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The High School Advocate

VOL. I.

FAIR OAKS, CAL., APRIL, 1903.

No. 8

ODE TO SOLITUDE.

Happy is the man whose wish and care A few paternal acres bound, Content to breathe his native air In his own ground.

Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,

Whose flocks supply him with attire; Whose trees in summer yield him shade,

In winter fire.

Blest, who can unconcern'dly find Hours, days and years slide soft away

In health of body, peace of mind, Quiet by day,

Sound sleep by night; study and ease Together mixed; sweet recreation. And innocence, which most doth please With meditation.

Thus let me live, unseen, unknow...,
Thus unlamented let me die;
Steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.

—Alexander Pope.

—∛— WHAT WE READ.

Nothing is of more importance than what we read. It is essential, not merely that nothing harmful is read, but that the right selection is made among the deluge of published matter that is generally accepted as harmless. As a matter of fact, much of the latter is as absolutely deleterious in its effects as the famous "yellow-backed" novels.

The harm resulting from much of the popular reading matter is due to the fact that it lacks thought sufficient to keep the mind active and to set it working upon lines of investigation for itself. It simply entertains for the moment and leads to nothing. Much reading of that sort of "literature" unfits the mind to grapple with anything

virile. Fiction for juveniles is mostly of this nature. The majority of books chosen for children, and especially those of a moral tendency, give a distorted view of life and religion, and leave impressions of which they must rid themselves as they meet the actual conditions.

There can be no real culture without a wide acquaintance with standard writings. Any other so-called "culture" is probably only a veneer, a spurious imitation, as easily detected as it is offensive to good taste. If it be objected that children cannot read standard works, it may be said in reply that there is plenty for them to read that will lead them to an appreciation of the best literature a little later, and anything which does not lead in that direction is probably not worth the while.

There is a vast difference in the capabilities of those who have read wisely from youth and those who have not. The right sort of reading stores the mind with images, acquaints one with what has been, and is, the trend of the masterful thought of the world, and furnishes tools which cannot be obtained in any other way.

It must not be supposed that an acquaintance with popular current fiction, however thorough it may be, is sufficient to entitle one to the claim of being "well read." It is well to read current fiction to some extent, but more for the sake of being well informed than for any real benefit to be derived from it.

Of course the reading matter selected for children must interest them; but it must do more. While imparting information to some extent, it must gradually inspire a liking for the classical forms. There is an abundance of such material that may be had at small cost, and, since the returns, in the way of right thinking and of high ideals, are so manifold, the purchase of it is a good investment.

TWO GOOD ENACTMENTS.

Two recent Acts of the National Eggislature are of vast importance to this Western country-vastly more than we realize at present, perhaps. We refer to the National Irrigation Act and the Isthmian Canal Treaty. The former will open to settlement an area of territory capable of supporting a population equal to that of the whole country at the present time, while the Isthmian Canal will furnish ready means of communication by water between the Eastern and the Western coasts of our country. While it will be some time before the influence of either will begin to be felt to any extent, they insure a permanent future of great promise on these Western shores, these shores of gold, and of romance now almost forgotten.

As anything which promotes the general welfare and prosperity of the country will help Fair Oaks and every other locality in California, the above measures are of local interest and importance, and it may not be out of place here to point out a few pertinent facts

in connection therewith.

Agricultural California is, and will be, largely devoted to fruit raising. The acreage devoted to this industry is increasing each year, and the indications are that it will continue to increase, even at a higher rate, in the future. Now, that the market must increase with the increased production, if the industry is to thrive, needs no demonstra-How to increase the market for our California fruits of all kinds is a matter in which we are all concerned. Everything which tends to the general prosperity tends to this end; hence our interest in the two measures referred to. Hence, our interest in the building of railroads, in the growth of cities depending upon agriculture for their sustenance, and in everything that betters the condition of the masses and makes them more able to buy some of the luxuries of life; for there is no more fruitful source of increased consumption of fruit than the ready means in the hands of the laboring man to buy it. There are mouths enough and to spare.

