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NOT THE GLORY OF CÆSAR BUT THE WELFARE OF ROME

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MAY DAY.

A VILLAGE TALE, FOUNDED ON FACT.

'Oh! I am so glad, I am so glad!' exclaimed Lucy Ashly, a lovely, blooming girl, with great animation; 'I am so glad to-morrow is the first of May!'

'Indeed,' said Harriet Love, the eldest of a little coterie of boarding misses, pettishly, 'I don't care about it—we shall have no coronation, and so I don't care. I wonder why Mr. Thornton didn't let us have one. You know how delightful it was last year. Mary Harris was Queen—how beautiful she looked, and I was one of the maids of honor.'

'Who besides?' inquired Lucy Ashly.

'There was myself'—

'Oh!' said the little group laughing, 'you have counted yourself.'

'Well, I'll begin with Susan Jones.'

'How many were there?' said Lucy Ashly.

'There were eight; let me see: Susan Jones was one,' at the same time pressing her thumb, successively, on each finger, with a corresponding nod of the head, 'Caroline March was two, Helen McAllister was three, Ann Price was four'—

'Ann Price died that last winter!' said Lucy.

'Oh, yes—but don't interrupt me. Jane Smith was five, Catharine Hope was six, Eudosia Fay seven, and I made eight.'

'Where did you have it?' inquired Lucy.

'Oh! in that delightful grove that overlooks the village, under those tall oaks that seem almost to reach the skies. We had a beautiful bower, covered with all kinds of flowers, for I believe Mrs. Hume and Mrs. Wise sent every one in their garden—so did all the other ladies; and we went in procession, with a band of Music before us. Mamma said we looked so pretty as we wound around the hill—and we had such a long table filled with every thing that was good. I thought I should never eat enough, and I carried home my bag full to little Bill and Sam.'

"Well," said a little girl who had hitherto been silent, 'I wish we could have a coronation. I do not care about eating, I am always too much pleased to think about it, and Mamma will never let me carry home any thing in my bag, but I love to see the company, and hear the fine music, and we always dress so pretty, you know.'

'Well,' said Lucy, 'if we can't have a coronation, we must have some fun.'

'I am sure,' said one of the girls, 'we have no holiday to-morrow, so I must get my lesson. Hush talking, do hush girls, and let us get our lessons.'

With this she put her hands on her ears, and waving to and fro, began loudly to con her morning's task.

'Oh!' said Lucy, after a pause, as if she had been pondering on some great and weighty matter, and with the vivacity of one who has suddenly hit on some new pleasure, 'let us try our fortunes.'

'Oh, yes,' said all, with rapturous delight, 'do let us try our fortunes.'

'But, how can we try them?'

'By taking a looking glass and holding it over the well. Ma says she tried hers when a girl and saw Pa in the glass.'

'La me! I never heard of such a thing,' exclaimed they.

'Well I have, often enough,' said Harriet Love, but here is Miss Julia—let us ask her to join us.' At this time a young lady entered the room. She was two or three years their senior, tall and graceful in her movements, and with a face of peculiar sweetness and expression. 'Miss Julia, Miss Julia,' cried they vociferously, each trying to be the first to speak, 'Will you try your fortune to-morrow? Do, now—oh! please do, 'tis the first of May, and you can see who you are going to marry.'

'You silly things,' said she, with a good humored smile, 'let me go—you had better be getting your lesson; and she essayed to pass on: but they continued with still greater pertinacity, 'Oh, do, Miss Julia, please.'

Being unable to overcome their importunities, and anxious to gratify their childish whim, she tacitly consented by asking what was to be done. They were all in raptures at her good-natured compliance, and they kissed her repeatedly.

'Now girls,' said she, 'you must go to bed. Papa (their preceptor,) is quite unwell, and says he must dispense with prayers. You must not make any noise as you pass his room—so good night,' kissing each affectionately.

As she retired they bade her remember to get up very soon, as their success depended on their early rising.

Those gay creatures were up with the dawn, with the same buoyant spirits, as on the preceding night. They dressed themselves quickly, in a tumult of delightful anticipation, then gently tapped at Julia's door —'Miss Julia,' said they softly, but eagerly, 'are you ready?'

'Yes,' said she, at the same time unclosing the door.

They silently descended the steps for fear of waking those who slept. As they opened the large folding doors, the air was fresh and balmy, and touched the cheek with beauty's breath. The early spring flowers were shedding their sweetest odors; the birds were making compensation for the long and dreary winter, and ushering in with their most melodious lays, this sweet month. May, beautiful May—how typical of youth! Just merging into life, when first weaving those fantasies of hope, those hues and blossoms of the heart, into every sweet and varied shape, little dreaming of the canker that preys upon the tender germ, and blights the opening blossom.

