noticed their improvement and expressed their gratification at the result. I mention this in the purpose of according due credit to those teachers who have exerted themselves in the labor of improving their schools, and who have the reward of success for their future encouragement.

THE SCHOOL SCIENCES.

All the classified studies of the schools are school sciences. The school sciences that are essential to a fair education for practical life, are few in number. Those that are merely ornamental may be multiplied to an indefinite extent. They are so multiplied in many of the most respectable schools.

There is central truth in the ideal of the uncultivated speculator that the mastery of the three Rs — Reading, *'Riting* and *'Rithmetic* — is all that is necessary for the pursuits of practical life. It is with but a very imperfect knowledge of the three sciences, thus rudely represented, that by far the greater portion of mankind works its way of progress. It is a fair representative education for the multitudes that consists in a general knowledge of language with the ability to write and calculate. Such an education, in the use of good natural abilities, has made its way to fortune and to distinction in many more instances than can be recorded of more thorough educational training. And surely such an education should be within the reach of every man and woman of the community.

The First R — Reading, Language. — Good reading consists in much more than elocutionary display. It includes the proper apprehension and use of words as the representatives of thought. The good reader not only develops the style and sentiment and design of the subject; he also retains the knowledge secured by his study for personal use as occasion may afford. The knowledge thus secured becomes the power of original invention, and exhibits itself in new forms of composition according to the ability of the possessor. This style of intelligent reading includes the

knowledge of letters, with their powers and nature, and the manner in which they are arranged into words. The good reader is therefore a good speller, not only in the proper arrangement of the letters, but in their signification in their arrangement. The intelligent speller is, in a degree, an intelligent definer. In the mental formula of his labor, he takes cognizance of the power and use of the word as well as of its form. He thus learns how to estimate the value and apply the words with which he becomes familiar in the expression of his own thoughts. Thus, from the observation of language the student learns its use, and if the habit of using the material of thought thus furnished be acquired, the reading student becomes prepared for the evolution of his own material of thought and its expression, thereby rendering it of use to others as well as to himself.

The Second R., Writing, Composition. — The writing which has its place in the order of the three scholastic Rs, must not be limited to the mere practice of making the characters that form words and express thoughts. This, like the mere manufacture of words out of letters, is but a mechanical operation. It requires the practice of the hand and eye in order to secure readiness and perfection. But the practice of the hand and the eye would be of little use were there no mental powers operating in their oversight and guidance. An educated judgment is necessary even for the mechanical developement of the art of writing. It is yet more necessary in the acquisition and application of the scientific knowledge by which the practice of writing as an art must be preceded. The habit of the scientific working of the art is readily attained, and when attained it affords, in its degrees, the ability to work in original thoughts as it is done in the art of composition. The writing of the three sciences includes the art of composition, without which there can be no recorded expression of the mind's inventions in the use and expression of its powers.

In this department of study there must be, at least, a sufficient knowledge of the science of grammar to enable the