

THE RED CLOUD CHIEF
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1884.
A. C. HOESMER - Proprietor
EDUCATIONAL.

THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMON SCHOOL.
The key-note, which should shape the course of study for our common schools, was given a few years ago by a distinguished educator when he declared it to be the duty of the school to give each pupil that training and preparation which shall enable him to step out of any grade and enter at once into the active duties of life. This, of course, does not mean that as full and complete an education can be secured in one or two years as in six or eight, but it does mean that the year's work shall be so arranged, and the subjects so taught, that they shall have a value and a use in themselves independent of what is intended to follow. It does not disparage or discountenance the longest and most thorough course of study; it simply aims to give each step in the course special significance, and by making more of it by itself, make it worth more in relation to all the rest.

Let us now briefly consider what the essential elements of the education every child should receive, and which he may reasonably be expected to secure within the six or seven years of continuous school life, which is within his reach. When we have determined what these essentials are, the next question will be to ascertain how they may be secured in accordance with the principle before enunciated.

First, the child is entitled to the possession of trained perceptive faculties. These are nature's servants, designed to minister to our wants, and to convey to us the greater part of our knowledge. What one sees for himself in nature's book is his right of discovery, as real as though he had ever known it; and no knowledge ever has the power of inspiration and development equal to that which the mind derives at first hand. To be able to do this work, these senses must be taught and disciplined, and the school-room is preeminently the place for such work.

Second, our child must know how to think, to speak and to write. It is settled that he will think and speak, at least; that he do both correctly, especially the former, is of prime importance, for upon his thinking will probably depend the settlement of most of the great questions of his life, and perhaps those of the Nation. And in proportion as he is led to thoughts that are better, nobler, and purer kind, and his mind is brought into contact with truth in its manifold forms, will those thoughts seek for expression, and create a demand for oral and written language. The great obstacle to the cultivation in the average pupil, of the power to write good English, has been his inability, or indisposition, at least, to think.

Third, he should have a practical knowledge of numbers, and the fundamental operations that may be performed with them, in order that he may solve the practical problems of his daily life with ease and facility. He cannot be expected to "master" any arithmetic, but he may be taught addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, decimal and common fractions, the common tables of weights and measures, the methods of treating compound numbers, and the percentage with its simpler applications to ordinary business life.

In this three-fold scheme is, or may be, included, I believe, what is indispensable to the education of a child up to the point where he may be fairly expected to make it available, both to himself and to the State. If we also examine it with reference to the idea that the child, leaving school at any point, may be able to utilize what he has acquired, we shall find that a course of studies arranged on this plan, from the beginning will meet that end. It may be safely assumed that the instances where a child cannot attend school for at least three years are few. If now we consider what three years of training in the objective study of nature, in the habit of reflection upon what the senses have brought to the mind, and of giving expression to those thoughts in oral and written forms, and in the practice of counting numbers, and adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them, will do for a child, we cannot fail to see that he must have acquired a solid basis, upon which he can only build at school, but which, if he is deprived, of further school facilities, will be of practical value in any sphere of life into which he may be compelled to enter.

It is for the accomplishment of this result that we are called upon to strive. It is only by the employment of those teachers who have ability and will of the highest order, and by the institution of a complete and thorough system of qualified supervision, that we shall be justified in expecting that it will be attained.—Hon. T. B. Stockwell.

TEACHABLE TEACHERS.
One of the most serious obstacles to success in schools is the absence of the teachable spirit in too many of our instructors of youth. In the ignorant, vulgar, and conceited man or woman, existing in the ranks of our profession, such conceit of indifference, or opposition to outside suggestion is simply offensive, and a fair cause for dismissal from the office. But the case becomes more difficult, and the results more destructive, when this malady attacks a teacher of good requirements, moderately successful, entrenched in an important position, and whose results are seen when this sense of superiority to outside comment or suggestion takes possession of the teaching corps of an important school, and leaves upon the institution into a little pedagogic "mutual admiration society," revolving on its own axis, sweetly unconscious of any special need, meeting suggestion from without with polite indifference, until the press of an example, or a sign of angry contempt, and sharp criticism quite unexpected from such a realm of cultured serenity. Of course it is unpleasant to be worried by the rough growlings of an educational "bear," or to hear a thunder-clap above the roof, or the moanings of a cyclone on the way to the school-house. But even the crackling of a goose served, Rome, and sometimes the rough and ready, even the blustering remark of an outside observer may be the very word that ought to be spoken to the egotistical teacher or a group of professors, leading into the hands of their own little school.

Unless our new colleges for girls establish thorough departments of domestic science, for the training of teachers, we shall have the same result from their graduates that has been destructive in the average college.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.
For the Jersey cow, Hazen's Best, \$7,000 has been offered and declined. Six women in this country pay over \$175,000 per year for the postage on mail, most of which goes to farmers. New Zealand is shipping butter to England with satisfactory results. The butter is kept in a temperature of 35 deg. while on the voyage. The wool of Michigan should be bought at 25 cents for clips in first-class condition. It is expected that the bulk of the wool from those states sold at these figures, and if in special localities some excited buyers exceed these limits we advise our friends to withdraw until these men have supplied themselves. This is the advice of middle-men whose interest is, of course, that of wool-buyers and not that of farmers.

