# 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 98, Rock Bluffs, Nebraska.

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

### Normal Institute.

I will hold a Teacher's Normal Institute at Ashland, commencing Monday, August 11th, 1873, at 2 p. m., to continue in session for two weeks.

The work of the Institute will consist of regular class drills in the various branches taught in our common schools, also daily instruction in the advanced Normal Methods.

Arrangements have been made to accommodate all who may attend at very reasonable rates. Board at the hotels, $1.00 per day; or $5.50 per week; at private houses, $3.00.

I will give persons attending the institute during the whole time, and showing themselves competent, a recommendation to their County Superintendent, requesting him to grant the holder a certificate without further examination.

I shall receive assistance in the work of instruction from several prominent educators, among whom are Professor Thompson, C. B. Palmer and others.

This Institute is especially for the Counties of Saunders, Cass, Lancaster, Sarpy and Douglas; but teachers from other Counties will be gladly received.

Teachers should bring what text books they can for reference.

J. M. McKENZIE,
State Sup't Public Instruction.

### AN ORIGINAL STORY FOR BOYS.

#### Van Boyd's First School.

"Good morning, Van; I've heard that you are going to teach school this winter, in our district. I hope it is so, for then we boys and girls can have a good time; why, of course, we can do just as we please. You know 'Old Silvers' taught last winter, and he made us 'toe the mark;' but you, Van,—why you have always been one of us, and you know you like a little fun just as well as any boy or girl in the district. Van Boyd a school teacher! Why, who would have supposed that *you* could ever teach *our* school! But then, *I'm* for *Mr.* Van Boyd for teacher." So speechified Tom Braden, one of Van's "chums," and who was one of the wildest boys in the district. In short, "Old Silvers," as Tom affectionately called him, had governed the district school through the influence of a plentiful supply of hickory, and Tom, especially, had been brought to a tearful realization of the fact that his body was susceptible to very acute sensations of pain.

Van Boyd, the party addressed, had always lived in the district, where he had been solicited to teach school. He was one of those fun-loving, good natured, roliksome sort of fellows, that everybody likes, and was a favorite with all, especially with the boys and girls of the district school. Van had at an early age manifested a decided inclination for books, and had distanced all of his class-mates in the district school. Nature had probably done more for Van than she had done for many others, and united with diligent application to books he had reached that point in scholastic attainments at which the Examiner pronounced him fully competent to teach in any public school in the county for "one year." It was this assurance given by his very creditable examination, united with a desire to procure means to further prosecute his studies, that our hero resolved to enter the field for pedagogical honors. Nor were Van's attainments the only merit he could justly claim. From infancy up his good and pious parents had thoroughly imbued his young mind with imperishable truth. Van had ever been taught to detest a falsehood, and deception under whatever guise. He was known among his school mates as the "soul of honor," and this confidence in his integrity alone, gave him an influence over his school mates, which, had it been otherwise, he would not have wielded.

But Van had resolved to make the effort to teach school, and to begin in the same district where he had received his education, and among those boys and girls with whom he had grown up, some of whom were even older than he. He was encouraged in this resolution by many sympathising friends. In fact, Van's school mates all wished him to teach the school. They all seemed to think that with Van as teacher they could have a "jolly good time." Only a few of the old and staid people of the district seemed skeptical with regard to Van's success. "Why," said an old matron, "there's my Bob; he's bigger and older'n Van, and how in the world could he manage *him;* why, Bob's so big and stout he could—well he could chaw Van up."

Deacon Mahaffey smiled skeptically and ominously shook his head. "I actually think, says the Deacon, "that the thought of Van Boyd teaching *our* school is monstrously superfluous; why there's Nettie Spencer; he's been a-goin with her for a good while, and you know Nettie is a spirited young lady; sister Spencer can't do anything with her at home, and brother Spencer says she's most awful head strong. It is my opinion that Nettie and Van will court all the time, or—or else she won't mind him in school; and then Van is *so* young; why, if I'm not mistaken he's younger'n our Kate; yes, he is only seventeen—seventeen last August!—Think of it; the *idea* of a seventeen year old boy teaching *our* school—and him one of the scholars—why—why its absurdly absurd."

