

ignorance for the lasting good of even those they are intended specially to protect; and the free trade which exposes rude labor to the sharp competition of skilled, artistic labor, puts the former at great disadvantage as well in the home as in the foreign market. Against foreign competition nothing but skill and taste can give our labor effectual and permanent protection, while leaving us all the advantage of a natural system of exchange. At home, since trade is unrestricted, there is, of course, nothing left any town or State but to protect itself by properly educating its labor, and thus re-enforcing whatever superior natural advantages it may possess. This it owes to itself as a State or town, and then to each child reared within its limits.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The general character of this education should not be determined by merely local circumstances; for with perpetual migration, and in the absence of caste, there is no assurance that any American child will do what his father did before him, or will die where he first saw the light. Though born in the most secluded farmhouse, he should be treated as the child of the whole country, and so educated that he may have a fair chance with his fellows wherever he may make his home. By this it is not meant that he should be trained to a special knowledge of all kinds, or any kind, of labor, but that he should be made acquainted, through the study of language, mathematics, science, and art, with the general principles which underlie them all, and with those practical applications which, without retarding the acquisition of principles, can be learned at the same time. General culture and a fair start in any pursuit demand so much for all. Again: in determining what should be the general character of the education given American youth to-day, we must regard the present and prospective condition of things, and not educate on the basis of what was required fifty or twenty-five years ago. We must also look abroad, recognizing the fact that American life and industry feel the influence of the remotest parts of the civilized globe. It is only by thus shaping the general form of American popular education that it can be made adequate to the requirements of the age.