

THE NOTE OF EDUCATION

The Schools Are the Keystone of a Nation's Well-Being.

A despatch from Brooklyn, N.Y., says: "Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis has written the following text: 'For wisdom is better than rubies.'"

Happily indeed these children and youth who have enjoyed all the advantages of classroom and library and chapel. While also the chase which separates the mind from the scholar. The savage dwells in a perpetual night. Upon his spirit the heavens send no rain of wisdom and knowledge. For the slave is a dungeon in which he sits and slowly starves to death. But a jurist, a statesman, a scholar, means that youth entered the library and by years of study assembled all the riches of science and literature and history, gathering all these treasures into his memory. Verily, verily, knowledge is more precious than gold. Of a truth, there is a golden ladder that stretches from earth to heaven. But the ladder upon which the successful man climbs has rounds that are marked with the names of the sciences, the arts and the literatures.

The public schools do much for the increase of happiness. Knowledge widens the horizon. Travel turns a peasant into a citizen of the world. Multitudes return travel abroad in the body, but the pages of history make them at home in Rome and Athens, in London and Paris.

What the youth gets out of life depends upon the quality and power of his intellect. What the astronomer sees in the sky depends on the size of his telescope. If the lens is small HE SEES A FEW STARS;

If the telescope is large, he can see the five old moons of Jupiter and the sixth moon that has just been discovered. But this is a mistake. What we should say is that man may have five senses. Some have eyes but they see not the solar procession of June and the glorious procession of the seasons. Some have ears but they hear not the marvellous music of the inclusus morning.

We are told that sleep is the twin brother of death, but death has another near relative and his name is ignorance. The ignorant man enters the mountain and sees nothing but granite and goes away in despair. Then an educated man, named Coleridge, enters the scene. And he sees that the mountain gives the movement to the waters that turn the mill-wheel for distant cities. In the mountains, with their glaciers and ice caves are nature's refrigerators for cooling the currents, and cleansing and sweetening the life-giving air for the jaded people in the distant city. He says that the mountain is a vast storehouse of mineral deposits, stimulants for feeding the worn-out fields in the valley. He builds the mountain written all over with the handwriting of God until they are as glorious as an illustrated missal for artist and scholar and worker alike. Yea, the mountain in the scholar's mind becomes an all day of worship; shows the sacrifice of purity, and the clouds that go smoking heavenward become symbols of the solemn prayers going unanswered to their God. Oh, the happiness that was

dom brings! Knowledge turns this world into a palace of beauty, a gallery of pleasure, a treasure-house of INSPIRATION AND DELIGHT.

But these schools have their relation to wealth. All ignorance breeds failure and all failure is ignorance.

The successful man is the man who knows how. Wisdom is simply the best way of doing the thing in hand. The educated man knows the shortest way to the goal. Whoever comes to the front is the man that arrives because he knows the one last fact in the case. Robert Burns never went to college, but the one thing he did know he knew thoroughly and he was the best equipped scholar of his generation—in his own field, which was single, the epic of the plowman's cottage. Contrariwise, it is ignorance that brings all the misfortune. Ignorance has wasted our forests, ignorance ruined the rich soil of New England by washing away the nitrogen, ignorance wasted half of the gold of the mines of California; ignorance and folly have devastated the old nations and cities on the banks of the Mediterranean. Wisdom and knowledge and obedience alone can recover those wastes. Some men are college-trained; most men are self-taught, but every man who succeeds represents the power of knowledge and wisdom in his own work:

Our public schools, with our thousands of school children, enrich the state by employing individual education. The youth has certain political rights and certain industrial rights, but he has also certain educational rights and our schools conserve them. Every child begins at nothing. Slowly the sciences sharpen his intellect, his eye enriches his memory, the art of developing his taste and imagination, the various occupations offer him an opportunity of

EARNING HIS LIVELIHOOD.

Report on Waste and Destruction in South Africa.

The War Office committee which under the chairmanship of Sir William Bullock, was appointed to enquire into the alleged wasteage and destruction of supplies in South Africa towards the end of the war and afterwards, has reported to the Secretary of State.

The terms of reference of the committee were as follows:

To investigate and report on the terms of contract and other circumstances connected with sales and

rewards given to contractors in South Africa at the end of the war.

To inquire on inquiry into certain transacts.

To report on the responsibility of those concerned.

The report has not yet been published, but, following its delivery two senior officers of the rank of colonel and at least six others of the Army Service Corps have been relieved of their immediate duties pending further enquiry.

The further information in connection with these officers is understood to be still definitely settled. They will either be charged in the military courts or indicted to be tried before a judicial and military commission specially appointed for the trial. This will probably be the wiser course, and the authorities are likely to sanction it, as it would command public confidence.

