebels, are of the manufacture of Seville, which are under the immediate control of, and could not have been distributed without the consent of the Spanish government.

It was rumoured that a change in the Spanish ministry was to take place. Orders had been sent to Paris for the return of the duke San Carlos.

Greece. The third victory gained by Karaiskaki is confirmed. The booty taken at Velitza was much more considerable than at first reported. Salona is in the hands of the Greeks. Karaiskaki, after his victories at Arakova and Volizza, where he took 1500 horses, all kind of ammunition, provisions, &c. surprised and cut to pieces, near Lepanto a corps of 1,000 Turks, who were marching to Salona to relieve that place. Part of K's troops are to be sent to the army of Eleusis. Two hundred Peloponnesians have already repaired thither, and two thousand men, under, Col. Gordon and Petromichally, are going by sea to the Pirænes, escorted by the American frigate, commanded by Miaulis. All these forces, united are simultaneously to attack the Seraskier, Redschid Pacha, who has approached Athens, from which he had retired in consequence of the victory of Arakova, thus giving Col. Fabvier an opportunity to enter the Acropolis with ammunition and provisions.

Accounts have been received at Perrija that two vessels, laden with provisions, were at Petala, waiting orders from Karaiskaki; and that Lokry had made himself master of Stamias, near Missolonghi.

These favorable circumstances, says a letter to the Geneva Greek committee, prove how useful our consignments of provisions have been, since the Greeks have thereby been enabled to resume offensive operations.

The Augsburg Gazette mentions that the Porte, on the 4th of February, declared, though the Reis Effendi, that it would reject all diplomatic overtures in favor of the Greek insurgents.

Liverpool and Manchester Railway.—The plans for excavating the tunnel underneath the town of Liverpool have been completed, and three perpendicular shafts or openings are now sinking, at certain distances from each other, the purpose of affording greater facility in excavating the rock, which, from the borings already made, is found chiefly to compose the strata through which the line will have to pass. One of these shafts has already been sunk to its required depth, and will be immediately commenced in the direction of the tunnel. The length is upwards of a mile and a quarter, of an inch per yard; the section is twenty-two feet wide, and sixteen feet high, with a semi-circular top. The line over Chat Moss is also in a state of forwardness. Parallel drains have been cut the whole length of the Moss, (distance four miles,) which have had a very good effect in draining and hardening that part on which the railway is intended to pass.—Excavations and embankments have also been made for the purpose of rendering the surface uniform; the latter being formed of wet moss, has contracted and become quite firm, so much so, that a temporary railway is now laid, and the wagons laden with moss constantly pass along it, the weight of which scarcely occasions any shrinking or flexibility.

THE LOTTERY SYSTEM, which, for some years past, has galloped over the discretion of the people, and levied an annual tax upon them not much short of all that is required for the support of the national government, seems as if it had destroyed itself by its own excesses. It was high time, indeed, that it was checked; and it seems almost every where to have been nearly or altogether stopped, at once. Severe laws for regulating this business have been passed in several of the states, and are enforced. Niles

LIBERIA. We have good news from this colony, which has health, peace and prosperity. The people are industrious, and great improvements are making.—They will soon be as comfortable as their best friends could have anticipated. Niles

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