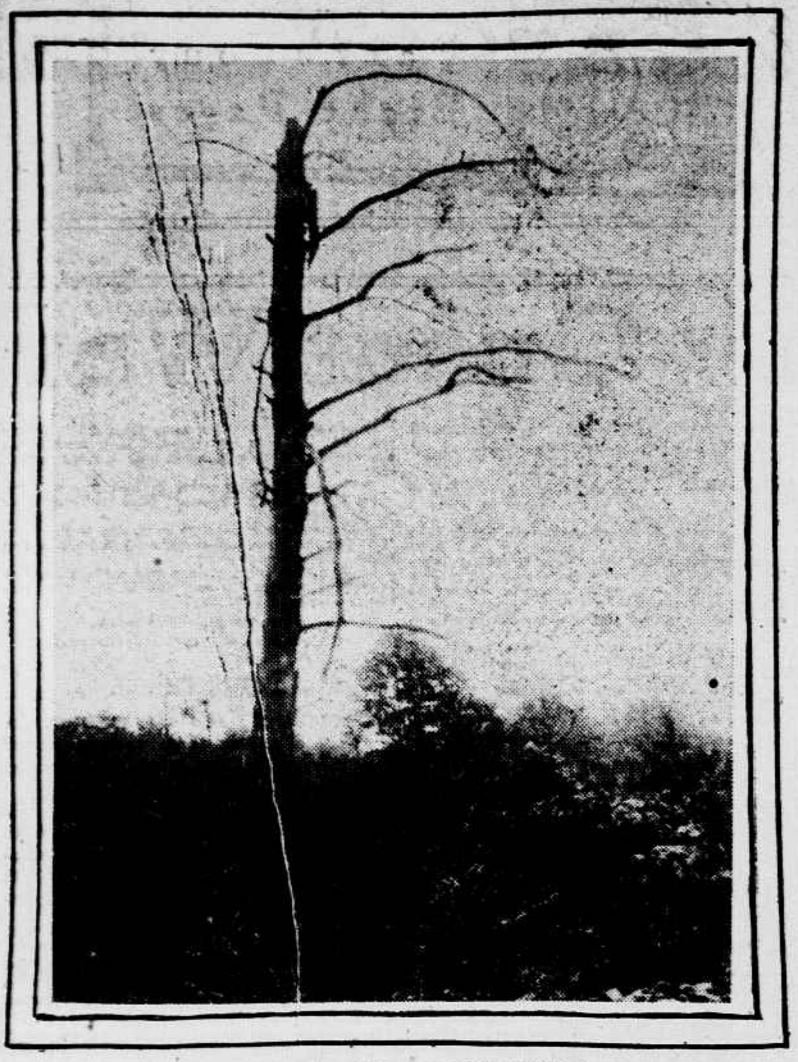
With The Rambler


A FAMILIAR BIT OF LANDSCAPE.

THE BRITISH MARCHED HERE.

WHEN the Rambler wrote of his walk over the Bladensburg - Landover - Brightseat road, the historic significance of which road is heightened by the fact that the British column moved over it on the march against Washington in August, 1814, he recalled as much of the military history of the ancient way as he had at hand, and he presented such facts as he was able to obtain concerning Grovehurst, the estate and home of Josiah and Osborn Suit, a fine old place, through which the road passes on the way from Dodge Park to Brightseat. There were a number of incidents along that walk which seem to the Rambler to be worth the telling for those of his readers who care for natural history subjects and which might be serviceable to the large and increasing number of persons who feel an interest in wild birds and wild flowers.

To begin with, that road passes through a section of Prince Georges county which was settled at an early period in the history of our land and is itself one of the very old roads of the state, though no doubt here and there its course has been slightly altered and its grade changed from time to time.

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In a report on the physical features of Prince Georges county prepared under the direction of William Bullock Clarke, state geologist of Maryland, it is set forth, as collected from the writings of many Maryland historians, that the earliest settlements in Prince Georges county were made along the Patuxent side of the county in the vicinity of Mataponi creek, from which point to Swanson creek stretched a more or less scattered plantation close to the river banks. The earliest records show that the inhabitants along the river were regarded as living in St. Marys county. In 1650, when Old Charles county, or the first Charles county, was erected, the south shore of the Patuxent was included in it and such settlements as were made within the present limits of Prince Georges county were under the immediate control of Robert Brooke, commander of Old Charles county.

