EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

All communications for this department will be addressed to Editorial Committee, box 632 Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

B. S. RAMSEY,
GERTIE JOHNSON,
T. H. T. SAHM, } Editorial Com.

"WHERE IS THE LESSON?"

The subject of this article, no doubt will strike the teacher as very decidedly characteristic of the school-room, and one, with which he is pefectly familiar. Indeed, the expression "where is the lesson," is so common and has been in use so long, that, to advocate its eradication from the school-room vocabulary, would seem an innovation upon the long established right (?) of absenting and tardy pupils.

The authenticity of this stale and puerile interrogatory, no one will doubt, and its antiquity is coeval with the formation of schools.

We sometimes suppose that a *quasi* necessity gave it existence—the necessity of determining the pliability of a teacher's temperament, and of discovering the obliging qualities of his disposition. If this supposition be true, we think the means to effect such a discovery, have been most wisely chosen.—Certainly, nothing could be more obliging than for the teacher to "show" four, five, or six pupils who had been absent, "where the lesson is."

Monday morning, 9 o'clock in the school-room; up steps John to the teacher and something like the following takes place: "Teacher 'where is the lesson;' I wasn't at school last Friday; I guess I haven't been at school since last Wednesday; pa had some work to do last Thursday and kept me at home to help him, and ma said I needn't go on Friday unless I wanted to.'" The teacher is expected to "please" the children; certainly; that in part is what he is paid to do, and replies; "well John you have missed a very important lesson; the lesson is not only very important but a very difficult one; the class had a great deal of trouble with it, but I suppose—yes, I guess you can 'skip' it and go in your class." Now right here somebody, evidently does wrong. Who is it? Will parents and guardians answer? Will the teacher answer? A necessity governed the teacher, and he had to act accordingly; his time was all absorbed with the classes already organized; he could not possibly organize another class just to accommodate John: John did not wish to go back into the class next below in point of grade, and teacher then is under the necessity of "skipping" this part of John's education. In a few days John must stay out of school again on some trivial pretext, and thus it is with thousands of children throughout our land. What! is this, *educating* the child? Is this miserable farce securing "everlasting benefits" to the youths of our State? Is this the way to use the people's money? Parent, is this securing the object for which you pay money from your hard earnings?

This innocent inquiry, "where is the lesson," on the part of the child, is a sad commentary on the carelessness, indifference, and criminal negligence of parents and guardians. There is but one way to eradicate it from the school vocabulary—*let the pupil attend school regularly.* FIDELIS.

Neatness.

This implies cleanliness of the person. If some who assume to teach were not proverbial for their slovenliness, I would not dwell on this point. On this point, however, I must be allowed great plainness of speech, even at the expense of incurring the charge of excessive nicety; for it is by attending to a *few little things* that one becomes a strictly neat person. The morning ablutions then, should never be omitted, and the comb for the hair and brush for the clothes should always be called into requisition before the teacher presents himself to the family, or to his school. Every teacher would very much promote his own health by washing the whole surface of the body every morning in cold water. This is now done by very many of the most enlightened teachers, as well as others.—When physiology is better understood, this practice will be far more general.—To no class of persons is it more essential than to the teacher; for on account of his confinement, often in an unventilated room, with half a hundred children during the day, very much more is demanded of the exhalents in him than in others. His only safety is in healthy action of the skin.

The *teeth* should be attended to. A brush and clean water have saved many a set of teeth. It is bad enough to witness the deplorable neglect of these important organs so prevalent in the community; but it is extremely mortifying to see a filthy set of teeth in the mouth of the teacher of our youth. The *nails*, too, I am sorry to say, are often neglected by some of our teachers, till their *ebony tips* are anything but ornamental. This matter is made worse, when in the presence of the family or of the school, the penknife is brought into requisition to remove that which should have received attention at the time of washing in the morning. The *teacher* should remember that it is a *vulgar* habit to pare or clean the nails while in the presence of others, and especially during conversation with them.