They pursued their way blithe and gay as young fawns, laughing and jesting on their coming fortunes. At last, they reached the well, encompassed by a few tall trees. They continued talking—but somewhat less volubly, and drew closely around, their voices gradually subsiding to occasional whispers. Each sobered into seriousness. 'Hush, girls, hush!' whispered Lucy Ashly, 'speak not a word. Now form the circle, and I will act the Sybil.' She left the spot a moment, but quickly returned, bearing in her hand a branch, which was to serve as a magic wand. All was now profoundly still. Lucy waving her wand, walked slowly and solemly around the well several times. At length, in a low but impressive voice, she repeated the following lines, still walking slowly around:

Sacred, sacred, be the well,
And potent be the charm,
And we may see,
Whate'er it be—
Whether of good or harm.
Omnipotent spirit, appear, appear!
And show thy vaunted power,
And ope to us life's quaint page,
At this sweet morning hour.
This is the morning of our life—
How quiet and serene!
But ere the Noon, or Evening sun,
What clouds may intervene!
Sacred, sacred, be the well,
And potent be the charm,
And we may see,
Whate'er it be,
Whether of good or harm.

She ceased—a solemn stillness pervaded spot. Each took the glass in succession; some returned it with a gleam of satisfaction, while others looked indifferent, or disappointed. At length it came to Julia's turn. She held the mirror with a firm grasp, and looked on its polished surface with great intensity. She continued gazing longer, much longer, than the rest, her color heightening to a beautiful glow. She suddenly became deadly pale. 'Miss Julia, dear Miss Julia, what do you see?' exclaimed the astonished girls, in alarm and expectation—'do tell us what you see.' She tremblingly handed the mirror to the one nearest her and silently and dejectedly walked away. Arrived at home, Fanny Thornton, her elder sister, made some inquiries of the girls respecting their morning's adventure; then turning to Julia, said with a smile. 'Well, Julia, I expect to hear something quite romantic from you—pray what did you see?'

'Nothing,' said Julia languidly, 'nothing Fanny.'

'I know Miss Julia saw something,' said Lucy Ashly, 'she turned so pale.'

Fanny looked at her sister attentively, and perceived she was wan and agitated. She therefore forbore further remarks; but when at night she was alone with Julia, in their little sleeping apartment, she importuned her to tell her what she had seen.

'I know, dear Fanny, you will think me very absurd, but nevertheless, I will tell you. I saw, dear sister, a grave—yes, an open grave—and I know you will soon be alone, in this little room—we shall no more lie side by side. Yes, Fanny, you will soon be alone in your little room, and I,' she said with a shudder, 'will be in my little narrow home, no covering but the damp, cold earth; no shelter but the canopy of heaven. Say, Fanny, when the moon shines sweetly, as it is now shining, on my lonely grave, say—will you not think of me.'

'Julia,' said Fanny reproachfully, 'don't talk so. I am surprised that you should suffer such trifles to weigh on your mind. It was, I am certain, nothing more than an illusion of your sensitive imagination.'

'It may be so,' said she dejectedly, 'I have not been well lately. Although I am gay, sometimes too gay—I often think of dying. I seize innocent pleasure with avidity. I love to visit my young friends; and oh! how dearly I love you all! but a cloud, a mist dims the future, that future which you, my dear sister, think strewed with flowers. I form no such anticipations.

'Nonsense, Julia, nonsense;—it is all nonsense,' said Fanny, with a gaiety she did not feel. 'What would Sinclair say to this? you know his visits are intended for you, and we shall soon have a wedding. 'Let me see,' said she laughingly, 'when will it be?'

'Never! never!' said Julia emphatically, 'he may be yours, or Lizzy's, but never mine.'

'Well, well,' said Fanny with a yawn—'we'll say no more, I am very sleepy, so good night.'

The sisters were soon quietly slumbering, with brows as calm as the glassy lake untouched by the summer's breath. Julia awoke the next morning, cheerful as usual, and with the charming elasticity of youth, busied herself with her customary occupations. Oh! happy period! when the tear is soon chased by a smile, when the fountains of sorrow are quickly dried by the zephyrs of Hope; or when sunbeams soon break through the cloud, making all sunshine and gladness.

One day, a few weeks after this, Julia was singing those sweet lines of Mrs. Dana's,

'Shed not a tear o'er your friends early bier,
When I am gone, when I am gone.
Smile, if the slow tolling bell you should hear,
When I am gone, when I am gone.'