In 1654 Old Charles county was abolished and the territory on both sides of the Patuxent was erected into Calvert county. Later Calvert county was limited to the territory on the eastern side of the Patuxent and Prince Georges county became a part of the new Charles county which was erected in 1658. This was the condition of affairs up to the time of the erection of Prince Georges county in 1695, and the act creating the county of Prince Georges county should be interesting to Washingtonians, because in a sense that is the parent county of the District of Columbia and the home county of the ancestors of thousands of the Washingtonians of today. The act follows:

That the Land from the upper side of Mattawoman and Swanson's Creeks & Branches Extending upward bounded by potomock on the West and Patuxent River on the East shall be and is hereby Constituted founded & Incorporated into a County of this Province and shall be Denominated called and known by the name of Prince George's County and shall from and after the said Twenty-third day of Aprill next Ensueing being St. George's Day as aforesaid have and enjoy all other Rights benefitts and priviledges Equall with the other Countys of this Province such as sending Burgesses to Assemblys having County Courts Sheriffe Justices and other Officers and Ministers requisite & necessary and as used in other Countys of this Province.

The historians of Maryland find that at the time of the creation of Prince George's county there were settlements along the Patuxent river about as far as Laurel, but that there were few, if any, settlements on the Potomac side further up than Piscataway creek, fifteen miles below Washington, the principal reason given being that friendly Indians had reserved this territory for a permanent abode. It should be borne in mind, though, that formal grants to land within the limits of the District of Columbia were made before the erection of Prince Georges county, and that the lands covered by these grants were under cultivation.

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Even those writers who point out that settlement extended up the Patuxent faster than up the Maryland side of the Potomac, say that at the time of the creation of Prince Georges county' "there were, however, settlements or small outposts at the mouth of Rock creek within the present limits of Georgetown and along the Anacostia river in the vicinity of Hyattsville and Bladensburg, and as far up Northwest branch as the present Montgomery county line. Within the next two decades these settlements had extended beyond the present limits of Prince Georges county, although they were at that time within its limits. During these same years the whites began to settle on the territory formerly claimed by the Indians."

As everybody knows, agriculture is the principal occupation, and from the beginning has been the principal occupation of the people of Prince Georges, and at one time or another practically every acre of ground, except on the steep slopes along the streams, has been under cultivation.

Benjamin I. Miller, in his study on the "Development of Knowledge Concerning the Physical Features of Prince Georges County, with Bibliography," written as an introductory to the Maryland geological survey's report on the physical features of Prince Georges county, says:

Since 1608, when Capt. John Smith ascended the Potomac river to the falls above Georgetown, this region has attracted the attention of explorers, travelers and geologists, many of whom have published their observations. The proximity of the National Capital has brought many geologists to the region during the past century, and consequently the literature is more extensive than that of any other county in the coastal plain of Maryland. In the period of 1612-1809 all the early work in Prince Georges county was of an exploratory character, and the published descriptions contain such general statements that in most instances it is impossible to tell exactly what regions were visited. The most important publications of this period are those of Capt. John Smith, which appeared in 1612 and 1624.

Of the period 1809-1830 Mr. Miller says:

Although previous writers had casually referred to the gravels, sands and rocks of the coastal plain, not until 1809 were any strictly geological investigations published. Between 1809 and 1830 Maclure, who is sometimes called "the father of North American geology," published several general articles on the geology of North America, which served to stimulate investigation, while other geologists noted the occurrence of minerals and fossils at various localities.

Maclure was the first American geologist to attempt to separate the different kinds of rocks on the basis of lithologic differences. These divisions were termed "formations." He noted the wide difference in the characters of the rocks composing the Piedmont plateau and the coastal plain and on the basis of these differences established two formations. He called the crystalline rocks of the Piedmont plateau the "primitive formation" and the unconsolidated deposits of the coastal plain the "alluvial formation."