But these unpleasant reflections upon our hero's prospects of success, were not to stop with Deacon Mahaffey's liberal prognostications. Sister Spencer, the mother of our fair, and *headstrong* Nettie, catching the idea of *failure* from the evil current already circulating, earnestly enjoined Van not to undertake the school. "Nettie," says the worthy sister, "won't mind me, or pa nor anybody; and how do *you* expect to govern her mind; you know Mr. Silvers had a great deal of trouble with her last winter, and once he had to scare her with the rod. I tell you, Van, you are too small and too young to get up so high; you'd better let teachin' alone for awhile."

But Van had determined in his own mind that he would, at least, *try* to "teach the young idea how to shoot," and he was not one of that sort to be scared by Deacon Mahaffey's skeptical reflections, nor by the earnest council of Mrs. Spencer. He could do no worse than fail, and if he only pursued the proper way he had every reason to hope for success. Others, older than he, had failed in the same vocation, but others as young as he, had succeeded in the school room as teachers. He had gone too far to retreat, and the next Monday he was to open his first school. Monday morning came—a fine bright November morning, and at an early hour our young hero might have been seen wending his way toward a little school house that stood among the hills of Western Pennsylvania.

[CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

### BOXES FOR HORSES.

There can be no doubt that every building for the stabling of horses of the better class, or of horses kept most of their time in idleness—for trotting, racing or breeding purposes—should have boxes attached to it, the number, of course, varying in accordance with the number of stalls. No such stable is, in fact, complete without them.

The rack and manger should be on the same side as the entrance door, for horses will be found almost invariably, when feeding, to stand obliquely in their box, that is, with their heads to rack and manger, their hind quarters pointing towards the opposite side.—Thus, if we place the rack and manger on the opposite side to that by which we enter, unless the box is large, we get the full benefit of their heels as we enter; a circumstance by no means desirable with some horses, more especially when feeding.

Corner racks and mangers are greatly to be preferred to those that run the entire width of the box; they take up less room; and with the others the horse occasionally turns his tail to the manger; and when standing in such position, sulks it.

Boxes for fast horses are usually larger than those made for the accommodation of other horses. This is done with an eye to the time when they inhabit them when out of training, and are made airts with a view of affording them a means of taking a certain degree of exercise by walking, trotting, or, as they sometimes will do, actually cantering around them; for the temper of a race horse when rule are extraordinary. Boxes made for other horses, are, we would say, sufficiently large if made (say) seventeen feet by eight or nine. This size, if properly ventilated, affords all the air and comfort a healthy horse requires.

A box is a great source of comfort to a horse. He can lie in any position that he may and gives the greatest ease to his wearied limbs; and if put in one the night before a days running or trotting, it insures him repose undisturbed by other horses or persons. This opportunity of stretching out his limbs is not required in a general way by horses; for though, after a day's hard use, a horse may, at times, be found lying on his side, with his legs stretched out at full length, he must be very tired, or very ill to have recourse (*pro tempore*) to such position; for the rotundity of a horse's ribs are such as to render it painful to lie on his side for any length of time together. A horse in good health, under ordinary circumstances, will rarely, ever, be detected in such position, and for his ordinary mode of resting, a good wide stall is ample space.

Every person at all conversant with the habits and dispositions of horses is quite aware that they are social animals; therefore, though being alone and undisturbed is soothing to them at times, it becomes irksome, and, in fact, a punishment, if continued for a length of time. The "knuckering," or neighing, which a horse makes, and the uneasiness he shows on his companions leaving him, and the satisfaction he manifests on their return prove this.

Let the horse be confined to a box with an upper portion made of iron grating, so that he can watch passing objects, or be on the lookout for them. You will find him, at most times, when not actually feeding, with his nose close to the bars. Or, if an opening is left, sufficiently large, he will be found half the day with his head and neck thrust out of it, watching what is going forward. That horses do this is quite clear, and are amused by it; and there can be no doubt that such amusement tends to their well-being.

