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Chicago, Thursday, December 5, 1878.

Editorial.

The Educational Weekly Free!

For every subscription accompanied by the full price, $2.50, received between this date and Dec. 31, 1878, we will send "The Educational Weekly" free till Jan. 1, 1880. This affords those whose subscriptions are expiring an extraordinary opportunity to renew at reduced rates. A hundred different subscribers ought to take advantage of this offer every week until the end of the year. In order that teachers who do not now take the "Weekly" may know of the opportunity we offer them, our readers, especially superintendents and principals, must take pains to announce it. The sooner we receive the remittance the more the subscriber will get for his money. Hurry up your subscriptions and renewals.

An unexpected demand for No. 91 has exhausted our usual reserve. We shall be glad to obtain some from our subscribers.

In our "Educational Intelligence" of the issue of Nov. 21, we quoted from the Denver Times some remarks prompted by the burning of the State Normal School building at Emporia, Kansas. The remarks were rather severe upon what the Times sees fit to call the "semi-private, semi-normal boarding school, conducted in the building during late years." As to what the facts in the case may be the Weekly knows nothing except from reports; and it certainly does not mean to do the slightest injustice to any person or to any school. The Denver Times seems to be a responsible paper, and the article bore no marks of prejudice or malice so far as we could see. But yet it is quite possible that it was unfair, and that we did wrong in repeating the remarks. If it shall so appear we are very ready to make all reparation in our power. But we will not pay any attention to communications upon the matter unless we know the name of our correspondent. We have announced this rule before, and hope we shall not have to do it again. If "Educator" will send us his name, his letter shall appear. In cases like this where the issue is a question of fact it is of special value to have the real name of the writer published with his letter; and the withholding of it is not at all suggestive of dignity or courage. If any responsible person will send us a counter-statement over his own signature, we shall take pleasure in giving as much prominence to it as we gave to the quotation from the Times, and even more.

Col. Robert Ingersoll and Rev. DeWitt Talmage are furnishing the two most novel sensations of the day. Col. Ingersoll, by his ridiculous discourse on the "Mistakes of Moses," is tarnishing his bright record as an eloquent patriot. No doubt Moses made mistakes, but hardly one as great as his critic is now making. As to Mr. Talmage's revelations of the "Night Side of New York Life," public opinion seems to have undergone a change. It must be confessed that there is something unpleasantly dramatic in the preacher's manner. But that which appeared at first as an unseemly effort at sensation, has become a terribly vivid description of things that are to be seen in the "hell-holes" of any large city. But while due credit must be given to the courage and descriptive power of the preacher, there is room for grave doubt as to the good he is accomplishing. True, large audiences crowd his church, and people read his sermons as they read the details of a great bank robbery, or a terrible murder. But where is the outcome? Strong emotions are raised, but how can they find their proper sequence in appropriate action? Startling the community is not reforming the vicious; nor is the mere exposure of vice a potent means for its suppression. As an educating force Mr. Talmage's sermons cannot be commended. To awaken our sympathies, or our disgust, without leading the soul to execute its impulse, is a weakening process, and prepares us to tolerate what at first we condemned. If Mr. Talmage could gather a band of wise and courageous men about him, and arouse them by his "secrets of the deep," to lead a crusade against crime and iniquity there would be more cause for hope. But to astonish the innocent, and to pander to all the depravity that hides itself under the garb of respectability is a procedure that should be scanned closely. The reverend expositor is certainly not hiding his light under a bushel; but is it wise to set the gates of hell "ajar" to any except the chosen few who are blessed with grace and strength enough to fight the devil?

The Weekly presents its holiday compliments thus early to the pupils and teachers whom it meets, for the purpose of laying before them one of the finest Christmas hymns (in prose) ever written. Those of our readers who are admirers of Dickens will require no apology from us for giving space to his famous and most beautiful Christmas Carol; while those who have not read it will thank us, we are sure, for putting it before them, unless, indeed, they bear close relation to the unregenerate Scrooge. In
ON THE USE OF DICTIONARIES.

Nobody can appreciate more highly than does the Weekly the value of the dictionary, or the importance of acquiring the habit early in life of consulting it constantly. Without it good scholarship is impossible. But in regard to it an erroneous opinion is often held. To think that in childhood we can get a working comprehension of words from formal definitions is a great mistake as to think that grammar teaches us to write and speak correctly, or that we learn how to reason by the study of the science of logic. We grow into the meaning of words very as we grow into the use of our faculties. Many readers know how impossible it is to give a child any real conception of the meaning of a term by means of a clear and correct definition. We may give the child a vague impression which he, in common with ourselves, may mistake for a comprehension. But we often accomplish our best results, poor as they are, by means of illustrations, comparisons, and devices, which we would bluish to see put into type before us. Our vocabulary even into the time of youth is not obtained by means of definitions. It is the using of words either in hearing or speaking that gives us their meaning. We may memorize definitions but that does not give us the mastery. The dictionary is comparatively of no use to us until we have got by “hook or crook” a good share of what the dictionary contains.

A primary dictionary in any real sense of the word is an impossibility. We may have an elementary book on science. But the elementary words, if they may be so called, of the language are the most difficult to define. The words which children meet, or ought to meet, cannot be adequately explained to them in their own vocabulary. We would like to have our correspondent who writes upon this subject in another column try his hand in framing for a primary dictionary satisfactory definitions to such words as opening, earth, mud, sky, cloud, etc. No doubt the so-called primary dictionaries might be greatly improved, but we don’t see how they can be made to fill the ideal of “Ixion.” So far as giving definitions is concerned the best of these little abstracts are not the things for children, and have no business in their hands. Their main value any way is to show the spelling of common words without the labor and care of consulting a large work. The synonyms they give are sometimes convenient for a mature mind. But as explaining the meaning of words they are delusive, and to require children to use them or any “defining book,” is an imposition. And in this assertion we include the list of defined words so often put at the head of reading lessons. However, in this case the objection is not so great because when the word appears in the lesson there is at least one illustrative sentence to explain its definition and its use.

With all our zeal for the use of the dictionary, we would not put it regularly into the hands of pupils below the high school; and we would never tolerate the use of these good-for-nothing little “primaries.” We know how boys and girls are apt to become bewildered by a multiplicity of figurative meanings and to fritter away their time in a laudable effort to find the right one. For this reason it does not seem wise to send children to the larger dictionaries until they have the judgment to discriminate between meanings, and are able to appreciate illustrative sentences. Any formal definitions that they may memorize before they attain this power are worse than useless.

Well, what shall children in our grammar and intermediate grades do when they meet words which they do not comprehend? (1.) Do not be ambitious to have them meet such words except in their regular work. (2.) Let the teacher take pains to explain them, and it will often have to be done in a way that does not look well in print. (3.) Rely much upon their general intelligence and reading, but do not take these things for granted. (4.) When your pupils do come to the use of the dictionary see to it that they are properly trained in its use, and are not left to their own explorations, until they have had enough experience under your hand to make them more intelligent in its use than is the case with most of our high school pupils. (5.) When your pupils are started in the use of the dictionary, never relax your efforts to have them consult it. See that it becomes a habit with them to go to it on the slightest provocation.