The work of Maclure served as a great incentive to geologic research in this country, outlining, as it did, the methods of work which have been followed since his time and which have yielded such important results. Ducatel, state geologist of Maryland from 1834 to 1840, was the first man to publish any definite information of value concerning the geology of Prince Georges county. In his first report, which was published in 1834, he describes the fossiliferous deposits at Upper Marlboro and Fort Washhington and discusses the economic value of the marls and iron ore of the county. In 1901 was issued the Washington folio of the Geologic Atlas of the United States by the national geologic survey, then under the directorship of Charles D. Walcott. It was the work of the geologists Darton and Keith. The area described includes all of the District of Columbia and a large part of Prince Georges county and was the most complete work on the geology of the region published up to that time. Each of the geological formations, differentiated, is described and its relation to the other formations discussed.

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A similar work, the "Patuxent folio," by the geologists Shattuck, Miller and Bibbins, was published in 1907 by the United States geological survey, and this contains more detailed information of the physiography, geology and mineral resources of the region than had previously been brought together in one publication. The area covered by the Patuxent folio includes a portion of the District of Columbia and all of Prince Georges county except small areas in the northern and southwestern portions.

The road over which the Rambler walked passes over areas of those formations called "Monmouth," "Matawan," "Magothy," "Raritan," "Patapsco," "Arundel" and "Patuxent," being green sand and sands locally indurated, greenish-black sandy clay containing green concretions and lignite, sands with dark carbonaceous clays, variegated clays and interbedded clays with iron ores. The Monmouth and Matawan are good soils for truck crops and small fruits, the Maothy is good for tobacco, truck and general crops, the Raritan is a fair soil for wheat, corn and hay and the Patapsco, Arundel and Patuxent formations constitute a soil which is generally poor or unproductive. The old road, where it climbs out of the valley of the Eastern branch, comes upon high land, where the formation called "aquia" is dominant. This formation belongs to the eocene age and the experts say that these light yellow loams and sandy loams are excellent soil for truck crops, and also for wheat, corn and oats.

Large areas of the country traversed by the ancient road are covered with pine thickets and thinned hardwoods and the Rambler saw more birds and tamer birds than a man usually encounters during one stroll. Near Dodge Park the Rambler sat down by the roadside where there was a spring and was proceeding to eat his midday sandwich. Both sides of the road were wooded. He heard a lively scratching in the leaves a few feet behind him and there were half a dozen of those large and interesting birds conspicuously marked with black, white and brown, and which some persons call "towhees," from their well known call, or "chewink," from their alarm note, or "ground robin," from the fact that in appearance they are somewhat suggestive of the robin and because they are ground birds, living in the swamps, brushy pastures and open woodlands and are often seen vigorously and industriously scratching among the leaves.

A little way off flitted here and there a pair of scarlet tanagers, the male, scarlet with black wings and tail and the female greenish yellow and blackish. Chester Reed says that "These beautiful birds are found in open woods, but they often come out in fields, parks and orchards and sometimes in yards when feeding. One of the prettiest sights that I ever saw was about a dozen of these birds tripping along the furrows of a plowed field, where they were feeding on insects. Besides berries and seeds they live upon quantities of insects, frequently catching them on the wing in true flycatcher style."

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The scarlet tanager breeds in the northern parts of the United States from the Atlantic to the great plains, winters in the tropics and appears in the neighborhood of Washington usually early in May. He has a relative, which the boys who are now men knew as the "red bird." Because of the slaughter of birds of bright plumage that bird nearly disappeared and became very rare near Washington, but he is back and the "red birds" of one's boyhood are becoming quite numerous.

On the walk along the British route of march from Bladensburg to Brightseat the Rambler saw several members of the family. The ornithologists call this bird "piranga rubra," or the summer tanager. They have a more southerly distribution than the scarlet tanager and frequent the same character of country which the scarlet tanager prefers, but the summer tanager is not so retiring in his habits as his cousin with the brilliant red head and body and jet black wings and tail.

By the spring at which the Rambler drank grew several large specimens of the pink lady's slipper, the commonest orchid of the eastern states and a true cypripedium. A common name for this flower is the "moccasin flower," and it is related that this name was given to the plant by the Indians. Of course, the Indians called it the "mawcashun flower." The lip of the flower reminded them of the "mawcashun" which they wore on each foot, but the whites gave it a more romantic name and called it the pink lady's slipper. This flower is fertilized by the bumble bee. There is a fissure on the front of the flower, and through this the bumble bee forces his way. The door closes behind him and he cannot retreat. After treating himself to the nectar he finds himself shut in, but near the base of the flower at the end of a long passage he sees two dots of light, and to get out he has to pass some fine hairs and the sticky stigma of the flower, which remove from his body the pollen of some other lady slipper he may have invaded, and then before finally effecting his escape the flower deposits another charge of pollen on him which he will carry to the next lady slipper.

