

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE SCHOOL OF TEARS.

("In the gall of bitterness.")

For The Public.

"O damn the past!" he frowning said.

"Its flowers lie blackened by its frost;
Its firefly joys have flashed and sped!

Its rainbow hopes, in clouds, are lost!
The taper lit by love—how briefly bright!
Dear, useless dreams—dissolved in starless night!

"No strain from heav'n e'er thrilled my heart,
But prelude was, to wailing hell!
From sin, its suffering, none can part!
Sad ashes speak, the tale to tell,
What wealth was burned, in fatal fires of truth,
While folly drank and danced with foolish Youth!"

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("In His marvelous light.")

"The school of tears!" he smiling said.

"The lesson learned leaves nothing lost;
To higher, wider life I'm led;

What use to mourn the tearful cost!
The child which Sorrow bears through needless
pain,
Despite the cost, is still a priceless gain!

"Far brighter flowers shall bud and bloom;
Unending joys, my soul shall fill;
Unfading hopes gild ev'ry gloom;
Undying love, my heart-strings thrill!
Thou, Soul of Love, art teaching me—through
tears—

To help Thee swell the music of the spheres!"

ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

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SOCIAL CENTERS.

A Letter from Charles Frederick Adams to the Minneapolis Tribune of January 27, 1911, on School Buildings as Social Centers.

Pray permit me, as a visiting friend and sincere admirer of this splendid municipality, to congratulate it (and American cities generally, which will all be aided by the example) upon the enlightened beneficent and most encouraging resolution passed by your Board of Education to permit, invite and suggest a wider use (by the citizens) of their school property for the "holding of meetings having for their purpose the advancement of civic betterment," etc.

For whatever other good purposes this generous and patriotic invitation may be utilized by the thoughtful and public spirited Minneapolitans I sincerely hope that, in as many neighborhoods as possible, there will be maintained non-partisan

and non-sectarian citizens' "forums," meeting regularly as often as once a week and in the sittings of which the neighbors may become acquainted, may "size each other up," compare notes, consult, discuss, about public affairs; educate and develop one another; encourage and inspire the young men to enlist with enthusiasm in the holy war for the general welfare; call before them, meet face to face (and compare with one another) the rival would-be leaders and aspirants to public office, hear them, examine them, let them know what the people want! "Back to the Town-meeting!" must be our cry.

I prophesy that, if our democracy is to be real, decent and tolerable, before many years in all our cities the voters of each polling precinct will be "ex officio" (so to speak) members of just such a Citizens' Council, non-partisan and non-sectarian, and that these primary forums will gradually be co-ordinated and federated by really representative committees of various grades (district, county, State and national), the whole providing the American people with that social nervous system which it now lacks, and which will serve as the appropriate and adequate organ for the rational development of an intelligent public opinion upon questions of the public interest, as well as of its formulation and promulgation with such guarantees of authenticity as shall give it prestige, directness and the weight and influence which it would deserve.

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BAD TAXES MAKE BAD BUSINESS.*

Report of the Committee on Taxation (Oliver T. Erickson, Chairman, J. S. Brase and C. W. Stimson) of the Manufacturers Association of Seattle, State of Washington.

Within the last two or three years it has been

*This extraordinarily clear and sound statement of the relation of business to taxation, although adopted by the committee on taxation of the Manufacturers' Association of Seattle, was defeated in the Association by a narrow majority owing to the opposition of Seattle land speculators. The report was strongly commended by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of November 12, 1910 (the leading Republican paper of the State of Washington), which said on the subject editorially that "there is no reason why the legislature should not submit to the people of Washington the question of exempting manufacturing establishments from taxation. With an abundance of raw material, Washington can easily become one of the foremost manufacturing States in the Union. Within the borders of this State there is work for hundreds of thousands of thrifty toilers. But capital is needed to open up the opportunities to them. Any State policy which will make the Washington field attractive to investors will be a wise policy. It will increase the State's wealth, increase its taxable values, give employment to many men, and add greatly to the commercial, industrial and financial prestige of the commonwealth. The next legislature should submit the Constitutional amendment suggested. . . . Factories should be given a free field in this State."