

# EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

## NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

### The Pupil Should Be Trained Upon the Line of "Thought-Getting" in the First Reader—Normal School Attendance in Pennsylvania.

**The First-Reader Class.**  
We talk very much about our "chart class," we discuss glibly the "word method," the "phonic method," the "synthetic method," and in due time our chart class becomes a first-reader class. It makes but little difference through which pathway they have been led if the teacher has been earnest, conscientious and thorough in her work. Now the pupils not only know many words by sight, but have gained the power, more or less, as the case may be, of acquiring new words wherever they find them. When our pupils reach this desirable goal we very often treat them like the heroine of a novel, who is "happy ever after," and that is the end of the story; we forget that this is just the time when the greatest care should be observed to avoid acquiring bad habits. This is best done, not by example, nor yet by precept, though each plays its part, but rather by a certain development of the thought which leads to its natural expression. To be sure, in our crowded school-rooms we cannot take much time for developing a first-reader lesson, but a little time thus spent gives large returns.

If we can only make sure that no pupil begins reading a sentence until he has mastered the thought which it contains, we can have but little trouble to gain natural expression. The very best way to do this in a limited time is to call each sentence a story or a question, then require the pupil first to scan it silently, and, looking off from the text right into the teacher's face, tell the story or ask the question. A very little practice will enable the pupils to do this readily. In all this teaching accuracy is a single word is mispronounced, have it scanned again, and "the story" told a second or even a third time. This plan cannot be adopted without the pupil gaining the entire thought conveyed. New words are more readily learned when thus embodied in a thought.

It is a great help in language. If a pupil is inclined to say "Mary and the baby 'is' in the house," he will very likely tell the story in that way, only to be required to look again and see that "are" is used instead of "is." Just a moment taken to find out why "are" is used instead of "is," and the best of language lessons is learned by the whole class.

In the second reader of course the sentences are longer, and not quite the same plan can be followed, but if one always requires the pupil to look off the book before the end of each sentence, it will develop the habit of looking ahead and gaining the thought before expressing it.

If the pupil has been trained upon this line of "thought getting" in the first reader, he will always hold to the habit, unless, indeed, he is pushed beyond his capacity into reading where both words and thoughts are beyond his comprehension. This is one of the most serious catastrophes that can happen to any pupil. If the thought is beyond him, or the words so difficult that he cannot grasp the thought, he has no chance whatever of learning to read, except parrot-fashion; and not only this, but you place literature and language development quite outside of his horizon, for the two are or should be, closely allied to the every-day reading lesson.—Western School Journal.

**Teaching Orthography.**  
Each word has a physiognomy. Some words have plain faces, some have features peculiar to themselves; but all are learned, not by describing them orally, but by using our sense of sight. Words of as many letters as they have sounds may be learned by seeing and pronouncing them. If the teacher dictates such words as paper, lamp, pencil, etc., and carefully pronounces every sound, they will be written correctly. But the number of such words is comparatively small in English. Words in which the number of letters is greater than that of sounds, as book, street, slate, ring, etc., will have to be observed more closely, and often, by the young learner. Such words as separate, enjoy, forfeiture, gaiety, etiquette (I take a few out of the multitude haphazard), are often misspelled. If marked on the board as indicated, and left there a few days, it may be safely said that their peculiarities will be remembered or recalled.

The secret of vivid knowing is vivid seeing. If every spelling lesson is conducted according to the principle that we learn orthography more through sight than through the sense of hearing, I am sure we shall find little difficulty in obtaining good results. In higher grades, words may be grouped according to rules, but no rule should be given; it should invariably be discovered by the pupil. If the teacher put the following words on the board in a column: pavement, amusement, chastisement, achievement, infringement, etc., and opposite to these in another column, such as judgment, abridgment, and others, it will not be long before the pupils have discovered why the final "w" of Judge, for instance, in the second column is dropped. This is mixing in a little brains in the otherwise dry study. At every stage of the course, however, this paradox remains true: "The more crayon a teacher consumes, the better her instruction."—American Teacher.