The Rambler has often met with the "showy lady's slipper," a fine orchid which is regarded by many persons as the most beautiful of the genus, with the small white lady's slipper and the yellow lady's slipper, but the pink variety is the only one which he came into during this walk. The yellow lady's slipper is rare in this neighborhood, it being one of the northerly of the orchis family. There are many members of the orchis family growing around Washington, and a man cannot fail to see some of them if he walks with his eyes open. Among these members of the family, in addition to those already named, are the green wood orchis, the green fringed orchis, the yellow-fringed orchis, Hooker's orchis, the round-leaved orchis, the ragged-fringed orchis, the white-fringed orchis, the large and the small purple fringed orchis, the calapogonor grass pink, the arethusa or Indian pink, the pogonia or snakemouth, nodding pogonia, whorled pogonia, rattlesnake plantain and ladies' tresses, so named because of the braided arrangement of its white flowers.

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On the south of the road opposite the handsome home of George B. Hamlett the Rambler was accosted by a redstart. His black, orange and white plumage told, of course, that he was a male, and he had the trait of the American redstart in desiring to show all the plumage he wore. The Rambler whistled, and this seemed to amuse him greatly. He hopped from one branch to another, but always coming a little closer, the better to examine a creature that had such a strange and un-bird-like whistle. The little fellow was so friendly and fearless that he would probably have come home with the Rambler had he been invited.

A Bewick wren appeared on a nearby fence to make an investigation of the unusual happenings in that vicinity and began to flutter about and scold, after the manner of the tribe, and the best the Rambler could make of it was that the wren was childing the redstart for being too familiar with strangers and that she was threatening the Rambler with terrible and dire consequences if he did not hence.

A party of catbirds, attracted by the excitement, came to enjoy the situation and began to facetiously mock and mimic both the redstart and the wren and other birds whose song notes came from the woods.

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The catbird is a very inquisitive bird and insists on knowing what is going on, and he is also a merry songster. Perhaps he was called a catbird because he is so inquisitive, though it is most likely that he was so called because of his newlike alarm note. A competent ornithologist has said of these birds: "They are very persistent songsters and have a large repertoire of notes, as well as being able to imitate those of many other birds, and they delight in spending an hour or more at a time perched in a bush or tree-top, singing, and apparently making up their song as they go along, for it is an indescribable medley, interspersed with various mews and catcalls."

There were many warblers along the line of march, and everybody who cares much about the birds knows what a large and variously marked family this is, nearly all of them having yellow as their whole or predominating color, except the black and white warbler, the swainson, the black-thoated blue warbler, the cerulean warbler and the bay-breasted warbler.

Coming to the railroad crossing at Landover, the Rambler sat down on the station platform to rest and to watch the trains go by, when an American goldfinch and his wife hopped down on a grass plot a few feet away to feed on grass seed. Very many people in the country call these beautiful little yellow birds with a black poll, black wings with white wing-bars and black tail feathers, "wild canaries," because they are yellow and have a canary-like song. Often, too, you will hear them called "thistle birds," because they like to perch on thistles and they make their nests partly of thistledown.

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As the Rambler passed along the sandy road through low land near the side of a branch not far from Bladensburg he came upon a dead king snake, sometimes called a chain snake, not an hour dead. The snake had been working all his life in the interest of men who farm, and he had been slain by some man bred to hold all snakes in abhorrence and who had not intelligence enough to differentiate between venomous and non-venomous snakes. It has been written by a man who knows his subject that 111 distinct species of snakes occur in the United States, and of these only seventeen are dangerous to man. Of these seventeen thirteen are rattlesnakes with their unmistakable mark of identification, a tail ending in a rattle, and the four remaining species comprise the copperhead, the water moccasin and two brilliantly colored "coral" snakes.

