

"I've been reading in the JOURNAL some more about the school question," said the back number, "and the more I read the more I am convinced that my own impressions of the way some of our modern schools are conducted, with the consent of parents, is a serious reflection on the good sense of the general public. Why, when I was a boy we had only six months' schooling, and that under all sorts of difficulties, but we got into the academy and from the academy into college quicker'n your smartest boys or girls can do it under the present system of education. Perhaps we could not diagram words and make out a form with quite such pretty red lines, etc., but it's my impression that we went out into the world fully as well fitted for the tussle of life as the best of 'em nowadays. It was not so much dress parade as right-down solid brain-fillin' that we got. Pupils who had the right sort of stuff in 'em were allowed to go right ahead, regardless of the class, and the teacher had time to give instruction whenever a would-be inquirer raised a hand. We didn't spend time with a drum corps to show off the martial drill of the scholars in marching around the school yard and into the house. Each one went in on his own hook and was held personally responsible for his good and quiet behavior. I don't say that that would be a good custom now, but there is such a thing as running a good practice into the ground, and I believe our schools have followed up a good many fads until they are a detriment to the interests of education."