Fanny remarked a tear stealing down her fair and rounded neck. Discovering that her sister had seen the emotion, Julia said smilingly, 'you know, Fanny, I am going from home to-morrow, perhaps to stay a week or two. I cannot help feeling a little sad when I think of leaving you, although I anticipate a great deal of pleasure.'

'Yes,' said Fanny, 'I know you will enjoy your visit; the country is so beautiful at this season; and Betty Grafton will make your time so agreeable! I wish I was going with you.'

The next morning the carriage stood at the door. Julia kissed her family circle, bidding them a warm and affectionate adieu; she stept gaily in, bowing and smiling on the loved ones, until they were lost to sight. As she was farther and farther removed from the village, she threw off the shackles of morbid apathy—inhaling the morning breeze, laden with the fragrance of many flowers, listening to the song of many birds, and marking the rich and varied landscape. She felt a renovated being—she indeed felt the wild delight of a bird let loose. Her taste was decidedly rural, and as she alighted from the carriage at Mr. Grafton's door, she exclaimed with artless animation, 'Oh! how I love, how I do love, the country!' Time flew on angel's wings—she rode, she walked—she laughed and sang with all her heart. How blithe, how merry was she!

She returned to her home, redolent with health and joy, the gayest of the family group. The impression she had received on the first of May, had entirely vanished, and she was unconsciously weaving those gay dreams so natural in the spring time of life. 'Julia,' said a lady who called shortly after her return, 'will you walk, it is a charming evening, it is also the Sabbath, and I love on such evenings to visit the grave of my dear, my angel child.'

'I too,' said Julia, 'love to walk there on the Sabbath, when the heart and affections seemed subdued and refined by its holy calm, its consecrated stillness. All seems in unison: it is a melancholy pleasure to visit the mansions of the dead.'

While talking over the graves of those whom they had known, and sadly commenting on their fate, Julia complained of a headache. They returned, but Julia's indisposition increased. The next morning found her seriously ill; a physician was called in, but still she grew worse. A consultation of several eminent physicians was held, but still she was no better. A week passed, and but little hope was entertained of her recovery; delirium ensued, and often she talked wildly and incoherently of the warning she had received on the first day of May. She awoke from a pleasant sleep, and seemed refreshed. 'My dear child,' said her mother, 'I know you are better; I know you are,—tell me, my *child*, my *angel*, tell me you are better.'

'Yes, mother, I am better—I have had such a sweet and pleasant dream—a dream of Heaven. Your Julia will be cold, cold, when yonder setting sun shall have risen again, and when it sets again, it will throw its farewell glance on my new made bed. Mother, I shall sleep then—so sweetly—I am tired now, dear mother, but then—I shall sleep so sweetly—sweetly.' She closed her eyes and slept forever.

M. R. S.

BEWARE OF THE FIRST GLASS.

A Tale of the Middle Walks of Life.

BY J. D. B., OF LOUISIANA.

"Taste not the wine within the cup—
Let not that curse be thine;—
'Tis rich and red, but grief and woe
Are hid its rosy depths below."—Willis.

Ellen Canning had, when yet a mere child, plighted her troth 'to love and honor' a talented though dissolute young man, of slender income and expensive habits. In vain her relatives argued that such an union could promise nought save misery; but the warm-hearted girl had pleaded so earnestly, that since Harry Marston had separated himself from his former gay companions, he no longer frequented theatres, bar-rooms, clubs or billiard-rooms,' as to draw a reluctant consent from her father, though the old gentleman hinted that the loss of his situation as book-keeper for the extensive western commission house of the B———'s was owing to his sad propensity for tippling. Though Ellen could not defend the past, she spoke with proud security of the future, in the simple appeal, 'but he has joined a *Temperance Society* now, papa.'

Alas, poor girl! she knew not that he whose cause she was so warmly pleading had often before signed the temperance pledge and as often, unable to resist temptation, back-slidden from his promise, although he felt it estranged him from the esteem and confidence of kindred and friends. For the first few months after their marriage, Marston's conduct bade fair to fulfil his wife's prophecy for the future; but again, strange infatuation! he, without any particular cause or inducement, tried another first glass, and, by way of indemnifying himself for past abstinence, drank to such excess as to lose his employment of book-keeper, and once more alienate the respect and confidence of his friends—all save one,—that one, his patient, suffering, uncomplaining wife—*she* still remained the same.