In the District of Columbia and those parts of Maryland and Virginia adjacent to the District thirty-eight different kinds of snakes have been found, and of these only the copperhead is a public enemy. Every water snake in popular fancy is a "water moccasin," and yet that snake has never really been found in this locality, it being a southern species and extending no farther north than does the diamond-back rattler. There is no authentic record of the killing of a rattlesnake in the vicinity of Washington within many years, though a man does not have to travel far to the west of Washington, either on the Maryland or the Virginia side of the Potomac, to find this snake, and in Hay's "List of Batrachians and Reptiles of the District of Columbia and Vicinity" it is written: "The evidence of the occurrence of the rattlesnake within our limits is not altogether satisfactory, yet it is of such a character as to make it seem extremely probable that the species is still to be found about the rock slides along the river above the city."

A SHADY STRETCH OF ROAD.

OLD SPRING AND MODERN SPRINGHOUSE BY THE WAY.

Miss Florence Nightingale Levy a Devotee of Art Education for Masses

SHE Is Associated With the Department of Graphic Arts in the Metropolitan Museum, Established the School Art League of New York and Has Been Instrumental in Organizing Similar Leagues Throughout the Country—A Pioneer in Decorating Classrooms of Public Schools by Cutting Out Pictures and Mounting Them on Cardboard.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

NEW YORK, June 14, 1916.

THAT the child's education begins with that of his grandparents is the firm belief of many who are promoting the art education of the present generation. The child of tomorrow will be chief beneficiary when the ideals of Miss Florence Nightingale Levy reach fruition.

Miss Levy is among the nationally accepted authorities on industrial art education and is a writer and lecturer of convincing force. For neary twenty years she has devoted her energies and enthusiasm to developing graphic art, with a tendenty to specialize in the school art leagues of her home city and throughout the country.

These leagues were established to be a connecting link between the school children and public museums or libraries, now to be found in or adjacent to every city of considerable size in this country.

Principally through Miss Levy's zeal and assistance this link is becoming closer and stronger each year, and is manifested in the artistic interiors of schools, the increased interest shown by school children in visiting the local art gallery and libraries, where good prints are exhibited, and their more frequent attendance at the courses of art lectures projected by the leagues.

Miss Levy, perhaps more than any one person, has made the School Art League of New York city a vital part of its educational system. The presiding officer of the league is James Parson Haney, who is director of art in the high schools. The treasurer is Otto H. Kahn, and the secretary, Miss Levy. Distinguished artists and educators make up the board of management, and the membership includes a fair proportion of the public spirited citizens, some of whom have contributed generous sums for a permanent endowment.

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From these funds schoolrooms are decorated, scholarships are bestowed, lectures given and classes taken to the museum, sometimes picnic fashion when the weather permits and always without any expense to the pupils. Last year nearly fifty thousand children of New York city shared in these benefits and more than four thousand were given special opportunities.

Miss Levy's enthusiasm for this crusade has led to the establishment of similar school leagues in other cities, though there has been no effort made to affiliate the younger societies with the large and flourishing center in New York. With the School Art League of New York to serve as general model, there are school leagues running in excellent order in Washington, Baltimore, Buffalo, Syracuse, Grand Rapids and many of the smaller cities of the middle and far west.

As in New York, these leagues are composed of citizens who give to the decoration of the classroom and to the fund which sends good lecturers into the school to give practical elemental chats on art in the simpler forms. It is now an ordinary sight to see hundreds of school children making the rounds of the art galleries under the care of a teacher who explains all that may be studied in the limited time. This is but one of the many hopeful signs of the activity of the School Art League.

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In Washington, where one of the best of American museums is located, there is a fullest and most sympathetic co-operation between the league and the directors of the Corcoran Gallery. In cities where no municipal art collections may be found—and Miss Levy avers these are becoming fewer each year—she advocates holding of loan art exhibitions.

Where even this is not practical, there is the last resort of the school league to purchase good pictures of the great works of art and bring the children together to study them. Just make a beginning, however humble, says Miss Levy, and note how soon the propaganda will grow.

All who give themselves to a cause cherish some special dream which they hope to see realized," said Miss Levy, "and I, of course, have my wagon hitched to a star. I do not like to have my project called a dream, but it is so classified now. I want the United States government to finance a great national industrial school of art, to be fed from the regular sources of revenue as to endowment and management and to be supplied with pupils from all the various states. I will not say after the plan of West Point or Annapolis, because this is not the idea at all, except in the national scope.

"I want to train teachers who will go forth and train students in the different states under state management, and I would like the same principles applied to teaching art as are esteemed in any other profession. I am courageous enough to say that I think all art education in the broad sense which has been accepted in this country begins at the wrong end.