But let us investigate the last statement and see if it be borne out by the facts. Sacramento has an orange-eating population in round numbers of 30,000. Suppose each one of those people should eat two oranges per day for the six months in which they are to be obtained, we have the following figures: Sixty thousand oranges a day at 130 per box is 460 boxes, or more than a carload of oranges per day that Sacramento would consume, allowing two per day for each person old enough to eat oranges, while it is safe to say they would eat as many more if they could get them.

Now, treat every other commodity in like manner and you have a demand for oranges which could not be supplied, and what has always seemed to the writer the strongest argument against Chinese labor is the fact that the Chinese do not consume what this country is producing and has for sale. Depose white labor with cheap Asiatics and you cut off a share of the market for your agricultural products. Suppose, for instance, that the railroad shops at Sacramento employed Chinese largely, instead of white men. Does anybody suppose that it would not make a vast difference in the amount of agricultural produce consumed in Sacramento and supplied by the farms of the county? And the consumption would not be lessened alone by the difference in the number of white men employed in the shops, but also by the large number of business men thus forced to seek other homes, for the wheels of industry in Saacramento are kept greased, to a very large extent, by the day laborer.

This country doesn't produce, and never will produce, more than can be consumed under industrial conditions which insure the white laborer fairly steady employment at renumerative wages; and, since the price of produce depends upon the ratio of the supply to the demand rather than upon the cost of production, it is readily seen how important is everything that tends to foster commerce and the settlement and upbuilding of the vast arid regions of the West.

No section of the country is wholly independent of this general prosperity, but rather our relations are such that whatever seriously impairs one industry affects all to a degree. The United States may pursue a selfish policy in her commercial relations with other nations, but it will not do for us to adopt that idiotic method as between the component parts of our own country.

The West has a great future, in which the Panama Canal, the irrigation measures, and the opening of the Orient to commerce will prove to be three important factors.

THE MIRROR'S COMPLAINT.

"I," said the full length mirror to its neighbor, the sewing machine, "can remember when I always stood in the drawing room. The ladies always favored me with their sweetest smiles, and the young gentlemen were never so particular as when in my presence. I lived happily there a long time, but at last I was moved to the hall. There I received a good deal of attention, but not so much as I had received in the drawing room.

"One day I heard some one say that my frame had become tarnished. The next day I was moved into a bed-room. There I was once more favored with sweet smiles from a little girl in curls and short dresses. At last the curls and short dresses were changed for braids and longer dresses. At last a little girl no longer looked at me, but a young lady

"One day I was packed in a large box and rolled over and over. Then with one big bang I stopped. I lay still and trembling in the box, and then I felt the ground on which I was standing shake and seem to move. It kept on this way for about three days. Then I was again rolled over and over and at last taken out of the box. Then the young lady again looked at me, arranged her hair and left. At last the young lady no longer looked at me, but an older lady seemed to slowly take her place.

"Now I can look at only an old lady with hair and wrinkles.

"But sometimes I am surprised to see the same young lady and little girl that used to look at me come in. The little girl sits on the old lady's knee and calls her 'Grandma.' "One afternoon a smaller mirror was placed on the table beside me. When I looked into it I was surprised to see the beautiful frame of which I had been so proud all worn and old looking. Then I saw that I, too, had been growing old."

THE WILD FLOWERS.

Nature has no boon to offer
To surpass the buds of springtime;
All the gold in miser's coffers
Could not buy the cheer they bring us.
To the soul attuned to Nature
They appeal in simple language,
Point to God above, who made them,
Sing His praise more glad than human
Words can voice the soul's aspiring.
Can you look upon these blossoms,
As they dot the sylvan greensward,
And remain unmoved by beauties
That partake of Heaven's own bright-

Let these sweetly scented flowers
Speak a message to your bosom,
Lift your soul to higher pleasures.
Can we pass them by unnoticed
As they scatter fragrance round us?
O! the soul that hath no music,
To the soul unmoved by flowers,
Is as gold to drossest iron.
Beauty is akin to Heaven.