REVIEWS.


This is a new edition of “Steele’s Fourteen Weeks in Natural Philosophy,” but entirely re-written and improved. It contains several new cuts, such as those illustrating the telegraph, microphone, and telephone. The abundant “notes” at the bottom of the page are an interesting and valuable feature of the book. In them the pupil not only learns numerous facts which are omitted from the regular text, but also finds suggestions and illustrations for the construction of apparatus, by which his interest in the study will be materially increased. These “Notes,” as also the “Practical Questions” at the close of each general subject, will, if dwelt upon at any length in the class, protract the course of study beyond the limits of a single term; and indeed, a thorough
teacher, with a competent class of pupils, will scarcely be satisfied to pass over the whole subject comprehended by the term "physics" within the allotted fourteen weeks. The Notes, Questions, Summaries, and Historical Sketches constitute the main portion of the text. The body of the work in coarse type, and the numerous illustrations, cover the most of the space, but they are the mere outline of what a live instructor would undertake to teach. The reading references at the close of the historical sketches point out the way for the student who wishes to pursue the study still farther, and also offer the teacher a treasure from which to draw material for further illustration or instruction.

At the close of the volume are several pages of blackboard illustrations, which could be used to excellent purpose as a means of reviewing the study at any time. We regard this as a most interesting text-book on a most interesting subject of study.

But while we think so well of this series of text-books we cannot rid ourselves of an earnest wish that the author or the publishers would free the series from that "Fourteen Weeks" title. Whatever there is in a name does not, in this instance, lend support to thorough study and scholarship. But does it not rather encourage superficial work and "short cuts" in these subjects? The circumstances must be very favorable and even exceptional under which a class can properly complete one of these books in fourteen weeks. We do not like to impress the reader that justice can be done to such important branches of study, or to such worthy text-books in so short a time. We do not believe in lightning processes.


These are two quite agreeable books of their kind. The compilers do not pretend that they have made any discovery by which to lessen the inherent difficulties of learning to spell. But by selecting only common words, by classifying and arranging the words according to the principles of comparison and contrast, and by dictation exercises, they have done about all that can be done to aid our children in mastering that abomination of all abominations—English orthography. The primary book contains a large number of very good illustrations. They are genuine spelling books and are well made.


This little book of eighty-three pages is a sort of "missing link" between "language lessons" and lessons in primary grammar. If teachers who have this elementary work in language to do could have the matter and the manner of this book transferred to their own texture, it would be a good thing. As a sort of model lessons for teachers, sketches to be filled out and used orally, we should think the little work might be useful. The author says his aim has been to crystallize "oral teaching," a thing that never ought to be done, even if it can be done. As a suggestion, as a lubricator, in oral teaching, but not as a crystallizer, we can commend it.

Prof. James P. Hoyt, principal of Academy, Newton, Conn., has edited, and A. S. Barnes & Co. have published a *One Term's Course in Latin*, which is designed to thoroughly drill the pupil in Latin and prepare him for the study of a Latin author, in one term or less, according to age and capacity. It is comprised in nineteen pages, with stiff paper cover, and sells for twenty cents. References are made to sections in Harkness' Latin Grammar and Reader. For an inexperienced teacher it would be found a convenient guide in selecting portions of the Grammar to be read and other portions to be committed to memory. It contains also some good suggestions and tables of endings, which will aid in simplifying the instruction given to beginners. It may be used in connection with any text-book, and, if followed, will considerably reduce the time usually devoted to the study of the Latin grammar.

**HIGH SCHOOL TALKS.—NO. VII.**

**ABOUT MOMENTUM.**

In my boyhood I lived near a railway. On one side of the station was a very steep grade. A long train of cars stopping at the station found it difficult to get over the steep incline. I have seen many a train, after a vain struggle, come to a standstill half way up the hill. Then it has passed back beyond the station again to attempt the steep grade with the momentum acquired from rapid motion over an easy way. Standing where I had full view of the train in all its struggle, I have felt like swinging my hat in sympathy as it pulled grandly over the highest point. The triumph seemed like the victory of a fellow being.

Again and again I have wondered why the engineer would attempt that steep grade without the momentum of a good start. I tell you it is a great thing to have the momentum of a good start. I wonder now at boys as I used to wonder at the engineer, that they do not take care to acquire a good momentum while they are on the level track of boyhood.

But then the engineer could go back a second time upon a track in which there are many steep places. There are many difficulties in your way where you will need all the momentum of a well spent youth. But should you come to a standstill on any incline there is no sliding back into youth for you to get a fresh start.

Work in boyhood is simply getting up the momentum that is to be powerful in overcoming the difficulties that lie before each one of us. Boys are apt to think that life for them does not begin until school days are over. Some of them are waiting until it is time to begin. The great mistake is in not knowing that they are already well on the way. They forget the necessity of acquiring a strong momentum before they reach the heavy "upgrade" of real life.

When I see a man achieve some mighty work, I put a great deal of the credit down to the hard work done and the discipline thereby received in his earlier days. The boyhood of a man is the most important factor in his life. It is always with him foreshadowing and meting out his success or his failure. It is as easy to tell the fortune of a boy as that of a girl, for you say "the child is father to the man."

Some years ago an old gentleman passing the cemetery in Chillicothe, Ohio, observed a boy lying upon a marble slab and sobbing as if his heart would break. The tender hearted old man stopped, turned to the boy, and kindly inquired the cause of his trouble. The boy looked up through his tears and said that he had just completed a course of study at the old academy in the city and that his classmates, who were sons of wealthy parents, were to be sent to some eastern college, but for want of means he was compelled to stay at home. Then suddenly jumping to his feet and clenching his fist, he added:—"But, when they come back, if they know more than I do, they will have to work for it."
It would not take much of a fortune teller to predict a successful future for such a boy. Is it a wonder that, when he chose the profession of law, he stood at its head in his native city? that he was chosen Supreme Judge in his native state? that he was promoted to a seat in the United States Senate where he stands today in the very front rank? And now is it strange that Senator Thurman is spoken of in connection with the presidency, as often as any other man? That man's boyhood being given, his manhood was as inevitable as that two and two make four.

Perhaps neither a judge's bench nor a Senator's seat is waiting for you, but there is a place somewhere that will be just your size. You may fill that place as well as Senator Thurman fills his. You will not be fit for any other. You may weary of doing work neatly and carefully, but there is work to be done that requires both neatness and care. It may be burdensome to you to be punctually in your places twice in a day for five days in a week for forty weeks in a year, but the business of the world is conducted by men and women who are promptly in their places. You may discover that it is not always the brightest boy that comes out the best; but you should learn that "grit" is the thing that wins.