"There are now more than thirty thousand American art students who are training to be artists and sculptors. Even the casual observer will say at once that the supply far exceeds the demands. This is so true that the survey of the field shows that of this total number of aspirants only three attain fame and therefore fortune. Only thirty succeed in making a competency and the story of the other twenty-nine thousand and more is pathetic indeed.

"Some suffer untold privations and there are records of their absolutely starving to death, though they possessed undeniable talents, sometimes even genius. Others take up other avocations and tell eloquently how benighted is the age and how vulgar are Americans who have no appreciation of real art.

"Many drop down to what they call degraded art and, though they may make a competency, they always feel as though they had been defrauded of their birthright. Now, my idea of teaching art from the right end would be to begin training all candidates alike and to bring them up step by step into the higher realms as they proved worthy not only as to talent but as to personal qualities. If art students were taught that all work is worthy and should receive their best efforts, I believe the art history of this country would be written differently.

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"As things come out now there are thousands of starving painters and sculptors, while artists who are willing to give their talent to posters, artistic advertising, decorating and teaching simple decorating—all these divisions which are so foolishly called degraded art—seem to become fewer and fewer. The demand far exceeds the supply. I should like to see the good artist willing to lend his art wherever it serves a useful purpose.

"Take the stupendous amount of art adapted to folders, programs, advertisements in good magazines and papers; such work will keep the artist in comfortable circumstances, and if he feels he has the divine spark within he can easily find time for his canvas, and he can feel assured his connection with a lesser branch of art will not militate against him in a rightly educated art community.

"This holds true in the plastic arts. How few sculptors reach the heights they crave. Yet, take one who has learned the guiding principles well; what excellent use he could make of his knowledge in the thousand and one industrial pursuits, and do this while he still works on the statue which has been his dream and his inspiration!

"The art school which brings forward these ideas when the students are young and teaches them to revere every kind of work associated with art, will create an epoch in the industrial education of America. It appears to me a work which only a great and beneficent government like ours can do.

"The time has already come when we must stand alone in the art field as we do in every other line of endeavor. We must make provisions to train our students in the best ways, to cultivate their tastes correctly and to provide a market where they may sell their wares.

"The school art leagues are doing a fine work toward cultivating the artistic faculty from the ground upward and not as the highest schools do from the heights down to the ground. But only the government can undertake the labor on a scale of sufficient magnitude to make the reformation in industrial art education worth while."

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE LEVY.

Miss Levy's own story proves conclusively that she is not afraid of her theory. She is a native New Yorker and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Levy. As a child she showed artistic inclinations, and, her parents having abundant means, she was given every opportunity to cultivate her talents. She took a complete course at the New York School of Design, and, believing she had been given the divine spark of genius, she went to Paris and remained for four years under the best masters to be found at the Louvre. Her ambition was to be a sculptor.

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After working, studying, thinking all these years she attempted something original in plastic art, something which was to make her immortal. After a fair trial, she was compelled most reluctantly to admit she did not possess the creative talent. She could admire and she could dream, but she could not produce.

So she looked the matter squarely in the face and made her choice—to use and to enlarge the appreciative talent which she possessed and not to join the ranks of failures by clinging to something which eluded her.

She began the work in the public schools as a part of her development in the art of appreciation. It is one of her theories that American art is virile and steadily forcing itself forward to the first ranks of modern art, but the American as a rule has not the appreciative sense and permits his opinions to be formed by others. All this school work is to create an appreciative audience right in their own country for the American artists and sculptors who reach the sublime heights.

This education of the child is preparing the way for the artist of the future. But even in the man and woman of today Miss Levy does not despair of awaking the true spirit of appreciation; and to read the progress art education has made in the past twenty-five years is to share her optimism.

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Contrary to the opinion held by people generally that a New Yorker finds nothing to admire beyond the Alleghany mountains, Miss Levy is enthusiastic over the work which is being accomplished in the larger cities of the middle west.

Chicago, she says, pointed out the way in many practical aspects. One way was to employ the best available artists in decorating the high and normal schools.

St. Louis has recently erected a normal school where the mural decorations are so fine that they must be examined by all who wish to know the last word on the subject of school decorations.