**Pennsylvania Normal Schools.**  
One hundred and fifteen thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight is the total number of the persons educated in the normal schools of Pennsylvania since the establishment of the first; \$2,391,379, total cost of normal schools to the State for thirty-eight years. This is a little over nineteen dollars for each person educated, whether they attended one, two, or four years; 10,055, total number of normal school graduates in thirty-eight years; 3,190, number of normal school graduates still teaching in the State—about thirty-three and one-third per cent.; 3,790, number of teachers now teaching in the State (not graduates) educated in the normal schools; 7,169, total number of normal trained teachers now in service in the public schools; 1,600, number of normal trained teachers estimated to be teaching in private schools, colleges, and normal schools; 700, number of normal trained teachers estimated to be teaching in schools outside of the State; 9,600, total number of Pennsylvania normal trained teachers now in the teaching profession. It is believed that no other State in the Union can show such a record for her normal schools. It costs Pennsylvania a mere pittance to do this great work, most of the expense being paid by the persons educated.—Philadelphia Ledger.

**New Task for Teachers.**  
The Board of Education, Chicago, Ill., has abolished the position and departments of special teachers in drawing, singing, and physical culture, the change to go into effect at the end of the school year of 1897. This resolution, which was introduced by John S. Miller, compels all grade teachers to qualify themselves in these studies so that they may be able to teach them by the end of 1897. Teachers who cannot pass an examination in these branches will be dismissed.

**Notes.**  
New York has 3,197 students in her fifteen normal schools.  
New York has 1,254,129 pupils in public and private schools.  
Pennsylvania has thirteen normal schools, with 5,090 students.  
One hundred and forty thousand students are in the colleges and universities of the United States.  
The gifts to colleges, churches, libraries and public charities in this country last year amounted to \$27,943,449, against \$19,967,116 in 1894.  
The school term of the United States averages, according to Dr. Harris' last report, 136.7 days, which is equal to twenty-eight weeks, including holidays.  
Chicago is to have a new thirty-two room building for the Franklin school. The appropriation is to be about \$200,000. The committee on restriction struck off \$26,000, which had been asked for.

Of the 2,287 foreign students now in German universities 628 are studying philology and history, 490 medicine, 450 mathematics and natural science, 274 jurisprudence, 194 Evangelical theology, 21 Catholic theology, 154 political economy, 81 finance, 30 pharmacy, and 5 dentistry.  
Of the six-year-old children in the schools of Canton, O., Superintendent C. M. Bradwell says that six did not know the color of grass; nineteen did not know the color of the sky; two did not know the color of snow; thirty per cent. knew the points of the compass; seventy-seven per cent. knew their right hand; nearly all knew numbers below five.

**Seal's Toothache.**  
The effect of creosote on a seal's tooth is mentioned by the Chicago Times-Herald.  
The queen seal at Glen Island is suffering from the toothache. Two weeks ago she began to whine, and frightened a servant-girl into hysterics by climbing up the rocks to the arbor walk. Mr. Le Roy, the keeper, took her in his arms and noticed that her jaw was greatly swollen. Creosote was administered, but afforded only temporary relief. Each morning the intelligent creature tries to attract the attention of some of the keepers, evidently for more creosote, which satisfies her for the day.

**A Pitiful Juvenile Tragedy.**  
Jimmie McFadden, a nine-year-old New York boy, played peek-a-boo with his little sister, one afternoon while his parents were away. Once he ran into a clothes closet; she pushed the door to and locked him in. Then she saw him peep out at the transom, and finally thrust his head through the small opening. The transom closed down upon his neck. He moved his head a little, but did not laugh. Then he cried out strangely. The little sister stood there, not understanding it at all. She watched and waved her hands, and cried, "Peek-a-boo, Johnny!" The face with which she played peek-a-boo was the face of the dead.

**The Lowell Homestead.**  
There is considerable concern in Boston about the future of James Russell Lowell's magnificent old home in Cambridge, at the gateway of Mount Auburn cemetery. The house is the property of the poet's daughter, but the land adjoining it is in the hands of real estate agents, and the fine estate will soon be cut up into building lots unless the property is rescued. The house is an old Troy mansion, one of the few still standing in excellent condition in Cambridge, and it is an object of great and increasing interest to thousands of visitors from all over the country. It would make a most desirable museum.

**Playful Monarch.**  
An interesting point in heredity is shown in the conduct of the young King Alexander of Serbia. The founder of the family was a swineherd. The young monarch, who is now only nineteen, reverts to his ancestor, not only in his phenomenal strength, but also in his sense of humor, both of which he exhibits by a playful trick of knocking his courtiers' heads together.

