

**REJOINER TO THE "REPLY" OF THE HON.  
HORACE MANN, SECRETARY OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF  
EDUCATION, TO THE "REMARKS" OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON MASTERS,  
UPON HIS SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT**

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Rejoinder to the "Reply" of the Hon. Horace Mann, secretary of the Massachusetts Board of education, to the "Remarks" of the Association of Boston masters, upon his Seventh annual report by Various

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# **VARIOUS**

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REJOINDER

TO THE

“REPLY”

OF

THE HON. HORACE MANN,

SECRETARY

OF THE

Massachusetts Board of Education,

TO THE

“REMARKS”

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON MASTERS,

UPON HIS

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

BOSTON:

CHARLES C. LITTLE AND JAMES BROWN.

1845.

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At a meeting of the Association of Boston Masters, held on the 26th of December last, a Committee was appointed to rejoin to the "Reply" of the Hon. Horace Mann. The report of that Committee was submitted to the Association at their next regular meeting, held on the 30th of January.

The following Rejoinder comprises that report, together with separate rejoinders by the writers of the last three articles of the "Remarks," to those sections of the "Reply," respectively, which are devoted to their articles.

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## R E P O R T .

Your Committee have carefully reviewed the "Reply" of the Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, to the "Remarks" of the Association of Boston Masters on his Seventh Annual Report; and after an attentive examination of the "Remarks," in connection with the "Reply," have arrived at the following conclusions: First, that the Secretary has wholly misjudged the motives of the Masters in the publication of the "Remarks." Secondly, that he has, in very many instances, entirely misconceived the sentiments of the writers, as represented in their several articles. Thirdly, that he has done them great injustice in his quotations from their writings. Admitting the truth of these conclusions, it is obvious that the Secretary's "Reply" has greatly misrepresented the Association of Masters, and placed them in a false position before the public. We do not say that this misrepresentation was designed on the part of the Secretary; but, we feel no hesitation in asserting, that it is the preëminent characteristic of his "Reply;" and its importance is greatly enhanced, from the fact that it is two-fold, involving not only the educational opinions of the teachers, and their professional reputation, but their integrity as men, and, consequently, their moral reputation.

On the other hand, an unfortunate aspect of the "Re-

*Schwarz. 8-6-48-Stein.*

marks" is, that in attempting to controvert some opinions advocated in the official writings of the Secretary,—and the promulgation of which tends to place teachers who have not adopted them in an unworthy position,—they do not define sufficiently the field of the controversy between the Secretary and the Association, and consequently bear in too great a degree the character of unqualified criticism. We do not admit by this, that the "Remarks" have done the Secretary injustice, in the discussion of those educational questions which are at issue between himself and the Association of Masters, or, that the criticisms therein contained are untrue or unfair; but that in failing to acknowledge sufficiently the usefulness of Mr. Mann's efforts in those departments of his official labors not relating to these questions, the "Remarks" seem to be susceptible of a more extended application to his official character than was intended by the Association. Moreover, certain references to opinions of gentlemen not necessarily connected with this controversy, and for whom, personally, the members of the Association entertain the highest respect, seem, unfortunately, by implication, disrespectful and uncourteous, though they were not so designed.

In view of these conclusions, your Committee, while they are fully aware of the necessity of a rejoinder from the Association of Masters, still conceive the character of such rejoinder to be a consideration of the highest importance. They perceive, at the outset, the difficulty which must attend them in attempting to reply with justice and candor, to an opponent by whom they have been first placed in a false and disadvantageous position, and then hotly pressed with the keenest weapons of polemical warfare. Commencing with the intention of examining carefully and dispassionately the character of the Teachers' "Remarks," and the Secretary's "Reply," of presenting their respective claims to truth and justice, they are aware of the many obstacles which they must encounter in adhering to their purpose. The



pleasing qualities of style must be sacrificed to a faithful investigation of details, often minute and uninteresting. That strong feeling which gives forcible utterance to thought, and loose reins to the imagination,—and hence, eloquence to writing,—but which, in personal controversy, tends to mislead the judgment and to vitiate its conclusions, must be subjected to a desire for truth in its simplest and most honest forms. They feel that theirs is an ungrateful task. They are called on to speak in their dull tones, to those whose ears have listened to the sweet voice of music; to hold up the graceless and naked forms of facts, to those who have been borne away into the realms of fancy, and whose eyes have feasted on visions of fairy splendor. From sentiments which have been sent forth glowing with the beauty of the Secretary's peculiar eloquence, they must strip off their fair attire, and present them once more in the uninteresting aspect of sober reality. They must pluck away the graceful flowers of rhetoric whenever they are not woven around the brow of truth, and bare the deformity which their charms concealed. These are some of the difficulties which must attend their labors. But conscious of honest intentions on their own part, and convinced that a love of truth, and an earnest desire for the promulgation of correct principles, are the motives which have governed, and still do govern, the Association of Masters, they will endeavor to treat justly and impartially that portion of the controversy which they review; to be unshrinking in their concessions, when concession is required, but equally firm and decided in the defence of what they believe has been unjustly assailed.