The teacher should be neat in his *dress*. I do not urge that his dress should be expensive. His income ordinarily will not admit of this. He may wear a very plain dress; nor should it be any way singular in its fashion. All I ask is, that his clothing should be in good taste and *always clean*. A slovenly dress, covered with dust, or spotted with grease, is never so much out of its proper place, as when it clothes the teacher. While upon this subject I may be indulged in a word or two upon the use of tobacco by the teacher. It is quite [illegible] to me to tell why any man but a [illegible] who may lawfully dream away half his existence over the fumes of this filthy narcotic, should ever use it. Even if there were nothing wrong in the use of unnatural stimulants themselves, the filthiness of tobacco is enough to condemn it among teachers, especially in the form of chewing. It is certainly worth while to ask whether there is not some moral delinquency in teaching this practice to the young, while it is admitted, by nearly all who have fallen into the habit, to be an evil, and one from which they would desire to be delivered.—*Page's Theory and Art of Teaching.*

Miscellaneous Items.

Twelve Indians were hung in a row in Texas, recently, for driveing off surreptitious beef. After having their faces washed, eleven "panned out" white men, but they hung just as well.

The Empress Eugenie wanted to cultivate Louis' musical talent, but the Emperor said, "one troubadour King is enough for Europe." The boy stands a pretty good chance of sitting down for life between two stools, having neither the enjoyment of his talent, nor the honors of a King.

They have smart boys up in Portland. A fruit dealer caught one of them stealing nuts the other day, and proceeded to administer punishment. The boy begged to be released because he had recently been vaccinated. "What has that to do with it?" shouted the infuriated dealer. "She was a looking cow, and it has got into my blood," was the whimpering reply.

An exchange has discovered that the wording of the indictment against Miss Anthony charges that she "was then a person of the female sex, contrary to the form of the statute of the United States of America in such case made and provided, and against the peace of the United States and their dignity."

Sol Bayless, a leading attorney of Fort Wayne, Ind., writes that when he lived in, Troy (O.) they used to speak of "Bob. Furnas" and Sol Bayless. Now it's Governor Furnas, Mr. Silver and "Uncle Sol." Time brings many changes; and these old "Trojans" are not exceptions. Better come West.—*Statesman.*

A miserable, shivering telegrapher sent the following communication to this office last night

My worthy friend Dyer,
There's nary a wire.
Though great my désire
To get that damn fire;
If I do I'm a liar.
Now should you aspire
More news to transpire,
You hoary old sire,
Go pump some fat friar.

—*St Louis Globe.*

A colored man was once asked why he did not get married: "Why you see sah," said he. "I got an ole mudder, an' I has to do fur her, ye see, sah, an' if I didn't buy her shoes an' stockings she wouldn't get any. Now, of I was to git married, I'd hab to buy dem tings for my wife, but that would be takin' de shoes an' stockens right out my ole mudder's mouf."

An exchange says Mr. Jones, of Oshkosh, heard it intimated on the street the other day that he was henpecked. He went home thrashed his wife, tore up two or three of her last dresses, opened all the doors and windows in the house, and sat down in the parlor with his feet on the center-tabel, among a collection of choice books and smoked his pipe. He thinks the world is convinced now that he is boss of that ranch.

A young lady teacher in a Lawrence, Mass. Sunday school caught a boy smiling, last Sunday. Said she: "What are you smiling at, Johnny?" "Nothing, mum," was the answer. "I know better," said the teacher, severely; "now tell me what it was." Johnny looked frightened as he stuteringly said, "I—I—s-side yer n-newspapers s-ticking out, mum." The teacher sat down suddently and arranged things.

A Ring to Control the Sewing Machine Business.

[New York Telegram to the Cincinnati Commercial.]

There is agitation in sewing machine circles, in consequence of a combination which is said to have been formed to control the entire business. A reporter has had an interview with Lucius Finkle, of the Finkle & Lyon Sewing Machine Company, to the following effect:

Reporter—Are these reports founded upon fact about the formation of a ring to monopolize the manufacture and sale of machines?