# GOWNS AND GOWNING

## WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

**Brief Glances at Fashion's Feminine, Frivolous, Nay, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading Public is Restful to Womankind.**

**Gossip from Gay Gotham.**  
New York correspondence.

**OW!** that jacket bodice of the sort this initial shows are very abundant, women are beginning to confess that such garments have not filled the measure of success and imperative correctness prepared for them. This one was made of rich figured silk, ornamented with showy buttons and white satin revers, and was worn over a white satin vest covered with white chiffon. Mentioning so many particulars is as much as saying that the bodice was a typical fashionable one. Such are much worn, and they are the "latest," but each year it becomes more and more apparent that "the latest" is no longer accepted as it used to be. The round waist with loose front is too generally becoming, it too well sets off a slender waist and nice hips. It brings harmony to the curve of the figure in front to the average woman, too successfully to be dis-

carded. Coats are not becoming as a change from the loose front, tight back, round waist garment. It takes rather a slender and a tall woman to look really well in a coat, and a plump woman is a sight! More than that, she knows it. The result is that in spite of the strictures of the fashion dictators and the allurements of the fashion makers women go right on having gowns made of the new stuffs, but cut to pass at the bodice, under the belt, and to follow, more or less, bag lines in front.

A brand-new reception dress that shows a somewhat daring independence of cast-iron rules on the part of the designer is the artist's next contribution, and a glance at it is enough to convince of its richness. It was sketched in Parma violet satin, the bodice being pointed back and front and having a wide vest of white silk veiled with spangled chiffon. The extraordinary sleeves were of chiffon-covered silk for the lower part and of the dress goods for the cuffs. Lace jabots appeared beside the vest, and lace frills ornamented the collar. These sleeves had an odd look, of course, but they did not seem at all out of keeping with the rest of the costume, which may or may not mean that a change to tight sleeves will soon come easily. A long train was supplied to this skirt, and in front there were panels of white silk covered with jeweled black tulle, and finished with large bows of violet satin ribbon. This made the skirt but little less daring than the sleeves, for

almost all shirt waists are made with adjustable collars and that makes the poor girl that has trouble with her collar button anyhow all the unhappier. This poor creature might as well give up at once, for what a collar cannot do in the way of getting itself upside down, of coming loose first at the back and then at the front is not yet known. You can get both ends secured in front and then find that the back stud has given way, you can get one side fastened and the back can give way, while you fasten the back away goes the one secured front, and while you hunt about for another stud the collar turns around and upside down on that stud at the back, so that when you try to attach it to the new stud in front it appears to have no buttonholes, and not to be a collar anyhow, but some kind of ornate curse. Still girls try to do it. Collars are higher than ever, too, so that the average girl gets a crease cut in her chin just from trying to eat, to say nothing of attempting to talk. But when all is said, nothing is more becoming to a pretty face or gentle to a plain one than a stiff, ship-shape collar, with a harmonious tie. No one need know how much you suffered in getting securely into both.

**Copyright, 1896.**  
Nicola Morra, one of Italy's worst brigands, has surrendered to the police. He wore relics of the saints at his neck and knives in his belt.

that the home dressmaker can manage without difficulty. The skirt is entirely plain, but the stuff for the bodice is laid in fine knife pleats all around, which must be tacked down to keep them in place. The garniture consists of bands of dotted linen and narrow lace sewed together to give bretelles, sleeve caps, collar, belt and slashed basque, the last named being linen with red dimity.

Another wash dress is pictured by the next sketch, and it shows a pretty development of the returning surplice styles. The material here is light blue dimity, but stuff and hue are matters of choice. Two bands of the goods cross over in front in the manner indicated, commencing at the side seams and ending in points on the shoulders where each band fastens beneath a rosette of light blue ribbon. A narrow embroidery finishes the edges. Ribbon gives belt and collar, and the sleeves show a garniture of embroidery and rosettes that harmonize with the finish of the crossed fronts.

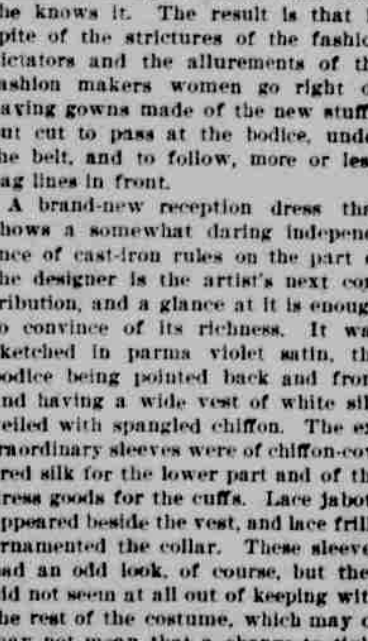
In the concluding picture a gown of pistache colored serge is copied. Its skirt is trimmed at the left side with double rows of steel buttons, with loops of the same color braid. The jacket bodice is cut away in front, has a full ripple basque in back, and in the waist and on the basque, sleeves and revers has the button and loop garniture. A deep sailor collar is formed in back of the revers, and beneath all may be worn any desired style of shirt waist. These are to be had in great variety and there are not a few new sorts. Some of those that are



A NEW SURPLICE FRONT.