A remarkable peculiarity of the leaves of the pepper tree (*Schinus Mollis*) is that when bruised and allowed to water they move rapidly around and through the water, sending to the uninitiated to possess the power of spontaneous movement. A correspondent of the *Garden* says: "The cause of this is to be found in the large quantity of essential oil contained in every part of the foliage, and it is the escape of this oil in globules from the bruised leaves that causes the motion." It is amusing to watch a number of bits of foliage racing round and round as though chasing each other and we have astonished numbers of people by their performance. The flowers of *Schinus Mollis* are small, greenish white, and are produced freely during the summer.

"A Practical Stockman" writes to the *New York Tribune* that "the disease known as blackleg, anthrax, or black-quarter, is caused by excessive fermentation. It is caused by digesting food that can be assimilated. The excess of nutriment becomes a waste product to be found and thickened the blood, so that its circulation is easily interrupted by chilling from exposure to wet and cold. The parts most easily chilled—the feet and legs—are most liable to be affected with stagnation of blood, but no part of the body is exempt from the liability when conditions conspire to such a result. The scientific gentlemen who fancied that by the expenditure of much money, time, and study, they had learned the true cause of anthrax will be highly gratified when they learn from a 'practical stockman' that their conclusions are all astray.

A farmer complains to the *Iowa Homestead* that merchants will not give more than 10 cents a pound for farm-made butter, and asks more for a good brand for a poor article of the kind, and alleges that the creameries are spoiling the market for farmers' butter. The *Homestead* replies that there are but two ways open to him, either to sell his cream to the creameries or make his butter as good as creamery, brand it creamery, and join the exchange. In other words, start a creamery of his own. On the other hand, the paper quoted publishes in full the circular of a firm making butterine, in which prices quoted range from 14 to 22 cents per pound for an article which they say, not only stand the warm weather better, but will at the same time be superior to the best grades of oleomargarine or genuine dairy butter. All of which is an exaggeration of the sort that the farmers' difficulties.

Some one suggests to the *Agricultural Gazette* of England that cattle-ranching might be profitably carried on in Great Britain. He says that the cost of transportation of an ox from the western states to England would of itself be a fair rent for land well suited to growing beets in England. "If, therefore, land cost absolutely nothing in America, it ought to be as cheap in England." He then enters into a detailed statement of outlay required and of probable income, and, if his estimates are correct, makes a showing quite favorable to cattle-ranching in Great Britain. In conclusion he says: "I think these figures will convince anyone that cattle-breeding in this country, in a suitable district, will pay a deal better than raising such stock in America. The whole of the western side of Great Britain, from Land's End to John O'Groat's House, is well fitted for the breeding of cattle, and very large districts of it are fit for breeding sheep, which are still more profitable than cattle."

Snake Shooting.
One of the most novel and exciting sports that the warm weather of spring develops for the sportsmen of Baltimore is snake shooting. Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties seem to have accumulated the legion of reptiles which St. Patrick boycotted in Ireland. As this is the season in which the black snakes, the garter snakes and the meacis are engaged in making love to their mates, it is the best time to go after them. They hover together on dry spots and make so much noise with their hissing and rattling that they can be "stalked" from fifty yards distant. The meacis snake looks dull and rusty on land, but his back lightens up into beautiful kaleidoscope cross-bars when in the water. He is the easiest snake to kill. When the warm spring sun shines its rays down on the pools in which they live and get their food they come to the surface and crawl out on the bank and lie stretched out in the grass or sand. One of them will run before you can step on him, but if he bites the wound is apt to be exceedingly poisonous, although not fatal. The copperhead, or cotton mouth or stump tail meacis, commonly called in the south the "dry land" meacis, is the terrible cobra of America. He is worse than the rattlesnake because he is more sluggish and gives no alarm. He waits quietly until the unhappy wayfarer steps on him, and then he turns up and puts in his fangs. The proper and sportsmanlike way of hunting snakes is with a small rifle. It is only a "chump" who would shoot snakes with a shot gun. It would be like catching fish with a scine. It is easy to see the meacis when their heads are poked up out of the pool, and fifteen yards range is enough for the average shot who can play a shooting gallery bull's-eye. When the bullet goes true the little reptiles give up the ghost after a few excited convulsions. A parlor rifle or a 22-caliber Remington is the best "snake" rifle.

In April canned beef was exported to the value of \$1174,572, against \$290,633 in 1883, and for six months \$1,480,250, compared with \$2,158,353 last year. At its meeting in Indianapolis June 3, the Indiana Short-Horn Breeders' Association discussed the proposition to donate \$300 for the purpose of holding a fat-stock show in 1885 in that city. Definite action was deferred, as the attendance was small.

Turtle Soup for the Million.
The turtle is so exceedingly prolific that the eggs of only five females of the species could be protected from their numerous enemies every year the Mediterranean would soon swarm with turtles: The turtle lays its eggs during the night upon the beach, covers them lightly with sand, and leaves them to be hatched by the sun. Unfortunately, there are regarded as a delicacy by the inhabitants of the coast, who eat the greater part of them, while many more fall a prey to dogs and other animals; and of the young turtles which leave the shell, the greater number are devoured on their way to the sea by the innumerable wild fowl which flock about the coasts of the Mediterranean. The creation of a few farms, as has been proposed, would so favor the naturally rapid multiplication of the species that turtle, instead of being the luxury of the rich, might be seen on poor men's tables and sold at cheap restaurants.

It is the opinion of the *Country Gentleman* that it is possible to produce a cow that can make 300 pounds of butter and bring a calf within the period of a year; and that there is reason to believe that a cow may be found to make twenty-eight pounds of butter in a week and 115 in a month. All this may be possible, and more, for it is quite possible that in a quarter of a century from the time the above performance, which are now set as a goal to be attained, will be looked back to as a thing of the past.

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