Emerson says: "Every book is a quotation; and every house a quotation out of all forest's and mines and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors." And is not the commonest facts relating to animal life as have been possible leads to the use of incorrect names for objects, I have directed with a jar of brilliant green earth, and to stream water in search of curious forms of animal life.

I claim for myself that comes out the best; but you may think me an epicure in search of table delicacies—or parts of the same; and that love insect-stripped with Lord Baltimore's famous colors, but in which—blindness of arrogance!—no potato raiser ever yet saw anything beautiful. It is no bug at all, and so I gently told the boy. Then the contempt deepened and deepened until no plummet in my mental craft could sound it, and how low I fell at that moment in my estimation I never shall know.

"Not a bug!" he burst forth, "then what is it? An elephant? Er mby yer thinks it's a chicken, just git over here an' say shoo! an' shake yer hat at 'em an' see how they'll run!" and with this exhaustive resort he turned on his broad bare heel and walked away.

"But, my boy," said I, "stop a moment; look at these specimens, and at these drawings, and let me explain."

"No yer don't," returned he, "'s a got time fer no sech fool nonsense." And so I was forced to close my case and to go on my way with the disagreeable consciousness of utter defeat.

In one of my morning rambles, soon after, I came upon an archin who sat upon a stone by the roadside exercising his voice in that favorite juvenile solo which makes up in volume and pitch whatever it lacks in melody. I drew near and inquired the cause of his grief.

"Pinchin' bug bit me," roared he, pointing to a fine specimen of the wickdest looking creature of its size in the whole anima I kingdom, which stood near apparently regarding us with the greatest ferocity.

"Sonny," said I, "fumbling for my pocket-case, "that is not a bug." I never got any further with that lesson. The howls instantly ceased; he gazed at the beetle intently for ten seconds when a horrible thought which must have been suggested by certain pious old picture-books at home, convulsed him body and soul.

"It is old Satan," he shrieked, and plunging around a corner was lost to the eye, though for some time painfully distinct to the ear.

Not long after I heard of a sensitive mother who, armed with "vials of wrath," searched highway and by-way that unlucky day, for the wicked man who told her child that a pinching bug was the devil come to carry him off. Now these two efforts in my work of reformation had been made with children; possibly, thought I, in reflecting upon the cause of my failures, I am expecting too much of the juvenile intellect; nice distinctions are not to be expected of the young. I will next seek to instruct one whose older head and larger experience have better fitted him for understanding the nice distinctions I wish to make. I was soon favored with such opportunity.

Stepping into an apothecary's shop to make a purchase, I found the clerk with a jar of brilliant green beetles before him, part of which he was in the act of transferring to a mortar.

"What are these?" said I.

"Spanish flies," returned he, "I am just going to pulverize some for flyblister."

"My friend," said I, "you are mistaken in supposing these to be flies." and I laid open before him my case with its tempting array of insects and drawings.

Now, I know that of all articles of common merchandise, drugs, their

I trust that your young lives will be so strong and pure and noble as to expand into volumes of beauty and goodness and power in your mature years. Let me beseech you not to forget what it was that took my train up that steep grade,—the momentum of a good start.

J. W. D.

**BUGS AND FLIES.**

LEAVES FROM A NATURALIST'S NOTE-BOOK.

I AM a man with an irresistible desire to poke into the nooks and corners of earth, and to strain air and water in search of curious forms of animal life.

A Digger Indian observing me in the pursuit of my favorite amusement would no doubt, think me an epicure in search of table delicacies—or whatever that may be, translated into Digger vernacular;—and embrace me as a "man and brother," but white men declare by these tokens that I am a "Naturalist," and nine-tenths of them add:—"a shiftless fool." I claim for myself none of these distinguished titles.

Such facts relating to animal life as have been possible for a man of limited means and more limited time to collect, I have recorded within these pages; and though indebted to no personal teaching for the humble store of information thus gathered it is my ambition to become a teacher in a quiet way to the people around me, many of whom are deplorably ignorant of the commonest facts concerning lower manifestations of life.

I have attempted but little in this direction, and as yet my efforts have not been attended with success. Possibly my method is faulty. It is this:

Believing the ignorance mentioned to be due to defective training of the observing faculties; and that imperfect observation or the lack of all observation leads to the use of incorrect names for objects, I have directed my attention toward correcting, in part, this abuse of terms, hoping that this might lead to closer examination not only of terms but of objects to which the terms are applied.

One of the most common of these errors in the misuse of the words bug and fly. Now any one possessed of even the most rudimentary knowledge of Zoology knows that the term bug is applied to a family of that order of insects known as the *Hemiptera,* and that the true fly belongs to the *Diptera,* but with people in general it seems to have become an accepted conclu-
tecture and properties, are the least understood by the multitude, and that the
apothecary's apprentice generally believes that he has reason for pluming him-
self upon the knowledge of things not dreamed of in the philosophies of the
common herd; but I had not calculated the depth of the insult I offered this
bottle washer to. Eucalypinus in claiming to know something of his profession
that he did not know.

He drew himself up in all the majesty of his five feet and four inches, and
read me such a lecture on my impertinence as I had not heard since the days
of my grandmother.—Blessed be her memory, and may I be forgiven for men-
tioning her in such connection!—and he concluded, pointing to my display of
insects, that if I was one of those quacks who go about the country trying to
introduce their worthless nostrums, and had any idea of convincing him that
potato-bugs and grasshoppers are superior to spanish flies for blisters, the soon-
er I took myself off the better.

In vain I expostulated and begged to be heard to the end of my tale, he
deliberately turned his back upon me and, with a self-control I refrained from contradicting her
answering he, rousing with a visible effort
fury at my delay was great,

"The weather was warm and nocturnal insects were lively in the parlor of my
boarding-house. Miss Pinchem, themistress of the establi
shment, had
imposed on me a lesson on the use and abuse of terms, and from
the depth of my present humiliation over my awkwardness and repeated
failures combined, I made a rash resolve never to open the
t.IsNull my case of insects came out instantly, and I was do wn upon the
grass beside him in another instant, talking rapidly and giving illustrations of the
points I wished to make, as if I had not twenty times before been brought,
gaping, out of just such a fit of enthusiasm by a liberal dash of cold water,
and had not as good reason to expect the same in this case.

But no such reception greeted me; as I warned with my subject the intelli-
gent face before me brightened and glowed appreciatively; he examined the
drawings and used the microscope with discrimination and at the close of our
talk, which would have been indefinitely prolonged, had he not been called
back to his work, he arose and said:

"Yes, I think I understand all that you have said, and see the reasons for
the differences you want to make in the names of these little creatures, and
I wish I had time now to learn more about them as I intend to do sometime.
But as for that little fellow," glancing after the beetle, now tumbling along far
down the road, "I have called him a tumble-bug ever since I was a little
chap, and he would never seem like the old friend he is, by any other name,
and I don't believe he would take it kindly either, to be called 'ateneus vul-
eva.' So tumble-bug he will have to be to me, I guess, to the end of the
chapter, though I thank you all the same for all the information you have given
me about him."