Soon they were reduced from a respectable competence to poverty, and, by as rapid a transition, from poverty, to absolute penury: and Ellen, with an infant daughter, was at last compelled, by the fear of seeing her babe die from want of the care and comforts she might secure to it beneath her father's roof, to accept for it and herself that asylum which was not extended to her drunkard husband.

Although Mr. Canning refused to admit Marston an inmate of his family, still for Ellen's sake he furnished the miserable and now thoroughly repentant man with respectable clothing, (even his clothes had been pawned at the *cabarets* for drams,) and in consideration of his once more signing the temperance pledge, under a solemn promise not to violate it, he furnished him also with letters to a mercantile house in Cincinnati. He left New Orleans immediately, and was shortly after his arrival, installed in Cincinnati as book-keeper to the firm to whom he was recommended. For a year his conduct gave entire satisfaction; out of his salary he sent regular remittances to New Orleans, to pay off the debts contracted during his terms of inebriety. During the year his regular upright conduct and attention to business so pleased his employers that, unsolicited, they raised his salary, inasmuch that he ventured to write to Mr. Canning, to whom he had promised neither to write to his wife nor by any verbal message endeavor to induce her to join him. He now wrote, confident in his present upright course and tried abstinence, praying that Ellen might be permitted to come to him. A kind answer was returned, and in another month Ellen re-joined him in Cincinnati.

Another year passed, and Marston was left comparatively wealthy by the death of his father, (a coffee planter in the West Indies) and had entered the commercial house of which he had been a book-keeper, as a partner. During that year his family had received the addition of a boy, a beautiful, healthy child, and Marston might ever be seen, when returned from his office, carrying the rosy boy in his arms, his favorite pride and plaything. What though he felt all a father's pride in his eldest child, the beautiful little Althea, with her deep blue eyes and dark curling hair, still was she to him more as a stranger, and he never replied to a question, of her age that she was four years old, without sighing involuntarily at the thought of how small a portion of that time she had been permitted to know him. None of these harrowing recollections were his, as he tossed the rosy, laughing boy on high, or nighty whistled him to sleep.

And Ellen was happy—happy in the affectionate kindness of the man whom she had never upbraided in his folly and degradation, now that he was restored to her, to himself and society.—She once more, as in the days when grief alone by name she knew, felt thankful for his reformation, and dreamed that halcyon days were yet in store for her.

Alas! that the brightest dream of a fond wife and mother's existence should be broken, rudely and forever, by that fatal curse—one more *first* glass. Yet so it was with poor Ellen's dream of hope and happiness.

On returning from his office one evening, Marston, being caught in a shower, stopped in a tavern, where were assembled many of his acquaintance, some reading the papers, others talking politics around the bar. Marston complained of being wet, and was advised to talk a glass of brandy; he knew full well his propensity, and that to be temperate *he* must abstain entirely, yet he was now no longer the dependent clerk, whose inebriety might be punished with instant dismissal and loss of character; he stood high now as a merchant and man of wealth; whom could it possibly injure—that *one glass*. Besides, to whom was he accountable?

Man! Marston! ask, to whom accountable? to your wife, your children, and—your God! Had he not showed that he could keep his word when *necessary?* Had he not abstained totally for the last three years? Then how could this *one glass* injure?—The sequel showed.

When Marston returned home later than usual his wife hastened to meet him with his infant boy in her arms. Pushing past her, he complained of headache, but Ellen was not deceived, the smell of brandy, though of late unused to it, was never to be mistaken. She had seen him thus before.

The babe clapped his rosy hands and crowed for joy as he stretched out his little arms to be taken, but Marston complaining of his noise, put him rudely back. The child affrighted put his head in his mother's bosom and sobbed himself to sleep. The first glass being indulged in but created a desire for more, and the next day 'twas with unspeakable horror that Ellen saw, by her husband's manner on his return to dinner, that he had been drinking, but she knew not how deeply.

Seeing that she was afraid to trust the child in his arms, as was her wont, Marston, with the obstinacy peculiar to inebriety, insisted upon taking him. But the little fellow remembering his repulse of the preceding night, or perhaps frightened at the violence of his manner, clung the closer to his mother. Marston, as has been said, had been drinking more deeply than his wife suspected. The fumes of the liquor he had swallowed, had risen to his brain, and maddened at what he called "the brat's obstinacy," he snatched him from his mother. Ellen clasped her hands as she saw him furiously swung on high, and called or rather screamed, "Oh, hurt him not, Harry!" but ere the words were ended, the helpless, unoffending babe was dashed to the first landing on the stairs.