The first consideration which claims our attention in the reply of the Secretary, is the charge of unworthy motives in the publication of the "Remarks." The character and substance of this charge may be learned from the following passages extracted from different portions of the first section.

"It was not until then, that I clearly saw their mutilated and garbled quotations; the forced transposition of paragraphs, so that an inference drawn from one might be made to cover another; the sup-

pression of parts of sentences whose object was to explain and define the rest, and, generally, the anxious spirit of misrepresentation that presided over their preparation." — p. 6.

"But it is a question of justice, of truth, of moral power, where annihilation awaits the wrong, however haughty or numerous they may be, who uphold its banner. It is not the number of the partnership, but the moral solvency of the firm, with which I am concerned; or, to draw an illustration from their own art,—if they are right, they represent a row of thirty-one integers, but if wrong, as I can easily show, then they are like thirty-one Vulgar Fractions multiplied into themselves,—yielding a most contemptible product." — p. 12.

"The 'Remarks' of course had their instigators. Active and unscrupulous individuals, from motives peculiar to themselves, might easily have obtained a reference of my Report to a 'Committee of the Association.'" — p. 72.

"The truth is, that all this crimination, on account of my 'early Reports,' is an after-thought. If I were so unjust, so ignorant, so imbecile, seven years ago, why did they not sound the alarm earlier? It was my Seventh Report, describing beautiful schools, managed on Christian principles, and presided over by bands of noble teachers;—a description of which ought to have excited emulation rather than envy;—or it was things even extraneous to that,—which stirred up the *instigators* of these 'Remarks,' to their work. These instigators must have said of the Prussian teachers,

'There is a daily beauty in their lives,  
That makes us ugly.' — p. 73.

From the sentiments contained in the above quotations, and others of a similar character frequently and forcibly impressed upon the mind of the reader, in the different sections of the "Reply," we learn that Mr. Mann views in a most unworthy light the motives which influenced the Association of Masters in the publication of the "Remarks." He believes them to have undertaken the work at the instigation of "active and unscrupulous individuals;" and to have been influenced by envy, jealousy, and resentment. Your Committee deny the right of the Secretary to bring any such charge against the Association, or to impugn the motives of individual members; and they do not hesitate to assert in the most positive manner, that nothing has transpired in the "Association" which can with justice be attributed either to personal hostility towards Mr. Mann, or to a foolish "jealousy of their reputation."

We believe that the "Reply" does great injustice to the

Association of Masters, in imputing to them unworthy motives in sanctioning the "Remarks;" and we feel the fullest confidence in disclaiming, in behalf of the Association, any other design than that of defending, fairly and honestly, some of their principles of instruction and discipline, which the Secretary had attacked in his official writings. And though for this they are charged in the "Reply" with a desire to "arrest" the progress of education, and to "petrify" its present systems, rather than to improve them, yet, we believe that there is no ground for charging them with any more unworthy *motive*, than the desire to defend their honest opinions. If the "Remarks" fail to acknowledge sufficiently the usefulness of the Secretary's official labors, it surely is as reasonable, and as just, to account for it from the fact, that the "Remarks" were written in defence of principles already attacked, and held up to ridicule in the Secretary's writings, as from any sinister motive. Nay, it is even more reasonable, for it is more than probable that any one who was about to make an unjust and malignant attack upon a public writer, would seek to cover such attack, and to fortify his cause with crafty acknowledgments and fair professions; while, on the other hand, he whose principles are placed in the defensive, and to his own belief unfairly so, would be likely to be earnest and impatient in his defence. Besides, if any charge lies against the "Association" for ungenerous treatment of the Secretary, in omitting to acknowledge his usefulness, a charge of still graver character may be brought against the Secretary for representing the "Remarks" as designed to arrest the progress of educational reform, because they attempt to controvert some of his educational opinions. But whatever may be the arguments on either side in relation to this question of motive, your Committee are of opinion that a conscientious disavowal of any feeling of personal hostility to the Secretary, is the best testimony that can be offered. Such a disavowal has been already made. It is true that the sentiments of the Masters, as they are misrepresented in the "*Reply*," seem to indicate feelings of hostility towards the