And in his words, I think, is the key to all my lack of success in the method
of teaching I have pursued. The people that I have labored with call these
insects tumble-bugs, and pinching bugs, and Spanish flies, and everything but
that which they should call them, simply because they have known them as
such ever since they were 'little chaps'; and so strong is the force of habit,
and so mighty the love of old associations, that I can never hope, with my
fallible method, to make any headway against them.

So I shall change my method of teaching. I am not certain yet what course
I shall pursue, but my object shall be the same and I hope to accomplish
something in it before very long.

I have no grand ambitions in the field of natural science; no desire to dis-
cover new species nor to supply 'missing links,' no wish to invent a new
classification nor to write the irreproachable text-book, if I can but teach
people the general truth involved in the statement that a 'potato bug' is not a
bug, that a pinching bug is not a bug, and that a butterfly is not a bug nor yet
a fly, and institute the habits of inquiry and observation that I think will fol-
low such an achievement, I shall die content.

M. E.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BOSTON LETTER.

It seems to me the West, when left to its free choice, is very partial to New
England books. I recollect the surprise I felt several years ago on finding
Boston publications scattered so profusely among the families all along
the course of a journey as far as central Wisconsin. Recently, on the return
of my wife from a trip to Chicago and Minneapolis, I received presents of
books from different remote localities, and on examining them, found to my
surprise that most of them had contrived, whether intelligent or not, to
return to the place of their nativity. One-half of them were from Houghton,
Osgood & Co.'s choice list. I should expect that a thorough book-census taken
among the intelligent families of the West would show most favorably
for this careful, high-toned, and enterprising house. Their catalogue, just
issued, is one to be proud of, and I know not what other publishing house can
produce a list of equally solid merit. They show the best results of the won-
derfully fertile brain-work of New England. Here are the works of Haw-
thorne, Longfellow, Holmes, Lowell, Bryant, Emerson, Hillard, Phelps,
Howells, Larcom, Thaxter, Freeman Clarke, Joseph Cook, and many others
who shed lustre on this wonderful Yankee land. Here also are nearly all the
best British classics, either in separate elegant styles, or collected in such
compendious and economical volumes as the Library of British Poetry by
Mearns, Field and Whipple.

I am still reveling in the delights of this grand book. Here is every cul-
vated reader's favorite poem. Here are all the choice, quotable, happiest
things of Old England's historic muse.

My attention has also been called to Lee & Shepard's new Catalogue.
Some of their books are very beautiful and desirable. "England from a Back
Window" is the Dunaway News Man's great success. Most of our country-
men, traveling in foreign lands, have looked only from front windows, and
have made themselves ridiculous by their untraveled admiration and applaus.
At length we are gazing at Europe as she has ever gazed at us, with eyes that
see faults as well as perfection. We owe much to Mark Twain, Adelaide
Trafon, and the author of this comedy book. In closing let me say a word in behalf of some of my friend Lthrop's excellent books. No publisher seems to me to be striving harder to promote a pure and high-toned literature than he. Poetry is certainly one of the most fashionable and most fashionable writers in our country. Faye Huntington wields her pen with felicity and force for what is true, pure, and beneficent. Mr. Lthrop's Wide Awake Pleasure Books are commended everywhere, and are sought for and enjoyed all over the land.

E. J.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DO INFINITIVES HAVE CASE?

To the Editors of the Weekly:

It seems to me that Mr. J. E. Baker's argument on the question "Do Infinitives Have Case?" quoted in last week's issue, is far from being a correct answer to the question.

He says "the use of one part of speech for another does not give the second the attributes, modifications, or peculiarities of the first" and claims that the use of "parts of speech" is an exception to the rule that "a noun or pronoun which is the subject of a sentence must be in the nominative case." Now it seems to me that there is no such thing as "the use of one part of speech for another" because the "part of speech" is determined solely by the use or office of the word in the particular case. One word may be used for another, and change its "part of speech" in every new connection in which it is placed; but the "part of speech" is not a quality of the word, but of its use or office. To "see the sun shine" or "to see the sun shine," or "I bought an iron stove," we see the same word—iron—used as three different parts of speech. In the sentence given by Mr. Baker, "To see the sun shine" is deliberate; the "sun" is the name of the action, and such as has much claim to gender and case as any name to which these do not naturally pertain. Some nouns have no case modifications, and some are neither male nor female. This is one. The context determines its case and it is called neuter gender.

There is no difficulty in the matter if we bear constantly in mind that the use of an expression determines its part of speech in any particular case, and that in this free country the thing pertaining to the "previously cited" of its verbal or adverbial ancestors and relatives shall prevent an ambitious word from rising to the full dignity of a noun.

A noun's a noun, "for'that and 'a that."

SOUTH GORDON, N. Y., Nov. 30.

S. G. COOK.

The following extracts from "Latham's Hand-Book of the English Language," a high authority, I think will throw light upon the subject. On page 264 he says: "A verb is a word capable of declension and conjugation. Verbs of languages in general are as naturally declinable as nouns. Verbs in the English language were originally regular, and fragments of this declension remain in the present English. The inflection of the verb in its infinitive state consisted, in its fullest form, of three cases: a nominative (or accusative), a dative, and a genitive. In Anglo-Saxon the nominative (or accusative) ended in—an. The dative of the infinitive ended in—in. Again on page 266 he says: "Enlarging on the infinitive, to forget/groviness, in lines like 'To err is human, to forgive divine,' are very recurring. They exhibit the phase of a nominative case having not only out of a dative but out of a dative plus its governing preposition."

If Latham is right, infinitives do have case.

H.

SHALL WE SAY NOM. E—POSS. ES—OBJ. EM?

To the Editors of the Weekly:

Shall we adopt the missing word?

The Treasurer has given notice of one that has been suggested, viz.: Nom. e—Poss. es—Obj. em.

We know that this vacancy should be filled with some word, and as e is a pronoun as any why not adopt it? Yours with respect,

C. E. BUCKMASTER.

[Much as we want the missing pronoun, we must say we cannot reconcile ourselves to e, er, em; and yet it is free from objection that the only other word we remember to have seen proposed, Aest, hiser, himer, if we have them right. It all goes to show how difficult it is to adjust our tastes and ears to a new word in our everyday speech. But still the necessity of a new word should keep us from being fastidious. Ed.]

LOOK AT YOUR PUPILS.

To the Editors of the Weekly:

In No. 93 we quoted an extract from the "Canada School Journal," in which this statement is made: "It is a mistake to look fixedly at the pupil who is reading or answering.

Do you think that correct? I do not. I want my pupil to look me squarely in the face when we are talking to each other. I want them to talk to me and not at me.