A scream from his wife so wild and heart rending that the agony of death seemed to have passed in it, roused Marston to a full sense of what he had done. He ran to raise the quivering form of that boy, late so much his joy and pride, and bore him bleeding and mangled to a bed. *He was completely sobered!*

Finding that life was not extinct, he turned his attention to his wife, while a servant was despatched for a physician. Long and fruitless seemed every effort used to recall that life which from that young stricken mother seemed forever fled. But I pass over the horror with which she shrunk from his support and inquired for her child, and the agony with which she heard that though he might live, his spine had been injured and *he would be a cripple for life.*

Marston might again be seen carrying the babe about in his arms, but how different his manner—how altered the former gay tone of his voice. He now no longer called on the rosy, laughing boy to notice all that passed around but stilled the plaintive moanings of the little sufferer on his breast, with a tenderness and solicitude that spoke the deep feeling that lay in the father's heart for his crippled boy.

The patient little victim was six months old at the time of the *accident*, as that act of violence was reported to the physician and servants to be, and he lived till his birth-day came round, when his fringed eyelids closed "calmly as to a night's repose, like flowers at set of sun"—and he breathed his last.

Marston never again tasted of "the wine within the cup," business prospered with him, and he was accounted by the world a prosperous and a happy man. But they saw him not when tears fell fast upon the upturned face of the little Althea, as she asked '*why* little brother died?'

Not long after the death of her little darling, Ellen returned home to her father's, in New Orleans—to die.

Doctors called her malady consumption, but her husband alone knew that her son of earthly happiness had set forever when his arm had, with maniac force, tore from her breast its cherished darling, and hurried it to —its grave!

He asked not, hoped not for her to live, although with the sacrifice of his own, gladly would he have bought the life of her he had so injured, for he felt that though young, amiable, and loved, still must death now be welcomed by his Ellen as the kind friend who would terminate her earthly sufferings.

And when, a few weeks after, a letter sealed with black was placed in his hands, he read it through with the settled calmness of despair, and bowing his head down on the fair brow of his living child, he murmured—'Althea, your mother has gone to your little brother, my child. *God's will be done.*'

French Novels.—Look at that young lady, with the last novel of the French school in her hand! You know what it is, and therefore you know where her thoughts are, and what her taste is. And if purity, the stainless whiteness of an angel's breast, is the bosom whose companionship you seek, you turn from her society, seek a friend whose loveliness of soul has never been profaned by such communings.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Fellow citizens of the Senate, and House of Representatives:

We are assembled in the character of Representatives of the people, to consult upon their interests, and to execute their will. It becomes us, on entering upon our duties, first of all to carry our minds up to the Author of our being; to acknowledge Him as the rightful source of our authority, and to make his will the measure and the motive of our duty. If, in all our ways, we should acknowledge Him, we should especially do so upon becoming invested with powers, whose appropriate exercise requires, eminently, the wisdom that comes from above. Our responsibility is, immediately, to the people whose servants we are, but ultimately, to Him who will judge both the people and us.

We come together under circumstances of peculiar favor. The season has been crowned with blessing. Our fields have yielded an abundant harvest, and our people have been exempted from wasting disease. Labor has been protected and rewarded; and peace reigns within our borders. We are blessed with the steady and impartial administration of justice, and continue to enjoy the invaluable privilege of selecting, by our free suffrages, those who shall make and execute our laws.

Among the first duties you will be called on to perform, is that of selecting men to fill the judicial and executive offices of the government, which the constitution has wisely committed to your hands. From among such a people as this, there can be no difficulty in selecting men of upright minds, of pure morals, of tried integrity and of sound intelligence, to fill the various offices within your gift. The power of office, and the power of personal example and influence, can never be separated; and he bears the sword of justice in vain, who counteracts by the one, what he endeavors to enforce by the other.

But your principal labor lies in the broad field of legislation. We are selected and sent here, from among the people; with whose wishes and interests we ought to be thoroughly acquainted, and whose welfare should be the end and aim of our legislation. The government which, by their suffrages, has been committed to us, is their government—"instituted," in the language of the bill of rights, "for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single man, family, or set of men." The highest good of the people, and of all the people, therefore, it is our great business to secure.

The establishment of justice, in the perfect protection of rights, is the primary end of government, and, in its broad and comprehensive bearings embraces a very large portion of all appropriate legislation. But there is a field beyond this. The beneficent action of government may and ought to be felt in the promotion of virtue, in the suppression of vice, in the diffusion of intelligence, in the developement of mind, in the encouragement of industry, and in the drawing forth from the earth, which God has given for our temporary habitation, its teeming riches, to make them subservient to the purposes of their gift, in the wisdom and goodness of their great Author. In short, it is the duty of government to perfect by wise, discreet and timely action, the great purposes of the social organization.

