EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

B. S. RAMSEY ..... EDITOR.

Communications on Educational Topics, Reports of Educational Meetings, &c., are respectfully solicited for the Educational Column, and may be addressed to Educational Committee, Box 26, Rock Bluffs, Nebraska.

B. S. RAMSEY,
Ch'n Editorial Committee.

A TEACHER'S WANDERINGS.

BY HORATIO S. GRRIFFLES.

Hearing of a certain celebrated institution in a certain city of celebrity and wishing to learn something, we resolved on paying the aforesaid institution a flying visit.

Arriving at the place we were duly introduced to the Principal. Mr.——, who very politely invited us to be seated. We remained several hours listening to recitations, and noticed that while the matter was generally stated correctly, and in language adapted to the class, the work on the board was lacking in arrangement and neatness.

The manner of questioning was poor, embodying the answer in the question, thus leaving the question unexhausted and receiving an answer not to the point, and allowing the student to give monosyllabic answers.

The answers were not clear, nor to the point, thus showing that the student did not understand or had neglected to prepare his or her lessons properly.

Teacher was earnest, yet impatient, irascible, and lacking dignity and force of character. The school was respectful, earnest, attentive and enthusiastic.

The voice of the teacher was high and harsh, while the voices of students were pleasant and low, almost approaching timidity; language of teacher and school generally grammatical, yet the choice of words was poor.—Ideas not well developed, school poorly drilled, and unable to apply the principles readily or correctly; the only faculty much improved was the retentive.

We commend the earnestness of the teacher and the respectful, attentive, earnest and orderly conduct of the students, while we disapprove and censure most severely the government and the impatient conduct of the teacher toward the students; the calling of *nicknames*," such as *"Father Goose," "Old Mules,"* &c., striking students on the side of the head with books, &c.—We suppose it is needless for us to speak of the disgrace to the teacher guilty of the former and the danger and brutality of the latter.

We would censure both teacher and student on the condition of their school room, it being so littered up withflowers and bits of paper. The Primary department was so near out we had but a very poor opportunity to take observation.

Language of teacher and children was poor; voice of the teacher was high and harsh. The school did not seem interested in work; the teacher dignified, not self-possessed, but very patient and evidently embarrassed.—The children in both departments are bright, docile and eager to learn.

So we say to the teachers, find out your faults and then correct them; you have every element necessary for establishing a first-class school.

We next visited an institution that is being slowly yet surely reared from the remains of a once noted and farfamed educational institute in a pleasant little village not a thousand miles away. We received a very pressing invitation to make a "little speech," but as we had not learned "our little speech," and knowing full well that "You would scarce expect one of our age," &c., &c., we respectfully declined and began observing, that while both teacher and class stated things correctly and in good language, there was a lack of arrangement of capitals and a lack of neatness in the work on the boards. Questioning was good, but not what it ought to have been; teacher was dignified, earnest, and sympathetic, but not enthusiastic. Students were attentive, earnest, and respectful; teacher's voice, as also the voices of the students.

The classes were well drilled and were able to apply the principles which they had learned. Faculties improved were perceptive, conceptive, comparative, and retentive. We commend the patience and zeal of the teacher, and the quiet and orderly conduct of the students; we disapprove of the paper on the floor and the bad apearance of the blackboard.

As the teacher of the primary department was just recovering from a severe illness we will not criticise him, other than to say that we observed the same faults in his school as in the others.

We will leave this subject with the teachers, and if it should attract the eye of any one to whom we have reference, we trust that all may be taken in the same kind of spirit with which it is written, and that our public schools may be benefited by the kind criticisms of those engaged in the cause.

A Cure for Snake Bites.

W. R. K. writes from Louisville, Ky., to the New York Ledger: Some time ago I saw in your paper a request to your readers to furnish, if any of them could, a certain cure for snake bites. I was born and raised in a very *shaky* portion of Kentucky, and on several occasions knew of cures being effected of persons when bitten by the most poisonous snakes—rattlesnakes and copperheads—by a very simple application, and never heard of it failing as a remedy in a single instance. This remedy I will now give you: Take an egg and beat it well, then mix it with a tablespoonful of gunpowder and a like quantity of salt; spread it on a linen or cotton rag, and apply it to the wound. Shortly after it is applied the back of the rag will show evidence of the poison by turning green. Apply a second plaster, and continue to change the application until the discoloration of the cloth ceases to be apparent—This was the sole remedy used in the portion of the State to which I refer, but I have no doubt that the free use of whiskey would also be of advantage.

A young clerk in a Dubuque fancy store, who had been requested by a lady customer to send home a spool of thread which she had purchased, hired an express wagon in which he placed the spool, and so drove to the lady's residence, where he deposited the spool in the hall, endwise, like a barrel.