--8-A good law passed by the recent Legislature is one creating a commission to secure, for use in this State, school text books to supplant those of the State series which have proved to be unsatisfactory. The books will still be published by the State, but the conditions under which this new commission is created will enable it to secure the best books that are extant. The commission consists of the Governor, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a third member, to be chosen by the State Board of Education from its membership. Professor Elmer E. Brown of the State University has been elected to this last place.

INDUSTRY often succeeds where mere ability fails.

The Advocate X \mathbf{x}

FAIR OAKS, CAL., APRIL, 1903.

No. 8

THE ADVOCATE is published monthly by the Fair Oaks High School. Subscription 10 cents per month, or 75 cents for 10

months, payable in advance.
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Fair Oaks, Sacramento, County, Cal.

Advertising rates made known on application.

EDITORIAL

"Industry is the mother of invention" -and of almost everything else.

He is fairly well educated who has learned how to study. Many a person is graduated from the universities possessed of smaller acquirements.

Japan, with an area about equal to that of California, has a population of forty millions. California can support a population of several millions—some say thirty-while we have fewer than two millions at present. What a glorious field for future development.

Nothing worth the while was ever yet undertaken that it was not vigorously opposed by a very respectable minority, at least, and usually the opposition is as the square of the good proposed to be accomplished. Thus, about half the population of the world is continually in opposition; sometimes for good, often merely for the sake of combating what someone else proposes.

It is claimed that, on account of the exorbitant charges by transportation companies for freight and icing, shippers of deciduous fruits lost much Fortunately this money last season. does not affect citrus fruit raisers to as great an extent, oranges being shipped at a season when icing is not needed. Freight rates he does have to contend with, however, and every influence should be brought to bear to reduce them to a minimum.

School Notes.

County Superintendent of Schools B. F. Howard made an official visit to the schools on the 15th instant. The Superintendent has the art of school visiting well developed. He knows how to put himself and everybody else at ease, so that none of that awkward restraint which so often results from the presence of strangers in the school is felt.

-8---School Report

The following is the combined report of the Fair Oaks schools for the four weeks ending April 10, 1903: Number of boys enrolled 41 Number of girls enrolled 41 Whole number enrolled 82 Average number belonging 78.8 Average daily attendance 71.5 Per cent of attendance Number of tardinesses 41 Number of days absence134.5 Neither absent nor tardy for the

month:

High School, A. E. Baugh, teacher—

Walter Johns and Carl Johns.

Grammar grades, Miss Beth K. Newman, teacher-Mabel Holst, De Witt Rice, Hazel Slocum, Ethel Ward, Ruth Cunningham, Ruth Slocum and Ella Ward.

Primary grades, Miss Anne E. Higgs. teacher-Clive Baugh, Leland Smith, Frank Cosby, Simeon Green, Arthur Holst, May Ward, Clarence Page, Evelyn Whitaker and Walter Hinsey.

-8---LOCAL NEWS.

The "Advocate" needs money.

Fair Oaks is now in her picnic robes.

C. H. Slocum has bought the hardware stock of Wm. Murcell.

Clarence Watson is attending a business college in San Francisco.

The heavy rains stopped road work and delayed plowing considerably.

The Placerville Steam Laundry is sending a wagon to Fair Oaks these days.

It is advisable to boil drinking water during the spring and summer months.

Mr. J. Sloane, of Pennsylvania, a brother of J. C. Sloane, is visiting the latter.

There have been some heavy frosts in this month, but no damage seems to have resulted.

Daniel and John Donohue are doing the road work for the county in Fair Oaks, and they are doing a good job.

It is expected that Fair Oaks will have a rural mail delivery from the local office by the beginning of the next quarter, July 1st.

It is reported that the company has selected a land agent and will soon begin the work of putting in the new pipe line for Fair Oaks.

Any number of the Advocate, except the October issue, for sale, wrapped ready for mailing, 5 cents. Send them to your friends in the East.