In surveying the field of our duties, there would seem to be no subject claiming higher attention than that of Education. This subject has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Legislature by my predecessors, and several legislative reports have been made upon it. The result of a report made in the year 1841, was the appointment, by the Governor, of a committee, who presented to the legislature, at the following session, an elaborate and able report, containing facts and suggestions of great importance. I commend that report to your consideration.

Improvement is the great law of our individual and social existence. The means of it are furnished, in a greater or less degree to all; and all, whether individuals or communities, are accountable for the right improvement of them. This accountability rests, with peculiar weight upon us, in connexion with the subject of education—vitally connected, as it is, not only with our individual well being, but with the preservation and perpetuity of the institutions we are permitted to enjoy, and required to transmit to our children. These institutions will, inevitably, take the character of the people, whatever that character may. The best constitutions of government can interpose but a feeble barrier to the corrupting influences of ignorance and moral debasement. Their beautiful and solid structures will sink and crumble, when they shall cease to rest on the foundations of public and private virtue and universal intelligence.

This obvious truth is full of instruction to those upon whom rests the responsibility of making laws. Their duty is but half performed when they have made laws to *govern* the people. It is a higher and more difficult duty to adopt a system of legislation which shall have the effect of making the people a law, and a good and safe law to themselves. The most efficient laws are those which govern, not by the power of the sword, but by the silent influence of virtuous and enlightend principle. To educate a people, then, becomes an indispensable part of legislation—an appropriate and necessary instrument for executing the laws—an instrument far more efficient than the strongest military force; while at the same time, it gives to a State high-minded, virtuous, intelligent men, to become its strength, its defence, and its glory.

But what *is* education? It is not merely the learning which lumbers the brain. It is the discipline of the mind and the heart—developing their capacities, strengthening their powers, and training them to practical usefulness. Our children should be learned to think—to discriminate—to feel the conscious power of cultivated intellect, and the purifying and elevating influence of Christian principle. And this education should be universal, reaching the humble hovel as well as the spacious mansion, and thus bringing out the children of the poor and the rich, to drink together at the enlarged fountains of knowledge which we should open for all.

To accomplish the purpose of educating this whole people, in a manner suited to sustain our free institutions, we obviously need a more elevated standard of common school instruction. There is too wide a chasm between a liberal and a common education. The higher should not be brought down, but the lower raised.—Great political responsibilities rest on our people, involving the necessity of a high state of general intelligence. They are to judge not only of the personal qualifications of candidates for office, but of the character and tendency of measures, and the force and bearing of great principles. They must be able to detect errors of fact, detect false reasoning, and put demagogues to silence.

And the road to distinction should be made broader. We want in high public stations more men who have been trained to maturity amid the scenes of ordinary life. Industry, patience, perseverance, common sense, sympathy for the laboring classes, contempt for the mere distinction of office, and a love of the noble objects it gives the power to accomplish—these are among the fruits of an intellectual and moral training amidst the labors and trials of common life. The mass of mind, as it comes up to maturity, may, by a proper system of education, be disciplined to a vigor, and furnished with an amount of knowledge, fitting for almost any station, not involving the necessity of professional skill for its success.

I do not undervalue the higher seminaries.—They must be sustained—established upon solid foundations—placed beyond the reach of embarrassment and want. No adequate system of education can be sustained without them. They are important, not only to train instructors, and fit men for the learned professions, but to maintain a high standard of education in a community. They are like the sun shining in his strength and communicating light and heat to the bodies by which he is surrounded. But if we would sustain them, let us elevate the standard of common education, for in proportion as that is done, will the higher institutions be more valued, and more liberally patronized and endowed; while there will be, throughout the community, a greatly increasing thirst for the water that comes from these deeper and purer fountains.

The great desideratum in regard to common education is, *improved modes of teaching*,—modes by which the hitherto great waste of time may be avoided—the mind stimulated to activity—trained to habits of self-relying effort, and learned to "go alone," as it shall be thrown upon its own resources, amid the labors and responsibilities of practical life. Time waits not the sluggish and inefficient movements of false methods of teaching. It bears our children rapidly onward to manhood, prepared or unprepared for the great duties of life. But as we double the power of human energy by new processes in agriculture and the mechanic arts, so may we double the value of the alloted time for education. We are eager to avail ourselves of the augmented power to gain wealth through the wonderful discoveries and improvements of this age. Rail roads augment the value of every thing they touch or approach, and we are, therefore, awake to their importance; but are there not more wonderful developements to be made of intellectual wealth by improved modes of education? Should other improvements go on, while this stands still? Are the mind and heart of a people of less importance than the materials of wealth in the earth they inhabit? Shall we carefully improve the breeds of our animals while we neglect the improvement of man? He is esteemed a public benefactor who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before, is not he a greater, who devises means for doubling the productive power of the mind of a people?

