

Charles Dickens

Schools I Do Not Like

(from a speech given on November 5th, 1857)

".....I don't like that sort of school - and I have seen a great many such in these latter times - where the bright childish imagination is utterly discouraged, and where those bright childish faces, which it is so very good for the wisest among us to remember in after life, when the world is too much with us early and late, are gloomily and grimly scared out of countenance; where I have never seen among the pupils, whether boys or girls, anything but little parrots and small calculating machines....."