THE KINDERGARTEN METHOD IN OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

(*Expressly for the Review*).

BY JANE DEARBORN MILLS.

The Single Tax, at present, is an educational work. How to make our organizations strong for the educating of the world is the vital question, until we can put the system into practical exercise.

There are two great methods of education, as they appear to the observer. In reality, one is only a branch of the other; but from the prominence given it we must consider it by itself.

This branch is the purely scientific. It uses the technical vocabulary in all its rigidity; it allows no modification of it, even as a means of making itself more clearly understood; consequently, it addresses only the purely scientific mind, or the purely scientific in the mind of the hearer. It does not understand the kind of intellect which does not understand its definitions, except as one which prejudice has twisted out of shape. But it is firm, courageous and persevering. It will stand for its principles against any force. It is an essential factor in the education of the world.

But it is not the only factor. For the foundation principle of the kindergarten is the basis of all real education, and the scientific—minus its artificial rigidity, which is a weakness of it and not a part of its real power—is only one of its methods. The kindergarten is by no means a baby principle. As an educator of many years' standing, I am ready to take the ground that all real education, from babyhood to college graduation, and on through old age, is based upon the principles of the kindergarten. Everything else which appears like education is either artificial or ineffective. The artificial deforms. the other is sloughed off. My husband used to tell me that Agassiz, the elder, whom he knew so well from being his pupil, assistant and friend, was a true kindergartner.

Now the principal study of the kindergartner is not that of the science to be taught. This study is only his preparation for his work, although he makes this preparation thoroughly. But his principal object of study is the mind of the one to be educated. In dealing with those purely scientific, he gives purely scientific instruction. But he does not turn away from other minds, provided they are honest, for he does not believe them to be twisted. He recognizes that every honest intellect is fitted to comprehend some phase of the eternal truth. If he fails to find the phase for any one, he regards it as a limitation in his own powers of presentation. He works patiently to discover the standing-ground of each, pointing out, as soon as he recognizes it, the next step to be taken by that one. And he talks to him in the language the unlearned can understand. But, in it all, he never loses sight of his own real aim, which is to educate that one, finally, up to the understanding of the science through its technical vocabulary.

We are in the habit of looking upon the scientific mind as the only one possible to the true reformer. And in our admiration for its strength and what it has achieved, we neglect to draw the line between its real power and its weaknesses which hinder and injure. Its courage to stand unflinchingly for its principles, its clear insight, its love of teaching in its own vocabulary and its pure technical knowledge are all admirable. But it loses ground when it denies any other way of teaching. For in truth, it is itself only one branch of the great system of kindergarten education, one of the laws of which is, that methods, to be effective, must be adapted to the mind of the pupil, and that no

fully endowed mind, which is honest, is hopeless; and that more failures are those of the teacher in presenting the subject, than of the pupil in understanding. In the past, the technical reformer has suffered so much that it was cruelty to notice his mistakes. He bore torture unto death for his faith, and his name has come down to us on the roll of martyrs. His character is a noble one. We cannot give it too high praise. He has roused the world, again and again, from depths of degradation. His magnificent courage has kept his voice clear and his arm strong for the the truth, until the flames have silenced and destroyed them. The highest honors we can pay him are but a faint testimony to his greatness. But, even so, he has not done all the work, nor the only essential part of it. His faith would have perished with him, if he had been the only kind of reformer. Those few strong spirits could have been hunted down and stamped out, as their enemies tried to do, if another kind had not been busy perpetuating what the martyr had so well begun. This other worked less noticeably, but with no less fervent zeal. These were the not so aggressive minds, whose labors, unnoticed, leavened the whole lump, until, suddenly, the world found itself, one day, converted.

Now that physical martyrdom is no longer called for, these two different methods might work in unison with great power. The purely scientific, or technical, might give cordial recognition to the other, which is no longer obliged to labor in secrecy as in the old times. The Single Tax is particularly adapted, from its intelligence and general toleration, to bring about a working union of the two. Indeed, we depart from the method of our great leader, Henry George, if we do not prize the one which I have styled the kindergarten method pure and simple; for he adapted his instruction, and even his mode of address, in a remarkable degree, to the ears of his listeners. This is strikingly shown in his addressing the Pope as, "Your Holiness," a title tabooed by Protestant ideas. But Henry George was wise enough to know that he could, with perfect sincerity, use it as a simple recognition of the Pope's office in his own church. No one misunderstood him in this use of it, and it enabled him to avoid the seeming disrespect which would have been conveyed to the Pope's mind by any other mode of address.