R. E.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

We notice in an exchange solution to two questions which have been proposed in the Weekly. The questions are by Prof. C. B. Towe, of the Val-lejo (Cal.) high school. Upon the question we had ourselves just about settled down upon an answer, which we now see was wrong, thanks to the Pacific schoolmaster.

PROBLEM.—A hollow iron globe one inch thick holds one gallon of water. The same quantity of iron, cast into a hollow cubical box, whose sides are one inch thick, will hold how much water?

SOLUTION.—A hollow iron globe one inch thick holds one gallon of water. The same quantity of iron, cast into a hollow cubical box, whose sides are one inch thick, will hold how much water?

The following extracts from "Latham's Hand-Book of the English Language," a high authority, I think will throw light upon the subject. On page 264 he says: "A verb is a word capable of declension and conjugation. Verbs of languages in general are as naturally declinable as nouns. Verbs in the English language were originally regular, and fragments of this declension remain in the present English. The inflection of the verb in its infinitive state consisted, in its fullest form, of three cases: a nominative (or accusative), a dative, and a genitive. In Anglo-Saxon the nominative (or accusative) ended in—an. The dative of the infinitive ended in—in. Again on page 266 he says: "Enlarging on the infinitive, to forget/groviness, in lines like 'To err is human, to forgive divine,' are very recurring. They exhibit the phase of a nominative case having not only out of a dative but out of a dative plus its governing preposition."

If Latham is right, infinitives do have case.

H.

WON'T WE HAVE A NAVIGATIONAL SOLUTION?

To the Editors of the Weekly:

In referring to page 252 and its contents, I am prompted to say that those of our classes which are thereto qualified, write once a month on any suitable branch to give the teacher a chance to see what understanding his class has of the subject matter, what grammar, orthography, and style, is acquired, what acclinations of mind or original genius is traceable—in short whether he has labored to the advantage. Written examinations take place at the end of school years. Please tell, whether we are filling the bill on those points.

Respectfully,

JOS. B. E. L.

Sept. of Public Schools.

SHEBOYGAN, Wis.

A PRIMARY DICTIONARY WANTED.

To the Editors of the Weekly:

Do you know of a primary dictionary fit to be put into the hands of children?

There are several, primary in name, but not in character, many of the definitions given being as far above the grasp of the ordinary juvenile mind as the words they are intended to define. Is the capacity of the English language for clear, simple expression so limited that definitions cannot be formed simpler than, Opening—a aperture; Inconvenience—Not opportunity; Murder—To kill a man with malice prepense. Insensibility—Imperfectibility, etc.

In a dictionary intended for the use of children, brevity in defining is neither a merit nor a necessity. A sufficient number of simple words should be used to make the meaning clear to the minds of those for whom the book is intended. I am pleased to learn the existence of such a volume. If none exists, some practical teacher who is thoroughly familiar with an average knowledge of language possessed by the pupils of three or four grades below the high school, should prepare one.

CHILLICOTHE, Mo., Nov. 14, 1878.

E. J.
THE CARPET QUESTION ANSWERED.

To the Editors of the Weekly:

Reader should buy 27 yds. of carpet. To put it down, begin at the right side of the room and unroll to the left; cut off the width of the room 4½ yds. Now waste ½ yd. and lay from left to right; these two widths have taken 9 yds., and six widths or 27 yds. finished the room with the carpet neatly matched.

"W. K. F."

To the Editors of the Weekly:

The following is the solution to the "old, old problem."

\[ x + y + z = 100, \]

\[ 1000x + 300y + 50z = 10,000. \]

From these equations, we find:

\[ x = 5; \]
\[ y = 1; \]
\[ z = 94. \]

ANSWERS.

By experiment, we find that the only number that will give an integral value to \( t \) is 5. Therefore, \( t = 5 \).

R. E.

VERMILION GROVE, ILL. Nov. 30.

Home and School.

This department is designed for the instruction and entertainment of parents and children. Original contributions and translations are solicited.

Ezra's Children.

Miss S. P. Bartlett.

Aunt Severance was a great talker; if she had not this new world would never have been written. If Aunt Severance had written it, she ’d have begun by telling you just who she was, as is the wont of talkers; so I will introduce her after her own fashion. She is deaf, and Aunt Severance’s wife, now—previously, the widow Bangs, of Barnstable—and before she was married, “she that was Silence Crowell,” daughter of Captain Fish Crowell, who was my great grandfather on the maternal side.

So you see why Aunt Severance and I sat by the fire—she talking and knitting, I sewing and listening. I scarcely ever had to respond by more than a “yes,” or “no,” or a look, or nod. If I did, Aunt was apt to think herself interrupted; and she had a way of holding her breath over any pauses that were occasioned by her companion’s responses, that was painful, and tolerably fearful to a stranger. It was simply, however, the thread of her discourse, suspended, and not relinquished, in this peculiar manner, ready to be woven on to the wailing letter of the next word in her mind. Yes, Aunt Severance was a great talker; but she was a woman of strong common-sense, strong faculties, strong constitution, much experience, many good works, peculiar humor, and unfailing memory. She did not tell you the same story until you knew it to your drowsy—but bright and keen her black eyes snapped, for she was the fastest wicker I ever saw, and her ready tongue told many a native from the life itself, complete in characteristics and construction, from prospectus to moral, and replete with the idiosyncrasies of the narrator. Being thus endowed by dame Nature, it was so funny to think that grandfather should have baptized her “Silence Snow.” But men are such invertebrate blunderers! You shd have heard her own views upon this very point. However, that may do for another time; now we will permit Aunt Severance to talk of the subject matter on her mind the evening aforesaid. She had got her stocking in a good place for a steady run, and once in a while would come into port as it were, by knitting into the instep, and let the work drop for a moment or two upon her corporeal stomach. It was in one of those lulls that she remarked: “Ezra’s children never were spanked; that’s what the matter there. And its pretty late, now, to begin; but I near tempted to try it on the two youngest. Cornelia needn’t have told me so, and bragged of it. I answered her quick, that I knew the first day I ever spent there; and she was so satisfied she took it all as admiration of five spoiled children and a silly mother.

Aunt Severance took up her needles and started vigorously.

“There’s nothing in that house, or in the city of Boston, that Ezra Crowell can scrape together, but what’s at the command of those youngsters. The two oldest, I judge, from what was told me, set the fashions and manners of society. Ezra Albert—E. Albert, as they call him (Ezra not being genteel)—aged eighteen, appears to be managing partner of the large wholesale house where he is a junior clerk. He calls the senior proprietor ‘old Jenks,’ and speaks of him as ‘a foggy,’ who would soon degenerate to nothing if it was not for E. Albert Crowell’s saving presence and wisdom. The fact is, Mary, he’s a dreadful disagreeable boy, and how Ezra can set by him as he does, beats me, if he is his own father. I never saw the day, nor Ezra either, when Baxter Bangs would have consented to any such doings—let alone praising of ‘em. I used to think Ezra was a man of good common-sense; I know he was well brought up, in the respect of, and obedience to, elders, and in economy and thrift; but certain true you would be ashamed of him to see him now, and that’s flat!”