The report will probably be published shortly, and is understood to make grave charges, and to amount to the disclosure of the War Office's conduct in the subject of the waste of the nation's money.

It is expected also that the matter will be raised in Parliament, but it is known that the War Office is most anxious of halting the whole matter cleaned up, and it will carry events to the only possible issue.

It will be recalled that the sum named which it is alleged have been wasted or made away with, either directly or indirectly, amounts to many thousands of pounds.

LESSON WORD STUDIES.

Note.—These Word Studies for this lesson are based on the text of the Revised Version.

From Historical.—Chapters—Our canonical book of Isaiah falls naturally into two great portions, the first of which includes chapters 1-39, and the second the remaining chapters of the book. The first part of the last four chapters (36-39) inclusively again form a division quite distinct from the chapters preceding. These four chapters are historical, while those preceding are more or less strictly prophetic. The historical chapters are introduced to the body of the prophetical book for the purpose of giving the reader of the prophetical summary a summary of important facts concerning the life of the great prophet. They are a summary of the events narrated in 2 Kings xviii. 3 to xxv., from which account they were doubtless taken. The two accounts differ as regards important matters only in two points: the summary in Isaiah does not record Hezekiah's submission mentioned in 2 Kings xviii. 14-16, but does record Hezekiah's salutation to the king on his recovery (chap. xxvi. 13-20), the latter not being found in the account in Kings. The parallel accounts should be read together.

Verse 1. In those days—This expression is doubtless to be taken as an indirect reference to some portion of Hezekiah's reign, the chronology of which is a matter of fact presents many difficulties. From the arrangement of the narrative, both here and in 2 Kings, it would seem as if the sickness of Hezekiah followed the retreat of Sennacherib, but a closer examination leads us to conclude otherwise. For in 2 Kings xx. 12 and Isa. xxxix. 1 it is plain that the sickness preceded the embassy of Merodach-baladan, King

of Babylon. But Merodach-baladan died in 709 B.C., and again, for a brief period during 702 B.C., C. Sennacherib's invasion occurred in the year B.C. 701. Hence the sickness of Hezekiah, which preceded the end of the reign, during his second and shortest reign must have preceded the deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrian king, which occurred still later. The events therefore of chapters 28 and 39 precede in point of time those of chapters 36 and 37.

Isaiah the Prophet.—The author of large parts of the book bearing his name, living in the time of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, king of Judah. The greatest of Hebrew prophets, and at the same time, the greatest of Hebrew statesmen. He was especially noted for the strength of his personality, the wisdom of his statesmanship, and his bold and unbroken assurance of his mission, the almost unabated service which rendered to Judah at the greatest crisis of her history, the purity and grandeur of his style, and the ardent influence he exerted on subsequent prophecy.

This saith Jehovah. The prophet's authority was not his own. It was the accredited messenger and representative of God that he was respected and obeyed at all.

Say the house in order. Literally,

the parting command of a man about to die.

Set thy house in order. Literally,

the summing up of his affairs.

Compel Jacob's glance to

Joseph. (Gen. xlii. 13-23.) It was

more than a last wish, and was the desire of the master of making a will.

It is related oftentimes to the disposition of lands and of property, and in the case of kings of the royal sepulchre as well.

Furnish his face to the wall.—In

order to be alone with God in this

hour of anguish. It is probable that

Hezekiah was at this time childless

(his son Manasseh was born later)

in which case his death at this time might have meant the extinction of his house and possibly

of the house of David also.

Remember . . . how I have

walked—Words of bold

confidence on the part of Hezekiah.

Long life was considered a mark of God's approval

and compared with his immediate predecessors Hezekiah's administration certainly did seem to merit this mark of approval. Jehovah does not dispute the claim, but grants the request.

Then came the word of Jehovah to Isaiah.—The answer to the prayer was immediate, as shown in the account in 2 Kings xx. 4, which explains that it was "before Isaiah was gone out into the middle court" that he received word to return with this message.

5. Dost thou father?—The term "father" and "son" were more loosely used among the Hebrews than they are at present among us. It was here used in the sense of minister.

Future years. According to 2 Kings xviii. 2 Hezekiah became king at the age of twenty-five, and reigned in all twenty-nine years, where he must at this time have been thirty-nine years old and in the fourteenth year of his reign.

6. I will deliver thee and this city

to the siege of the city had not yet taken place. Doubtless, however, Sennacherib's invasion was at this time anticipated and greatly feared.

7. 8. The shadow on the steps of Ahaz.—We are to think of a pyramid of stars on the top of which stood a short pillar or obelisk, so constructed that when the sun rose in the morning the shadow of the pillar just covered the lowest step on the western side of the pyramid. As the sun rose in the east the shadow shrank off, step by step to the foot of the pyramid.

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