Mr. Finkle—Yes, sir, they are strictly true. The business is very large, indeed, fully $30,000,000 a year, and this combination is endeavoring to secure the whole of it, and thus keep up the present high price of machines. Mr. Stockwell, President of the Pacific Mail Company, already owned the two Howe interests, when, in January, he purchased $500,000 worth of stock in the Wilcox & Gibbs Company, and, on the 15th of that month, elected himself president, thus controlling these companies.—United with him are the Wheeler & Wilson, Grover & Baker and Singer companies. These six compose the ring, and are making every effort to insure success.

Reporter—By what means?

Mr. Finkle—The usual means—money. They boast of being able and willing to expend several millions in obtaining what they desire—that is, an extension of what is called the Wilson feed attachment, for which the patent has run out some time ago. The question of its renewal came up in congress on Saturday, and the ring are leaving no stone unturned to have it favorably acted upon. As I said, if it be extended, its operation will be to drive out of existence every company but those of the combination. They will not allow others to use the attachment under any circumstances, no matter what amount of royalty may be offered, wishing to monopolize the whole trade.

Reporter—Should the extension be granted, what will be the result?

Mr. Finkle—To keep up high prices of sewing machines. They can be manufactured, just as good as any now in the market, for fifteen dollars There is no reason in the world why they should be sold for sixty dollars, except to furnish inordinate profits.—Some years ago a Committee on Patents, of which Mr. Jenckes, of Rhode Island, was Chairman, reported an extension of the Bachelor patent, which was put on the Omnibus bill, and passed at midnight, before any knew of it. Opposing members were bought off, and one man even accepted money to retract his testimony, which might have injured its chances. That is the manner in which this ring attempts to control the business. The present prices may not be of much interest to some ladies, but they are most important to seamstresses and women trying to earn a living honestly. If we can succeed in our fight against monopoly, in twelve months a first-class machine will sell for twelve dollars.

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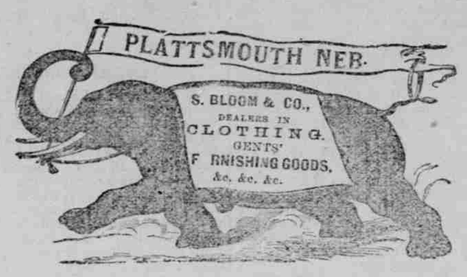

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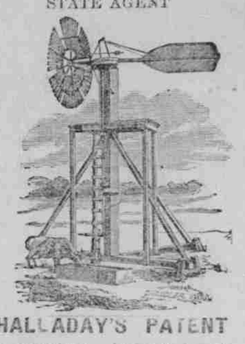

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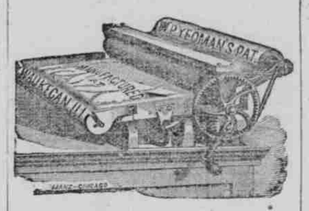

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FARMING MACHINERY

Repaired on short notice. 892

OMAHA LOTTERY

A NOBLE CHARITY.

To erect the

Nebraska State Orphan Asylum,

To be Drawn in Public,

March 31st, 1872.

$230,505,00.

Tickets $1.00 Each or Six for $5.00.

Tickets sent by express C. O. D., if desired.

1 Grand Cash Prize	$75,000
1 Grand Cash Prize	25,000
1 Grand Cash Prize	15,000
1 Grand Cash Prize	10,000
1 Cash Prize	5,000
1 Cash Prize	4,000
2 Cash Prizes, $3,000 each	6,000
4 Cash Prizes, 2,000 each,	8,000
2 Cash Prizes, 1,000 each	2,000
50 Cash prizes, Each $100	5,000
100 Cash Prizes, Each $50	5,000
200 Cash Prizes, Each $25	5,000
5,000 Cash Prizes, " $10	50,000
3,103 Cash Prizes, " $5	15,505
3,605	$230,505

This Legal Enterprise is endorsed by the highest authority of the State and best business men.

Over one-half the tickets taken before Oct. 1st. The limited number on hand will be furnished those who apply first.

Money can be sent by mail, in Registered Letters, Post Office Money Orders, or by Express.

All Prizes will be paid in full. AGENTS WANTED. For full particulars address,

J. M. PATTEE,

29d8t-27w8t General Manager, Omaha Neb.