Here Aunt Severance’s eyes snapped so I almost thought I heard her wink.

“I don’t, nor can’t, see anything smart, or to admire, in a boy’s being out after midnight three nights in a week, and coming in with his latch-key, or in running after the theatres, coloring a meerschaum, and driving fast horses, and kindred accomplishments. It’s my opinion he’s well started on the road to destruction, and I told his father so—for ‘twas my duty. Ezra really resented it; yes, he did. He informed me times differed from those of a half-century ago; and implied that my faculties were failing me. However that may be, the remains of my judgment astonish me that times haven’t improved if these young people are a fair sample of 1878. And I reckon they are, from what I observed at Ezra’s. There was a sight of going and coming, day and night. Now I’m more for folks enjoying themselves, Mary, than if I hadn’t lived out a great portion of a tolerably chequered life. Nobody believes more in happy homes, than I do, and social obligations among friends and communities; but extravagance and vanity don’t build up solid household comfort, and the race of fashion and excitement fetches back mighty poor prizes.

Now, there’s Ezra’s girls. Can anybody tell me what good they are likely to do in the world? Cornelia smilingly confided to me that Ethel already had three lovers,” and went on to say they were jealous enough to tear each other’s eyes out.” Her ambition seemed to be essentially gratified at such a state of affairs. Ethel is sixteen; and spends her life dressing, party-going and giving, shopping, calling, receiving, flirtig, reading library-trash, and spells on the lounge between. Everything she says, or does, is ‘too lovely for anything.’

Kitty, the next one, would be a bright, capable, pretty, little black-eyed girl, if they had not near about spoiled her. She is fourteen, and fond of her school; but between you and me she has some mighty poor companions there, for she chattered to me, and I gave her solid good advice, that set her thinking as she never thought before in her life. And maybe she’s got enough of the Crowell in her to set out for better things. She don’t despise Aunt Severance any way, but was sorry when I left.

As to the two children Grace and Charlie, of eight and five, as I said to begin with, the first thing they need is a middling good spanking; but where would be the use of it where there’s nobody for ‘em to mind? The older children sometimes undertake to put them down, or one side, and then the nation is near about raised with their screaming and actions. Cornelia usually appears upon the scene pretty quick, in season for some fierce kicks and slaps, and tries to pacify them with wonderful promises and diversion, in which they don’t take very much stock. They are sassy little tikes, I can tell you, tyrannizing over the servants; and they ask your tongue out of your head with their questions, accompanied by free remarks not always complimentary. Cornelia and Ezra held this evidence of remarkable keenness and brightness, and that they are parents of infant prodigies whose speeches and exploits are recounted before them, and detailed to visitors as especially diverting and entertaining. They go to a kindergarten play-school, of one session, near by, so that a little relief is had from their mischief and pranks in the house. Troublesome, pert, and right up in your dish. I really was pained to see how dreadfully mismanaged and unlovable two small children could be. It appears to me now, for all Ezra and Cornelia consider I’ve heard about outlived my usefulness, as though I could take those children in hand to advantage. But it ain’t likely, Mary, I shall ever have the chance.”

Here Aunt Severance appeared to fall into a fit of musing over Ezra and his family. I took care not to disturb her; for a shade of regret stole over her countenance; and I could understand she was pained and troubled in her heart.

After a little she further added:

“And Mary, perhaps I shall be spared the knowledge, but you’ll live to see something of the harvest there. The gayest flower garden, if ’tis never needed, raises some most pernicious tares.”

The geography class of the Portland, Maine, high school have been on an excursion to Topsham for specimens illustrating that science.
The Educational Weekly.

[Number 93]

Educational Intelligence.

EDITORS.

Maine—Prof. J. Brann, 21 Fruit St., Portland, and Ed. J. E. Hart, 141 Main St., Bangor.

New Hampshire—T. W. Charnley, 314 Main St., Concord.

New York—J. S. Diller, 125 W. 10th St., New York City.

Ohio—W. S. Starke, 309 State St., Columbus.

Pennsylvania—Prof. James H. White, 724 Locust St., Philadelphia.

Rhode Island—E. A. Butterfield, 32 School St., Providence.


Orders for subscription may be sent to the above editors, if preferred. Items of educational news are invited from superintendents and teachers.

CHICAGO, DECEMBER 5, 1878.

THE EAST.

NEW ENGLAND.—The exercises at the Teachers' Institute meeting at Weymouth, Mass., on Saturday, Nov. 16, were opened with a drawing exercise, conducted by Mrs. N. D. New, followed by an exercise in elementary arithmetic by Secretary Walton, of the State Board of Education. Prof. E. A. Hubbard conducted an exercise in analytical geometry. An exercise in geography was also given, followed by a reading exercise. The meetings of the afternoon opened with an exercise in advanced reading by Secretary Walton, followed by an exercise in geography, conducted by J. S. Diller, which terminated the sessions of the institute.

The Board of Education is about to publish a new set of textbooks, the work of which has been carefully supervised and the use of which is recommended. The Board of Education has also initiated a movement for the establishment of a college for the training of teachers, which will be conducted by the State Normal School at Cambridge.

Maine.—The Pine street school building of Portland is nearly finished. The building is of the new style of architecture, and is said to be one of the largest and most handsome of the kind in the country.

The Board of Education has adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation of the services of Mr. J. B. C. Allen, of the Board of Education, for his many years of service in the cause of education.

New Hampshire.—A committee of the Board of Education, consisting of Messrs. W. H. Austin, H. B. F. Loring, and H. J. Russell, has been appointed to investigate the condition of the schools in the State and to report on the best means of improving them.

New York.—The Board of Education has passed a resolution expressing its satisfaction with the work of the teachers in the public schools of New York. The Board has also adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation of the services of Mr. J. B. C. Allen, of the Board of Education, for his many years of service in the cause of education.

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THE WEST.

Indiana.—The Indianapolis school board has inaugurated a new departure in the matter of industrial education. By recent action the art of cutting and fitting garments, under the title of the Geometry of Dress Making, has been made a part of the regular instruction in the A and B Grammar grades. The system is the device of Mr. L. L. Jackson, an enterprising lady of this city, who has published a book suitable for school instruction in this art. Experimental classes were taught last year by Mrs. Jackson in some of the schools, with satisfactory results. The action of the Board, however, in making it a regular and obligatory branch of study, although it is to occupy but one week, has called for general interest in the city papers, both in editorial articles and in communications. Certainly at least the large majority of those who have cared to express their opinion publicly in this project with great delight. Indeed, the public demand is already required to give attention to too many subjects at once. Nowhere, standing all the talk about industrial and practical education, it is doubtful whether there is a general public sentiment of greater modifying our public school course in the direction of industrial occupations.