Those who knew Gen. Canby will not be surprised to learn that he died poor. His private charities, they tell us, were absolutely without stint, and his widow was left with nothing but a pension of thirty dollars a month. An Oregon newspaper states that Mr. J. B. Montgomery, a contractor on the Northern Pacific Railway, learning this fact, collected from the leading citizens of Portland in three hours a purse of $5,400 gold, and presented it to Mrs. Canby.—Such illustrations of the nobler side of the American character are refreshing to read of.

Where Meerschaum is Found.

Most of the meerschaum of which the famous pipes are made comes from Asia Minor and is mined principally in the peninsula of Natrolia, near the town of Coniah. Meerschaum is also found in Spain and Greece, but in such small quantities and of such inferior quality, that mining it is not remunerative. Meerschaum is exported in irregularly shaped blocks, with obtuse angles and edges, and much care is required in removing irregularities and faulty proportions. It may also contain various defects, by the diffusion of different minerals throughout, and there are also hard spots in some meerchaum, which will appear on the surface when pipes are cut and waxed. Such pipes are classed as second and thirds, as the market value is thereby diminished from fifteen to twenty per cent.

A Cloudy Scene.

The congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Dean and Schenectady avenues, Brooklyn, had their May festival in the church last evening. About midnight, while the congregation was singing psalms, one of the sisters felt herself aggrieved at some remarks of one of the brethren, a male friend. The woman sought the aggressor, and from words, they came to blows, and in a short time a general fight ensued. Chairs and table were overturned, and soon the floor was covered with a rolling and struggling mass of men and women, intermingled with capsized ice cream, cakes, and jellies of all kinds. The police were called, but before they succeeded in separating the combatants two of the force were knocked down. Nearly all the brethren and sisters were marched to the station house.

The First Printer Ever Hanged.

In an interview with a reporter of the San Francisco Call, Charles Russell, the condemned murderer of Crotty, makes the following statement: "My brother and I were printers at Holman & Gray's in New York, working at the case; my brother was afterwards a newspaper reporter. At length I had to give up working on account of my health. I had always enjoyed good health until that time. A peculiar feeling of drowsiness and nausea used to come over me. I was advised by a doctor to give it up, to get out door employment. My brother was here in San Francisco, but at the time I came I found he had left. His name is Phil. Russell. I made inquiries for him of the Typographical Union, I could get no tidings of him. My relatives are living in New York, but I have received no information from them. If they knew anything about it they would be here. My parents live there also. They are both very aged, and I don't wish them to know anything about it."

A traveler from Pekin to Siberia, across the great desert of Gobi, tells us that whenever a camel's feet have become very tender and sore from long marches, the poor creature lies down. His driver knows at once that his feet hurt him, and looks to find if the thick skin of the feet are blistered. Whenever a blister is found, two or three strong men, usually Mongols, keep watch of the camel until it is not noticing them. At just the right moment they make a rush all together upon the camel, throw it over upon the side and make it fast. Then, with a needle made for that use, they sew a square piece of leather large enough to cover the hurt place over the camel's foot, the skin of which is thick enough to sew through, without hurting the animal. With his new shoes on, the camel is quite ready to get up and march on. The pieces of leather are carefully prepared for this use. It sometimes happens that a camel lies down in the midst of his long march across the wide desert and dies. The natives take the thickest part of the skin to make shoes of. These bits of skin they take out, day after day, when on the march, and pull until they become so soft and yielding that a camel with blistered feet seems grateful to have shoes made of it, although he would resist the shoeing to the last if he were not held so that he could not move.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Postal Cards.

Postmaster Jones, of New York, has issued the following rules and regulations as to the treatment of postal cards:

The superintendents, clerks and carriers of this office and its stations are hereby instructed that postal cards, in their treatment as mail matter, are to be regarded as *sealed letters*, and not as printed matter—with this exception, viz: That when undeliverable, unreclaimed or unmailable, they are not to be returned to writers or sent to the Dead Letter office. No "return request" written or printed on a postal card is to be regarded. * * *

Postal cards on which are printed, drawn or written any obscene, vulgar or indecent words or pictures, or any scurrilous epithets or disloyal devices, cannot be delivered by carriers or conveyed in the mails; and all which may be discovered bearing such objectionable pictures of devices will be sent once each day, in a package or envelope, addressed to "Searcher's Department, Postoffice, and marked X. P. C." * * *

Although unprotected by a seal, postal cards are nevertheless mail matter entrusted to the Postoffice for transmission and delivery only, and as such should be exempt from all idle curiosity and comment on the part of Postoffice employees. Clerks and letter-carriers are therefore instructed not to make the messages, &c., on postal cards the subject of conversation among themselves or with persons not employed in the Postoffice, and (except as may be required by the preceding paragraph) not to give special attention to any part of the postal card except the address. In no case will any clerk or carrier be allowed to exhibit an addressed postal card, or communicate any message which may be written upon it, to any one not employed in the Postoffice, except to a person authorized to receive it.