It may be alleged that race horses and stud horses live constantly in boxes, and do well in them. But it is quite futile comparing them with other horses. They are bred, treated and used in a way peculiar to their caste. A race horse, unless it is a gelding or mare, must be kept in a box. He is used to it from a colt, and his very nature is changed by treatment. Instead of missing his fellows or hailing the sight of them with pleasure, in very many instances he cannot be allowed to approach them; he is, in fact, in such case a domesticated wild beast, kept for the purpose of running for money. We do not mean that he is actually *ferae naturae*—he is no more so by nature than any other horse—but he is rendered so by the way he is brought up, and consequently the desire for companionship is lost to him, and he does not feel the deprivation.

We are quite clear that horses (in technical phrase) "do better" in stalls than boxes, unless these boxes are made with rails only between the inhabitants of them and the other horses. Whatever cheers the spirits must be beneficial to horse and man, and *vice versa*. Horses feed better from hearing others eat; and many a horse that would not touch a feed of corn given to him in solitary confinement, will set to work himself hearing others grinding.

A good deal may be said in favor of keeping valuable horses in boxes; they permit them the privilege of standing or lying down, as they like. There is no danger of their getting cast, or of getting loose; in which case, though horses are, as we have said, social animals, the intrusion into the stall of another horse by a loose one, frequently throws a whole stable into confusion, and often produces the direst catastrophes. But let us correct the term applied. We have used that of boxes; better to say, where stalls are not used, *compartments* for horses. These should be made boarded up at least seven feet near the racks and mangers, for, say three feet from the wall, and five feet high the remaining part of each side, with this precaution, that the rails are too close to admit a horse's nose between them; and they should be made of iron.

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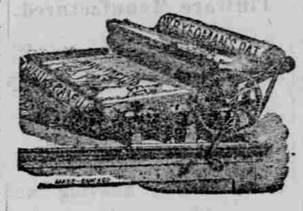

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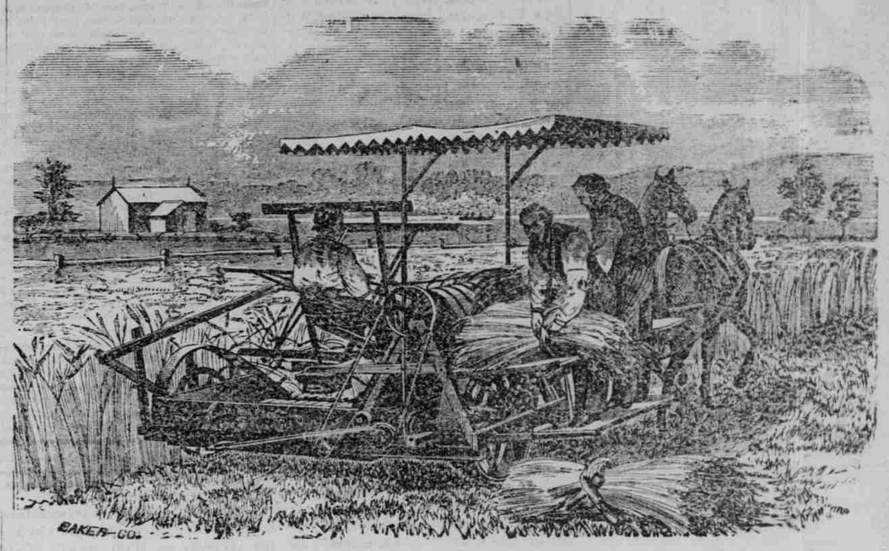


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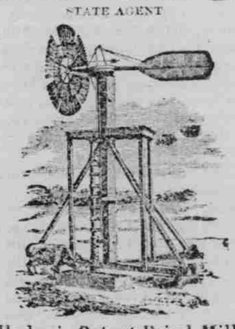

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