We have, no doubt, among our Single Tax following, much of this kindergarten genius, and it might be still more effective in hastening the day of triumph if it were heartily cultivated. Boston is especially favored with a working example of this adaptation of means to ends in the Massachusetts Single Tax League. Mr. Fillebrown, the President, with the most outspoken honesty of principle combines the ability so much needed everywhere, for approaching the hostile mind and inducing it to listen without antagonizing it. We, of the other sort, too often give the impression to the "Anti," "Uncompromising surrender of your money, no matter what becomes of your life." Our opponent demurs before the vigor of our appeal and objects, "What you want to do is to knock me down and rob me." And we answer, "Well, sir, if you loved the truth you would be glad to be robbed for its sake." And then we are astonished and disgusted that he turns away saying that he doesn't think he cares much for the Single Tax, and reports us as a band of highwaymen.

Mr. Fillebrown is working in the Froebel way. He answers to this same inquirer, "Why, no, you will keep your titles if you want to, and you may call the land your own, and your security in it will be the same as now, namely, that you pay your taxes. The essential point will be that you will be taxed for all the land you hold, equitably ,and not at all for anything else." And the Anti goes away saying, "There is some sense in it, after all." He speaks to his Anti friend. "I have found out that the Single Tax is not so bad. You

just talk with Mr. Fillebrown. He puts it in a common-sensible way;" and so the leaven works.

What we have here in the way of this Froebel work, is, I hope, only a part of much that is going on everywhere. But it would be well to emphasize its importance more strongly and bring it into the front in all places as of equal value with the purely technical. Mr. Fillebrown has formed audiences out of a large number of the unconverted, by means of banquets, where the guests have Anti minds, but willing ears. If the people can be induced to listen, they will talk further, and there is no doubt that the discussions thus arising will go far toward the final leavening of public opinion.

In these modern times, when martyrdom is out of date, there is every opportunity for the formation of organizations based on a union of differences. The power of such unions will astonish us when we come into the full working of them, and my suggestion is that we do all in our power to form as many of them as possible.

BOSTON, Mass., June 25th.

EDWARD OSGOOD BROWN.

Judge Edward Osgood Brown, who took his seat upon the Illinois Circuit Court Bench at Chicago on the 22nd of June last, is a Single Tax man of fifteen years' standing, and of national reputation.

He was born in sight of salt water at Salem, Mass., in 1847, and received his academic education in the Salem public schools and at Brown University, Rhode Island, graduating from Brown in 1867. He then passed through the Dane law school at Harvard, taking the first honors of his class in 1869. Two years later he was admitted to the bar of Rhode Island, having filled in the intervening time as assistant clerk of the Supreme Court of that State. After practicing a year in Rhode Island, Mr. Brown came to Chicago in 1872, along with his college classmate, Orville Peckham, who has been for many years the attorney of the First National Bank of Chicago, of which Lyman J. Gage was president at the time of his appointment to a place in President McKinley's cabinet.

The two friends began practice in Chicago together as Peckham & Brown, and until Mr. Brown's election to the bench on the 1st of last June, the firm still existed as Peckham, Brown & Packard. Mr. Brown's practice was general during the whole thirty-one years of his professional career, although for twenty-five years of that period he had much to do in connection with the legal business of the bank of which his partner is the attorney and his firm the counsel. His name is identified professionally with several litigations of exceptional importance in which he scored notable triumphs. Among these was one involving the constitutionality of the statute establishing the Probate Court of Cook County, and another in which the constitutionality of the law creating the Chicago Sanitary district was sustained. For several years after 1894 he was counsel for the Lincoln Park Commissioners, and in that capacity had charge of the successful litigation in support of the rights of the State of Illinois to the shallows of Lake Michigan. He acquired a deserved reputation, in this connection, for special knowledge and skill with reference to the laws affecting riparian rights, a subject regarding which he is probably the best equipped lawyer in Illinois, if not in the United States. Mr. Brown was counsel also for the West Park Commissioners in a difficult but successful litigation for the recovery from the National Bank of Illinois of public funds involved in the