In Cincinnati, some of the most ornate buildings are to be seen, and with the most artistic interiors. It is all the result of wakening the esthetic sense of a community.

Few parents, Miss Levy has found, will withstand the pleading of a child for better conditions at school. Attacking a school board in its stronghold is a different matter; and she can tell some amusing stories about the indignation of some whom she visited in the early days of the uplift in New York city.

"What! Pictures and statues? They ought to be satisfied if the roof is mended and the cellar filled with coal!"

But when the taxpayers are approached by youngsters who covet a picture or a statue or want their walls tinted because such a school has all these things, then the school board begins to ponder on vox populi.

In New York city there are 500 public schools and 24 high school buildings, and it is a rare instance, indeed, where the walls are uncolored or unrelieved by pictures and where the windows are not neatly curtained and filled with flower boxes. One New York School—the Washington Irving High School—is so beautifully and artistically decorated that it serves as a model throughout the country of what may be done with a small sum of money judiciously expended.

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"It is needless for me to dwell on the permanent value to the country of surrounding the children with beautiful objects and teaching them, when the mind is most receptive, the difference between actual and spurious beauty," Miss Levy explained. "Every person who aids the School League becomes the benefactor of the race, present and future. It is encouraging to observe how few bare, whitewashed walls remain in public schoolrooms, even in remote rural districts.

"Indeed, in country schools I have found the most attractive settings made from reeds and nut branches and pressed autumn leaves covered with shellac. Pictures and statues are not always to be obtained, though nearly every school may get art magazines from which to clip reproductions.

"I find that few schools neglect this opportunity, and these rude prints artistically framed by boys in their technical classes promote the most useful sort of co-operation in industrial art training which a small community can hope to obtain."

Miss Levy's appearance fulfills the ideals of those who maintain that beautiful thoughts make the most certain way to obtain a lovely exterior. Her face is calm and studious, her eyes dark and expressive, her hair smooth and simply arranged. She has swinging, graceful movements, speaks with the definiteness which bespeaks the lecture platform. Miss Levy's gowns are a delight and must prove an inspiration to the women of shut-in communities. She frankly says a pretty dress is as attainable as an ugly one, and accomplishes much more for the wearer than the mere purposes of clothing.

She bears the impress of those who work for work's sake and not for the reward. She gives her services gratis, as do all the officers of school art leagues in New York and other cities.

She says that if she could ask any compensation for this labor it would be to ask to revisit the earth when the grandchildren of those who are now the wards of the art leagues sit in their places. She would like to get their point of view on industrial art education and see how it fits in with her prophecies on the subject.

Some Curious Pavements.

TOMBSTONES are not infrequently employed in different parts of England for paving purposes. Some four or five years ago the inhabitants of Belvoir bitterly protested against the use of such material in the construction of a road leading to the parish church, despite the assurances of the local authorities that with the liberal supply of old and broken gravestones at their disposal the plan had been adopted with a view to saving the taxpayers quite a sum.

In Lyons, France, the celebrated Rue de la Republique is paved with glass blocks eight inches square, which have been so precisely fitted together as to make them absolutely water tight. Compressed grass, it is claimed, has been used in the construction of pavements in German towns and with admirable results, and in Russia compressed paper has been utilized for a similar purpose.

Many interesting instances of individual eccentricity or extravagance in the selection of material for paving may be cited. It is related that when Maximilian Emanuel succeeded to the throne of Bavaria he celebrated the event by causing one of the roads leading to his palace to be paved with plates of burnished copper. This, gleaming in the sunshine, gave all the effect of gold.

Louis XIV, it is said, paved one of the courts at Versailles with squares of silver, each of which had recorded upon it some triumph of the French arms. In the center of the [illegible] stood a large tablet of gold in r[illegible]tion of the luxurious monar[illegible]ite emblem, the sun. Memoi[illegible]ne of Louis make mention [illegible]ge erected in honor of Loui[illegible]liere. The approach was [illegible] th mirrors, whereon was paint[illegible]llegory setting forth the undy[illegible]votion of Louis.

An eccentric nobleman of Milan conceived the idea of paving the courtyard of his palace with slabs of marble, granite and other stone, each from a different land. It is said that Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia all contributed to make up this quaint mosaic, composed of more than 1,000 pieces, every one of which was suitably inscribed with the name of the country or state whence it came.