

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

PRACTICAL TRAINING.

To those interested in the welfare of the growing generation, which is identical with the future welfare of the Republic, it is encouraging to notice that now and then a voice is lifted in favor of a practical education. It is a subject to which parents cannot give too much attention. Many seem to think that a child is educated when it has mastered a fair amount of book-learning and has had a little training in music, painting, dancing, etc., whereas the truth is that unless the child is thoroughly equipped for a victorious battle with life, prepared to fight it out with honest methods—such as can stand approved before the bar of eternal justice—its education has been lamentably neglected. And to such neglect is due much of the crime that is committed both within and without the reach of the arm of human justice.

As an illustration an item going the rounds of the press may be referred to. We quote from the *Ellicott City, Md., Times*:

"Cornwall, England, is a puzzle to the sage criminologist and sapient sociologist. Cornwall is, intellectually, as low as Englishmen can get. No other section of the empire can show so small an attendance in the schools. Nowhere should we expect to find crime more rampant, if we are to credit those who claim that education is an antidote for all moral ills—a curer for all crime. For some reasons the results do not bear out these claims. Instead of being more criminal than any other section of the empire, it is decidedly less. Frequently, the judge who comes to hold court is presented with a pair of white gloves as a token that no crimes have been committed and that there are no cases to try. Nowhere, except in Ireland, and there very rarely, is such a thing heard of. The people are poor and industrious. They work hard and do not dissipate. Wise essays have been written to explain the phenomenon, but the nearest anyone has come to explaining it is to call it a coincidence."

The facts mentioned certainly are a strong argument in favor of practical training. No one who understands the requirements of our age will underestimate the value of learning, but in the interest of healthy morals there must be a revival of that public sentiment in deference to which even kings and emperors were required to learn a trade.

It is true enough that we live in the age of machinery. Science has come to the aid of manual labor and public life offers "soft snaps" for a certain amount of men and women, but notwithstanding these facts, there still is and always will be much "work" to be performed in the homes both in the cities and in the country. Children should be trained to take their share of this work, if for no other reason than to learn that manual labor is not degrading, but elevating and conducive to health. In the probation of man upon earth it has pleased his heavenly Father, for good reasons, we may feel sure, to ordain that he shall eat his bread in the sweat of his brow. Let that be understood from the first. Let it be taught that it is a religious duty to conform to this law, as to others pertaining to life.

The home is the best school for this practical training. Boys and girls in

whose hearts have been implanted reverence for labor will not go to school and to college for the purpose of escaping in the future the duties of practical life. They will go there to become better qualified for carrying out those duties. A man who knows well from practical experience how to manage a farm, build a house, make a pair of shoes, and so on, is better off in most respects than those who know nothing of practical work. And it is certainly of as much importance to know how to cook a meal and keep a house clean as to know how to parse a French sentence and solve a geometrical problem.

ELECTION REFLECTIONS.

Those who will take the trouble to fish out the points in the late elections, that are worth considering, have a good field to work in, one that will yield useful if not pleasurable results. For instance, the political equality which our system of government establishes and maintains, making one state equal to any other in the matter of sovereignty, identity and recognition could not be more plainly drawn than when New York and Nevada are mentally placed side by side. One is the Empire state, having the greatest population, the other the Sagebrush state, having the least. A senator from New York is no more potent, politically, than one from Nevada, yet the former represents over 7,000,000 of people, the latter approximately 50,000; that is, one is some 150 times more populous than the other, yet a negative vote by a Nevada senator nullifies an affirmative one cast by the New Yorker. The reason for this is that the states themselves are equal in the matter of governing or participating in the government, and the senators are representatives directly of the sovereignty in their aggregate capacity, but only indirectly of the sovereigns themselves, these being represented on their own account by members of the lower house. Of such members, Nevada has one, Utah has one, and New York has thirty-four. Utah has six or seven times as many people as Nevada, which means that the representative in Congress of that state gives 50,000 people as much potency in the House as is wielded by about 350,000 in Utah. In this respect, New York is not placed at such a disadvantage as in the case of the Senate representation, having one for about each 2,000,000 people, or four times as many as in Nevada.

It is altogether, notwithstanding some inevitable defects, a grand and equitable system. All theories of popular government, except absolute democracy or the immediate rule of the masses, is observed and carried out: The individual, being the first entity, receives the first consideration. All means by which the power originates, is placed and controlled, rest with him and proceed from his hands through a system which absorbs somewhat of the innate sovereignty as it progresses, this being necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the authority which we recognize as government, while all functions and privileges not needed in such establishment and support are retained in the hands of people. They can cause a repeal of obnoxious measures or even bring about changes in the great charter itself; can have laws suited to their times and conditions enacted; can elect officials and have them removed; can, in a word, by simply asserting their majesty, cause those whose duty it is to do or not to do anything what-

ever that is feasible and desirable. Each election is an object lesson of the grandeur of our republican methods practically applied. In one sense there are then no states at all but a great nation, deciding what and whom it will have in the places to be filled, in another sense, state lines are so carefully observed and local regulations so strictly maintained that all the sovereignty seems to reside in and be the exclusive property of the commonwealth. In other words, the motto of the nation, *E pluribus unum*—out of many, one—is fittingly and thoroughly exemplified.

How true it is that the great privileges which we enjoy of being the arbiters of our own career, the architects of our own political fortune, are in places perverted and debased! In such a system as in almost every other created by man the work of the parasite is visible continually. Because a class of people who toil not legitimately and spin nothing but webs to ensnare the unwary have intruded themselves into the temple of liberty to corrupt and debauch wherever the unwary and those who are willing to be tempted are found, votes that should be as sacred as they are powerful, are bartered like so many cheaply devised trinkets, the birthright of the citizen goes for a mess of pottage and too frequently very unsavory pottage at that. Men who are cunning, unscrupulous and ambitious use the purchasable element simply as a means of furthering improper ends, and this extends to some extent into every ramification of the national fabric. Offices high and low are bidden for and bought in some places with scandalous boldness and disregard of privacy. It is when the office sought is brought within the disposal of a few instead of being controlled by the many that the worst phase of the bargain and sale business goes on. The office of United States senator, for example, is one that is so consequential and honorable that it is peculiarly an object of purchase, by means of which we have too frequently beheld the disgraceful spectacle of men holding it not by reason of any fitness or ability, but for the simple reason that they were able to buy it. This is not so common now as it was during the period immediately following the civil war, but is still practiced occasionally. And yet the seller of a legislative vote is many times worse than the one who disposes for gain of the ballot he casts in common with his fellow citizens at the polls; the former betrays an accepted trust, he makes merchandise of interests committed to him as the sacred charge of those who have honored him with the place; he is a traitor to the institutions of his country, a renegade to his constituents, an enemy to the commonwealth and one of those who should be scourged out of liberty's realm. The same is true, in an emphasized degree if possible, of the trafficker himself. May the day speedily come when our system will be safe from all such; when an election in any part of our country will be free from stain or suspicion thereof, and all the possibilities of a land consecrated to freedom and the fullness of human endeavor properly directed will be realized.

THE FATE OF LUCHENI.

Those who possibly regard the fate of the Italian anarchist who murdered the empress of Austria as an inadequate punishment for the crime should read the graphic account of his future life on earth, sent to the *New York World* by Consul Ben H. Ridgely at Geneva. He says for the first five years the prisoner will be confined to his cell and will perform the labor