For the first time in many years, the State Teachers' Association will not be held at Detroit but at Fort Wayne. The college association, however, will be held at the capital on Dec. 16 and 17. The topics to be discussed are of great interest and importance.

Missouri.—There are ten teachers at Carrollton, besides the superintendent and music teacher, not two as we stated last week. Kansas City schools have enrolled 4,054 pupils this term, an increase of 600 over any previous term. There are 61 teachers employed in the public schools. Kansas City has outgrown her population of the city for the last two years has not been less than 15,000. Supt. Greenwood, in his report to the board of education, makes the following comments on the relative characteristics of boys and girls: "An examination of several term reports indicates that the girls are more regular in attendance than the boys. It is also well understood by the teachers that the girls are more easily persuaded to be prompt in the performance of their respective duties than the boys and they give much less trouble. Why this is so is traceable, I think, to the home influences exerted by the mothers over the daughters, while the boys, in too many cases, are free to neglect study with little or no trouble. The difference between proper amusement and dress. Children need play and recreation, much of it. But there is a vast difference between proper recreation and indulgence in wine, vulgarity and blasphemy. The one gives in return health, quietness, vigor, activity of mind and body, higher motives and tenderer conscience; the others repress all of the nobler sentiments and pave the way for the workhouse, jail, and State prison."

Illinois.—There are 775 students at attendance in the Illinois Industrial University this term; 135 new ones. Prof. Walter Dale is in Washington, Ill., this week, delivering his course of six lectures on education. The engagement was made by Prof. R. McKay, Supt. of the Washington public schools.

The Oregon High School Literary will hold a public meeting Friday evening, December 20.

The financial and statistical report of the treasurers of Decatur school district for the year ending July 31, 1878, shows a total expenditure by the district of $37,750, as follows: Salary of principal, $2,017; for teachers, $30,770; for school buildings and maintenance, $29,911 for additions to high school library; $2,516 added to the endowment fund; $1,533 a week in current expenses; $1,986 in current expenses; $1,359 for purchases of apparatus; $1,056 for interest on school funds; $1,056 for interest on school funds; $1,056 for interest on school funds.

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California.—Newell Mathews, of Pasadena, is authorized agent for the Weekly in Los Angeles county. From recent correspondence we infer that the following schools: City Ept., San Francisco; Los Angeles, is a quiet, but effective teacher; he has an able body of assistants. There are 60 districts in the county, employing 120 teachers; most of them are well qualified and experienced. Messrs. P. McDonald and M. Johnson, of city schools, have been engaged in a controversy. The latter's institute held a session Nov. 4-9. Mr. Maling, formerly of St. Louis, conducted the exercise in reading. He prepared a list of questions on "Hamlet" to the teachers for study, and when the day came for the "study of" the text, the last line and most profitable ever held in the county, owing largely to the active efforts of Sept. McDonald, Supt. Mann, of San Francisco, State Ept. S. C. Carr, Prof. Allen, of San Francisco, and others, who took part in the discussions and lectures of the week. About 100 teachers were present.
The annual report of the State Agricultural College, has published a work on stock breeding.

The public schools of Ann Arbor are closed for the term on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever.

The Detroit Evening News says that a Vermontville teacher has been objected to because he is not stylish enough. He replies that if they will give him $1,000 per year he will put on more style than Vermontville has ever yet seen.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL—IN FOUR STAVES.

[As Abridged by the Author.]

STAVE ONE—MARLEY'S GHOST.

Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The registered office of the firm of Scrooge and Marley was punctually taken, and the chief mourner, Scrooge signed it, and Scrooge's name was good as 'Change for anything he chose to put his hand to.

Old Marley had as good a voice as he ever used, but no voice whatever could have made him say that eye upon his clerk, who, in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep way and let me keep it in a kind of pay. They had books and papers in their hands, and bowed to him.

Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise?—Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, his sole mourner.

Scrooge never pointed out Old Marley's name, however. There it yet stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse-door—Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes it was the business called Scrooge and Marley, and sometimes, Scrooge only. Marley answered to both names. It was all the same to him.

Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, a hard and bitter winter's end, of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, his sole mourner.

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Scrooge never pointed out Old Marley's name, however. There it yet stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse-door—Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes it was the business called Scrooge and Marley, and sometimes, Scrooge only. Marley answered to both names. It was all the same to him.

Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, a hard and bitter winter's end, of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, his sole mourner.

Scrooge was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The registered office of the firm of Scrooge and Marley was punctually taken, and the chief mourner, Scrooge signed it, and Scrooge's name was good as 'Change for anything he chose to put his hand to.

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cheap, and Scrooge liked it. But before he shut his heavy door, he walked through his rooms to see that all was right. He had just enough recollection of the days of old to desire to do that.

Sitting-room, bed-room, lumber-room, all as they should be. Nobody under the table, nobody under the sofa; a small fire in the grate, spade and shovel basin ready; and the great armchair (in which Scrooge had a glad in his head) upon the hearth. Nobody under the bed; nobody in the closet; no one in his dressing-gown, which was hanging up in a suspicious attitude against the wall.

Lumber-room as usual; 13 boxes, old shoes, two fish-baskets, washing-stand of a chair, and a poker.

Quite satisfied, he closed the door, and locked himself in; double-locked himself in, which was the way to be. Then secured, against surprise, he took off his cravat, put on his dressing-gown and slippers, and his night-cap, and sat down below the very low fire to take his gruel. As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell, which hung in the room, and communicated, for some purpose now forgotten, with a chamber in the highest story of the building. It was with great astonishment, and a strange, inexplicable dread, that, as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. Soon it rang out loudly, as did every bell in the house.

It was succeeded by a clanking noise, deep down below, as if some person were dragging a heavy chain over the casks in the wine merchant's cellar.

Then he heard the noise much louder on the floors below; then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door.

It came on through the heavy door, and a spectre came into the room before his eyes. And upon its coming, the dying flame leaped up, as though it cried, "I know him—Marley's ghost!"

The same face, the very same. Marley in his pig-tail, usual suit waistcoat, ruffles, and neckcloth. His body was transparent, so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him,—though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes. He noticed very exactly the texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin,—he was still incredulous.

"How now?" said Scrooge, casuistic and cold as ever. "What do you want with me?"

"Much!—Marley's voice, no doubt about it."

"Who are you?"

"Ask me who I am.

"Who were you, then?"

"In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley."

"Can you—can you sit down?"

"I can."

"Do it, then."

Scrooge asked the question, because he didn't know whether a ghost so transparent might find himself in a condition to take a chair; and felt that, in the event of its being impossible, it might involve the necessity of an embarrassing explanation. But the Ghost sat down on the opposite side of the fireplace, as if it were quite used to it.

"You don't believe in me?"

"I don't."

"What evidence would you have of my reality beyond that of your senses?"

"I don't know."

"Why, you doubt my senses?"

"Because a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of rye, a fragment of an undigested onion, 'tis the elixir of life. Mind the elixir!"

