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The Ossoli Club.

The meeting of the Ossoli Club on Thursday, Dec. 14th, was one of unusual interest. Miss Wycoff rendered the musical part of the program and sang two numbers, "The prettiest doll in the world" and "You and I" with much expression, however everything Miss Wycoff sings is given with a spirit and intelligence not always found in possession of good voices. Mrs. A. O. Mason, who is an ideal accompanist afforded Miss Wycoff an artistic support. Mrs. F. D. Everett, the essayist of the afternoon, read a thoughtful and most carefully prepared paper on "Modern Education." Mrs. Everett in tracing the progress of education in the U. S. from the little "dame school" of New England in the last century up to the present time showed that the very marked progress made within the quarter which closes the century gives us every reason to believe that during the next half century changes just as remarkable and just as beneficial will occur in the organization and administration of schools of every grade. The Rev. Pfanstiehl, in his lecture on Holland, spoke of America as being the only country in the world which spent more on education than on arms; a fact, which Mrs. Everett also touched upon when she said: "No better legacy could we American people have received from our ancestors than the educational spirit which has descended to us from the earliest American colonists,

the spirit which, in about the year 1640, prompted an earnest petition to King Charles from which we quote these words: 'And, May it please your Majesty, we cannot, but with sad hearts, look upon all attempts to deprive us either of a succession of ministers to assist us in the worship and service of God, or of needful schools, for the education and instruction of our children.'" This spirit which ever prompts ascent in the scale of life, was still stirring the hearts of the people when Horace Mann, about 1835, with a firm conviction of the true purpose of education, began an agitation which resulted in our American system of common schools; and the fact that only 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the total enrollment of pupils in elementary schools in our land today attend private schools, 91 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent being found in public schools, is ample proof of the faith of the people in this national institution.

Mrs. Everett called the attention of her audience to the consideration of what may be worth while the student's attention, as calculated to best fit him for his place in the world and quoted from Herbert Spencer's essay on education published 40 yrs. ago, but which still holds an important place in pedagogical literature. "Not what knowledge is of the most real worth; (is the consideration today as well as when the essay was written,) but what will bring most applause, honor, respect—what will

most conduce to social position and influence—what will be most imposing. As throughout life, not what we are, but what we shall be thought is the question, so in education, the question is, not the intrinsic value of knowledge, so much as intrinsic effects on others. Mrs. Everett said: "Many conscientious educators have lost their way through not carrying the true compass, and have accordingly given undue weight to formalities and information studies, which are of secondary importance; but our latest prophet with the ring of truth in his voice is Herbart, who developed a theory of the origin of moral ideas and their best means of cultivation, then based his system of pedagogy upon it. Herbart's philosophy places the moral aim first in the school course, subordinating the other educational aims. This most interesting paper closed by saying:

"Our main purpose should ever be remembered. A daily lesson, a term's study, a summer vacation, an entire subject of instruction even, are but tiny threads in the garment, but each thread should harmonize with all, and the completed garment should be of the hue of purity, the texture of honesty, the strength of true wisdom; then will it endure not only for time, but throughout eternity.

In the discussion which followed Mrs. Fessenden and Mr. Wolcott spoke of the utility of existing methods, after which tea was served by the hostesses for the afternoon, Mrs. E. A. Small and Mrs. Albert Paul Smith.