And now is presented the great inquiry—By what means shall the needed reforms be effected in the management and instruction of our common schools? This is, practically, a difficult question. The first thing to be done evidently is, to ascertain the present condition of our schools in regard to the precise defects in the modes of instruction, the character of the books used and the general standard of qualification of teachers.

Though we have doubtless many good teachers, there is, in general a manifest deficiency in this respect. Nor should this surprise us. It would rather be surprizing if, under our present system—if system it can be called—the standard of qualification did not fall far below what it should be. Teaching is, generally, but a temporary resort, either to obtain the means of an education, or of embarking in other pursuits. It should be a *profession*, as honorable as it is responsible. There will be good teachers when we shall mature a common school system which shall create a demand for, and furnish the means of rewarding them.

There should be, furthermore, an examination into the condition of the school houses, in reference to their size, seating, ventillation, warmth, location, and the grounds connected with them.

Information on all these points should be embodied and brought out, in order to awaken the public attention to the necessity of vigorous and systematic efforts for reform. And this must be done under legislative authority, by persons competent to an inspection, and to the making of its results intelligible and useful, as a basis of future action. Such investigations have been the first in the prosecution of educational improvement in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, producing, within a few years, great and beneficial results in those States. Will Vermont longer hesitate to follow their example? On you rests the responsibility of deciding this question. I would not urge to hasty and headlong efforts at improvement. Gradual progress is the law of advance to sound and vigorous maturity in every thing. But there can be no advance without a beginning.

How shall this beginning be made? is a question for immediate consideration. The exploration suggested, to be of any avail, must be uniform, universal and thorough. To make it such, compensation is obviously indispensable. We have once tried it without, and failed; and without it, we shall fail again. There must be an efficiency which the responsibility of accepting a trust with compensation, can alone secure.—By what agencies the work shall be done, it will be for your wisdom to determine. It will be worthy of consideration whether they may not be such, in part, as shall be needed for the general supervision necessary to carry forward and perfect a system of educational improvement; such, for example, as a board of commissioners as in Connecticut, or of Education as in Massachusetts, or a general Superintendent of common schools with County Superintendents, as in New York. There may be advantages worthy of consideration in the direct and undivided responsibility of a single general Superintendency, while the County Superintendents may well be supposed, from the range given for their selection, to be fully competent to exercise the rigid supervision, and make the suggestions of improvement indispensable to progress in the reform.

This corresponds somewhat with the Prussian system of superintendency, as described by the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education in the late report of his visit to Europe, for purposes connected with education.—The kingdom, it appears from the report, is divided into circles or districts, in each of which there is "one or more school commissioners or inspectors, selected from the most talented and educated men in the community—such as would be appointed presidents or professors in colleges, or judges of the higher courts. The whole Prussian system" says the author of the report, "impressed me with a deep sense of the vast difference in the amount of general attainment and talent devoted to the cause of popular education in that country, as compared with any other country or state I had ever seen." Over all the other functionaries entrusted with the execution of their system, is the Minister of Public Justice, who is a member of the King's Cabinet. "Such has also been the case in France since the late organization of their system of public instruction."

Under the New York system, it is the duty of the County Superintendents to visit the schools in their respective counties, consult with the teachers and town superintendents, deliver lectures on education, and endeavor to awaken an increased interest on the subject of common school education. These latter requisitions form a very important part of that system; as it is obviously vain to attempt a reform unless the people can be brought to take a deep interest in it. There must be the co-operation of an enlightened public sentiment, or nothing will be done We may legislate, and must legislate; but after all, little can be effected merely by the pressure of legislation. It must be adapted to awaken, and concentrate, and give effect to the energies of the community. And what cannot Vermont accomplish in this matter if she shall undertake! and what motives to undertake, and to persevere, can be compared with those which are connected with the vast results of the mental and moral training of her children!

The carrying out, and perfecting, of an adequate system of educational improvement will, of course, involve ultimately a considerable expenditure; but as the necessity for it shall arise, will the gradually unfolding benefits of the system make the contributions to sustain it, easy, and their burden light. The expenditure on the part of the State, necessary to commence the system, through the agency of a State Superintendent, and County Superintendencies, need not be great—not much greater, in the language of the report of the committee to which I have referred, than "the people of Vermont have paid annually for killing foxes."