The Fair Oaks Fruit Company has procured a triangular shaped bottle for its San Juan olive oil, which, with an artistic new label, presents a handsome appearance.

It begins to look as though an electric railroad from Sacramento, via Fair Oaks, Orangevale, and Newcastle to Oroville may be a possibility of the near future.

On Sunday, April 12, 1903, at the M. E. Church in Fair Oaks, Albert W. Richards and Miss Bessie Crosby were united in marriage, Rev. James Whitaker officiating

The eschscholtzia, or Californian poppy, has been the principal wild flower of the past month, growing in profusion in the fields and the roadways, especially south of the river.

Easter services at the church were of special importance, and the house of worship was crowded both morning and evening. In the morning Rev. Whitaker preached a missionary sermon so effectively that a contribution of \$125 to that branch of the work was made. In the evening appropriate Easter exercises were rendered by the members of the Sunday-school.

Subscribe for the ADVOCATE.

F. W. Johns has been appointed school census marshal. The law requires that the census shall be taken between the 15th and the 30th days of April. There will be a fair increase over last year.

A new law requires that every package of fruit taken to market must have upon it the name of the locality in which it was raised. Get your rubber stamps and stencils of Megerle, who advertises in the "Advocate."

F. J. Bramhall, the father of Dr. Bramhall, who was formerly at the head of the advertising department of the Michigan Central Railroad, with headquarters at Chicago, has accepted a like position with the Southern Pacific Company at San Francisco.

John W. Cleave, of Manila, a Fair Oaks property owner, sends his subscription for the Advocate with a request for back numbers. Mr. Cleave concludes his letter as follows: "You are to be congratulated upon this publication. Certainly Fair Oaks appears to possess the co-operative spirit."

The father of Miss Higgs, our primary teacher, died of pneumonia on the 6th inst. at his home in Oak Park. A brother of Miss Higgs was killed about two weeks before, and in this double bereavement Miss Higgs has the sincere sympathy of the entire school and as well of the community.

NOTICES.

Presbyterian church services are held each Sunday at San Juan Hall at 11 o'clock. Sunday School at the same place at 10 o'clock.

Regular prayer meeting each week, as announced.

Methodist Episcopal Church, Fair Oaks.

Sunday School at 10 o'clock.

Preaching services at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.

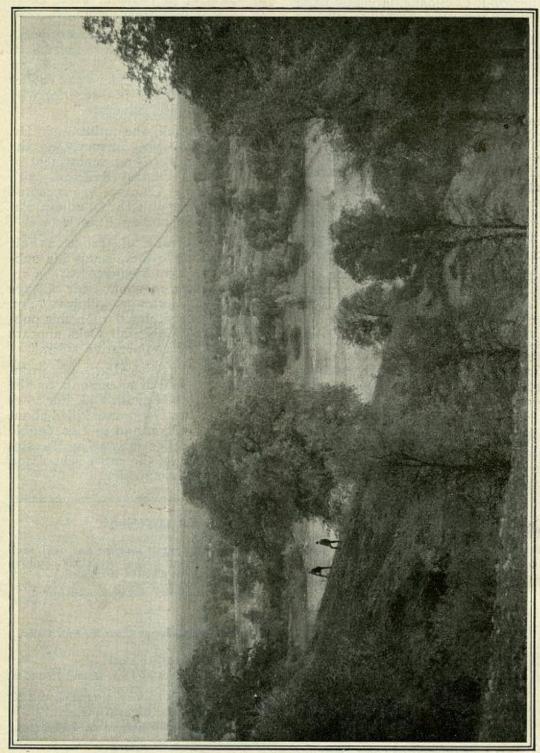
Junior Endeavor Sunday afternoon at 2:30. Superintendent, Mrs. James Whitaker.

Christian Endeavor Service at 6:30 Sunday evening.

Regular prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at 7:30.

Regular official meeting first Monday in every month at 7:30 P. M.

JAMES WHITAKER, Pastor.



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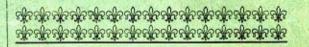
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