

this good result by requiring them to write about something they have seen, heard or done, and not on abstract subjects about which they know little or nothing. His pupils write compositions all their school life, and they derive great benefits from such a course. This is one of the points in his plan, which are worth considering. Would not people be better able to express themselves, if when they were children, they had been compelled to do much writing?

There are many parts of this plan which work very well in Russia, but would not do so well here. One in particular is the freedom allowed with regard to attendance. Russian parents do not appreciate the need of having children attend school, and so allow their boys to have the choice of going to school or not; but American parents know the benefits derived from an education, and so require their children to attend school regularly.

Most of us recognize the fact that life is not always made easy and pleasant for us, and that we have to do many things that we would rather leave undone. School is not a place merely for play, but it seems as if Tolstoi meant it for such, as his pupils are given unlimited freedom.

It is not possible to discuss all parts of the plan in this short paper, but we have tried to present its most prominent points. We ourselves come to the conclusion that parts of the scheme are very valuable, yet that its one great fault, the absolute freedom that is allowed, is a fatal one. And we would have children work a little harder than Tolstoi thinks best, in order to acquire that priceless thing, an education.

A. I. W.

LITERARY.

JOHN KEATS.

The world in general is apt to heap flattery upon those who are of noble birth, or who hold high positions in life, but if a poor man of low origin has accomplished what is of sufficient worth to place him on an equal footing with those favored by fortune, how grudgingly if at all, is due honor given him. Why is the world so unjust, and why did it say of John Keats, "He is only a doctor's apprentice; how can he write poetry?" when he had the noblest of all blood in his veins, that of a highly sensitive poetic nature?

It is impossible to trace Keat's ancestry farther back than his maternal grandfather, from whose Welsh name, Jennings, we conjecture that in his veins coursed the same blood that flowed in the veins of the Cymric Celts, whose passionate poetic and musical natures are reflected in the character of John Keats.

He was born in London, in the year 1795, his father being an employe, afterward proprietor, of a livery stable belonging to the poet's grandfather. Although occupying so low a station in life, his father is described as a man of "remarkably fine common sense and respectability," while his mother was a passionate, impulsive woman of fine talents, extremely fond of music and amusement. She was the closest friend of her eldest son, and her death he mourned long and bitterly. As he had lost his father in his early youth, he was now placed under the guardianship of two merchants. At the age of fifteen, he was withdrawn from school and apprenticed to a surgeon. Thus all the school education he ever received was obtained before his sixteenth year, when he knew but little Latin, and no Greek whatever. Within him, however, had been awakened a thirst for literature which led him to continue his studies during spare moments. He was encouraged in this by his friend, Charles Cowden Clarke, the son of his old schoolmaster, who loaned him books and aided him in interpreting their language. This friend read "Epithalamium" to him, and loaned him the "Faerie Queene," which gave him his first poetical inspiration. He began by writing sonnets and other short poems, but had not the courage to show them, even to his friend, until two years later when he had reached the age of twenty, and had abandoned the study of medicine.

About this time Cowden Clarke showed some of his poems to Leigh Hunt, a poet, critic, and essayist, who read them with delight and sought an immediate interview with the young poet. This introduction was the precursor of a lifelong friendship, and resulted in Keats' becoming acquainted with many of England's brightest lights of literary genius. He soon became a favorite in social circles, and was much admired both on account of his fine intellect and his striking personal appearance.

He was slenderly built with proudly set head crowned with curling auburn hair, a broad forehead, and a sensitive mouth. His eyes were large, liquid, and brown; truly the windows of the soul within. In speaking of them Haydon