"Scrooge was not much in the habit of cracking jokes, nor did he feel in his heart by any means waggish then. The truth is, that he tried to be smart, as a means of distracting his own attention, and keeping down his horror.

But how much greater was his horror when, the phantom taking off the bandage round its head, as if it were too warm to wear indoors, its lower jaw dropped down upon its breast!—"Mercy! Dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me? Why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?"

"It is required of every man that the spirit within him shall walk abroad among his fellow-men, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. I cannot tell you all I would. A very small part of one, at least, I cannot say."

"During seven years of travel, and travelling all the time! You travel fast?"

"On the wings of the wind."

"You might have got over a great quantity of ground in seven years."

"O, blind man, to know that ages of incessant labor by immense strength, for this earth must pass into eternity before the good of which it is susceptible is all developed. Not to know that any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, what it is good for, and how, is usefulness. Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunities misused. Yet I was like this man; I once was like this man.

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, now who began to apply that, to himself.

"Business! cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

And he began to pace the room with such energy, and so intent was his gaze, that Scrooge was afraid he might come to some sudden conclusion, and be hard upon him; and being from the emotion he had undergone, or the fatigue of the day, or his glimpse of the invisible world, or the dull conversation of the Ghost, or the lateness of the hour, much in need of repose, he went straight to bed, without undressing, and fell asleep on the instant.

ARE WE READY FOR A COMPULSORY LAW?

When we read that several hundreds of children in some cities are refused school because no room is provisioned by the authorities, we are led to inquire whose children are debared the right of tuition? Upon what basis are Mr. A.'s children admitted to school, and Mr. B.'s refused that right? If it is on the basis of ability, are we in a condition to understand it? Can we take a seat reserved for reception, but when a member of the school is sick one or two or three days, is that seat reserved for that pupil? or is the pupil propelled for sickness? or is that seat reserved to the applicant next in order, and the sick one's name again placed at the end of the list?

Colorado is not the only state whose constitution and statutes say that communities "shall provide a thorough system of free public schools throughout the state, wherein all resident children between the ages of six and twenty-one years may be educated gratuitously." Similar laws exist elsewhere. Would it not be well to rest while from the elopar for compulsory education laws, and practice awhile upon the enforcing of the laws we have? A law to compel a municipality to provide for the education of its children looks well on the printed page. Its appearance would be improved were a perfectly conditioned upon the faithful execution. The school district has no right to fail to make provision for the schooling of all its resident school age; but suppose it does neglect to make such provision? What remedy have we but the enforcement of the law—Aaron Gore.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The editors of the Weekly invite the officers of the teachers' associations to send programmes of meetings for early publication; brief reports of proceedings are also requested.

CAMERON COUNTY, PENN.

The Twelfth Annual Session of the Teachers' Institute of Cameron county will be held in the M. E. Church, Emporium, Pa., commencing Monday, Dec. 15, at 10 A.M., and closing Friday evening, Dec. 19, 1875. INSTRUCTORS.—Prof. F. K. DeGriff of Albany, N. Y., will give instruction in School Organization, Management, the Common Branches, and Methods of Teaching. Dr. J. H. Viscosi, of Plattsburg, N. Y., will give addresses on Galvanizing, Retarding, Applying, and Communicating Knowledge, and on other subjects. R. P. Heilman, M. D., of Emporium, will devote his time to the subject of Physical Conditions of teaching. A. N. Mead, of Emporium, will give special v. work during the institute. Miss H. B. Swineford, of Kutztown, Pa., will give the lecture on Catechism, and Grammar. The music will be furnished by the best talent taken from the town and country. During the day the singing will be under the direction of Miss Gamble, of the local school. The lecture on the subject of Catechism will be given on Thursday, the 18th of December.

ACCOMMODATIONS.—Boarding can be had at any of the hotels in town for 75 cents per day. All persons desiring orders for excursion tickets should apply at once (stamp enclosed) to the superintendents.

TEACHERS, DIRECTORS, AND FRIENDS OF EDUCATION IN CAMERON COUNTY.—During the present session we have often thought that we would make no special effort for the county in general, but as the time is nearly up, we begin to feel all, and indeed more than all, my old enthusiasm returning. From teachers, directors, and all the people of education, come your testimonials of what you take home or your own, and at least. I am happy to say that the most eminent lecturers and instructors cannot have been taken away by all who attend, that will amply repay the cost. I only ask that you meet me half way in the matter of expense, and that your names be invariably mentioned by the efforts made here being presented at the opening session. None can afford to lose a little, though we indeed do, for we have our teacher in our county who shall. Shall I be disappointered? We cordially invite ministers, school officers, and friends of education to the above engagements, as well as to addresses and recitations.
PlEdia. There are several for general use is Zell's. Mr. Winchell has giving Moses Warren, may be bought in cheap editions, and uses, we will say that the cheapest is. Quite serviceable, but the cheap editions are wise, being voluminous.

American Warrio... American or Foreign, and most of them at a discount.

—Our readers will notice the new advertisement of Van Antwerp, Hagg & Co. Their new edition of the popular work on ancient history, by Miss Thalheimer, will unquestionably meet a real demand. There are many schools where the work has not been used in the last ten years, simply because of its size and consequent high price, but now that it may be obtained in three separate parts it will be eagerly sought and extensively used. It is one of the most interesting histories of ancient times ever written for the public schools, and as reliable as interesting.

—We have received a number of papers during the past week in response to our invitation. We hope our friends will continue sending them, especially those which contain any educational intelligence. We prefer the correspondence, but if you have not the time to write, then send us your papers; county superintendents can do us a great favor in this respect.

—New is the time to send in your subscriptions for the WEEKLY. Do not wait for an agent to come around, for he will not come. If you want some magazine or other journal besides the WEEKLY, consult our "Clubbing List" in advertising column, and furnish us particulars, American or Foreign, and most of them at a discount.

—The advertisement of the Douglas Silver Plating Company, which appears in our columns this week, is paid for by the same as any other advertisement, and we trust none of our readers will be led to suppose that the publishers of the WEEKLY are offering "silver spoons" as premiums. If you wish to know anything further about the ware, write to the advertisers.

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—EDITORIAL OFFICE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN.

WINCOVILLE, O., Nov. 25, 1878.

Dear Sirs: —I have received more subscriptions from your readers than all the rest of the magazines put together. Thanks for your notices of our new publication.

We are doing remarkably well; are receiving many compliments and the magazine seems to be taking rank with the best scientific journals in this country and in Europe.

Most Respectfully,

STEVEN D. PERT, Editor.

Consumption Cured.

An old physician, retired from practice, having placed in his hands by an East Indian missionary the formulas of a simple vegetable remedy for the specific and permanent cure for Consumption, Bronchitis, Tuberculosis, and Small and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Drunkenness and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make known to his suffering fellow-men. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send to any man or woman who desires this recipe, with full directions for preparing and using, in German, French, or English. Send by mail address $1 with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. SHENK, 109 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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