Vermont has an enviable name abroad. Let her maintain it. Let her emulate the efforts of New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.—She ought, indeed, to go beyond them. No State in the Union has such a material to work upon,—none that can be wrought into more beautiful and durable monuments of public beneficence and liberality.

In respect to the ultimate expenditure that may be needed for the purchase of district school libraries, and chemical and philosophical apparatus and globes; for making provision in the colleges and academies, or in seperate institutions, for the teaching of instructors; and for aid in the repairs and construction of school houses—we may hope that we shall at no distant day, possess ample means, in our distributory share of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. It would be an appropriation worthy the noble inheritance of freedom which, with a large portion of those lands, was bequeathed to us by our revolutionary fathers. It was, indeed, a benevolent and fitting arrangement, in the order of Providence, that the same severance from the parent country which gave us independence, gave us also a great domain, capable of dispensing so widely the blessings of education, and of rendering this nation a model of virtue, intelligence, and good government, for the world.

I have dwelt longer on the subject of education than may, perhaps, be deemed appropriate for an executive message; but its very great importance must be my apology. It is, in my judgment, of more importance than any other subject that can possibly engage the attention of the legislature.

A consideration of the means of developing the mind of the State naturally suggests the idea of developing the riches of its minerals and its soils. My predecessors have frequently recommended a geological survey of the State, in which I fully concur; and invite to the subject your special attention. If we would develope mind, and apply it to its great purposes, we study and analyze it, that we may understand its capacities and powers. Thus should we do with the soil we inhabit. Here we are in its daily cultivation, drawing from it our support; and shall we remain ignorant of its properties, its defects and the means of supplying them, only as tardy experience shall disclose them to us! We want a scientific, thorough, universal examination of the various soils of the state, involving a complete analysis and classification of the whole, and such an exploration as shall reach, if possible, all the fertalizing substances which can be made available for the amelioration of our soils, and the stimulating them to their highest practicable power of production. There are localities where the discovery of a bed of limestone would be more valuable than a mine of gold. The same may be said of marl, gypsum, peat, and other substances, appropriate, either singly or in combination, to supply deficient elements in unproductive soils.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the probable developement of mineral resources, of which we have an earnest in our iron, copperas, copper, manganese, and other mineral treasures.

It is needless to say that such result will not be brought out, except under examinations effected by legislative authority, and at public expense. Such examinations have been made by other States; and the results are before the world. I mean the immediate results; for the great results are yet to come forth in a mingled mass of benefits, spreading themselves over the surface of our country, while there is a soil to yield its fruits to the labors of man.

By enquiries made two years ago, I learned, that, at that time, geological surveys had been authorized in every State in the Union, excepting Vermont, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Illinois. The lone position of Vermont in this classification, is some what striking. It is for you to say whether we shall remain in this position any longer.

This subject derives great additional importance from a considerable of the emigration which has, at some periods, rapidly, and still does, to a considerable extent, drain the population of our State. If we would train our people at home, let us show them what Vermont is, and what she is capable of becoming, as an agricultural State.

If the people could fully perceive the importance of a geological survey, I doubt not, they would esteem it a privilege to be taxed at once an amount sufficient to complete the work. The whole expense of completing, and publishing a survey, would not, probably, involve a burden exceeding three cents upon each individual in the State; which might be spread over two or more years should it be deemed expedient.

This subject is invested with still further importance from the fact, rail roads are approaching our State—at no distant day, we may hope to pass through it—which will greatly enhance the value of our agricultural, as well as our mineral productions. Let us prepare to throw into these improved channels of communication with the great markets of the world, the productions of a soil, quickened by the application of agricultural science, to a doubling of its present power, and cultivated with the augmented energy which these facilities cannot fail to excite.

In the exercise of that care which regards the interests of all, you need not deem it inappropriate or unnecessary, to consider, whether additional legislation is not required for protection against the exactions of unlawful interest. Our law relating to this subject declares, that interest shall be limited to the rate of six per centum per annum; and provides for the recovering back, in action for money had and received or goods sold and delivered, of any amount paid above that rate. It is worthy of consideration whether the remedy ought not to be extended, so as to authorize a recovery of the amount thus paid, by a proceeding in chancery.

The law has, in effect, declared the taking of interest above six per cent. to be a wrong; but it has provided no adequate remedy for it.—The remedy, by the process provided in the statute, is practically no remedy at all, for in no cases can it be made available, excepting those, in which accident shall enable a borrower whose necessities have compelled him to submit to the illegal exaction, to prove by common law evidence, what so much pains are always