OF THE ADVANCED CLASS.



A NEW CUT FOR THE SERGE DRESS.



A JAUNTY MODEL FOR LISIENS.

young girls should hardly plan this sort of contrast for themselves, but for a dashing young matron or for the girl who rather makes a point of not being "just out," the result is at once stylish and distinctive.

It is a long step from such gowns to dresses of linen, but the linen is highly reasonable and it is possible to make the inexpensive qualities up into dressy form. An excellent model of this sort appears in the third of these pictures, an exceedingly jaunty dress, yet one

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A NEW CUT FOR THE SERGE DRESS.

In really good taste are of bandana colored and plain lawn made with stiffened collars and cuffs of the same. Again other very dainty waists are of gauze, with a pretty figure, and are finished at neck and wrists with stiffened ribbon collar.

Almost all shirt waists are made with adjustable collars and that makes the poor girl that has trouble with her collar button anyhow all the unhappier. This poor creature might as well give up at once, for what a collar cannot do in the way of getting itself upside down, of coming loose first at the back and then at the front is not yet known. You can get both ends secured in front and then find that the back stud has given way, you can get one side fastened and the back can give way, while you fasten the back away goes the one secured front, and while you hunt about for another stud the collar turns around and upside down on that stud at the back, so that when you try to attach it to the new stud in front it appears to have no buttonholes, and not to be a collar anyhow, but some kind of ornate curse. Still girls try to do it. Collars are higher than ever, too, so that the average girl gets a crease cut in her chin just from trying to eat, to say nothing of attempting to talk. But when all is said, nothing is more becoming to a pretty face or gentle to a plain one than a stiff, ship-shape collar, with a harmonious tie. No one need know how much you suffered in getting securely into both.

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# PLENTY OF PLUCK, BUT POOR JUDGMENT.



MONESTY THE BEST POLICY.

## Why President Hayes in 1878 Vetted the Standard Silver Dollar Coinage Act.

President Hayes believed that our national honor could not be too jealously guarded. In this he differed radically from our 16 to 1 statesmen, who are anxious not only to see our government repudiate one-half of its debts, but to see one-half of all debts repudiated. It might be well for these hasty statesmen to ponder some of Hayes' reasons for vetoing the act (passed over his head) to coin and make legal tender silver dollars worth, in gold, only 90 or 92 cents. He said that "the right to pay duties in silver or in silver certificates for silver deposits will, when they are issued in sufficient amount to circulate, put an end to the receipt of revenue in gold, and thus compel the payment of silver for both the principal and interest of the public debt."

He said that nearly \$600,000,000 of the funded debt then outstanding was issued since 1875, "when gold alone was the coin for which the bonds were sold, and gold alone was the coin in which both parties to the contract understood that the bonds would be paid." "These bonds," he continues, "entered into the markets of the world. They were paid for in gold when silver had greatly depreciated and when no one would have bought them if it had been understood that they would be paid in silver."

He believed that, in the judgment of mankind, it would be an act of bad faith not to guarantee that pre-existing debts should be paid in as good money as was legal tender when these debts were contracted—in other words, that the government should not legalize the breaking of contracts. "The standard of value," he said, "should not be changed without the consent of both parties to the contract. National promises should be kept with unflinching fidelity. There is no power to compel a nation to pay its debts. Its credit depends on its honor. The nation owes what it has led or allowed its creditors to expect? I cannot approve a bill which in my judgment authorizes the violation of sacred obligations. The obligation of the public faith transcends all questions of profit or public advantage. Its unquestionable maintenance is the dictate as well of the highest expediency as of the most necessary duty and should ever be carefully guarded by the executive, by congress and by the people."

He closed his message by saying that "it is my firm conviction that if the country is to be benefited by a silver coinage it can be done only by the issue of silver dollars of full value, which will defraud no man. A currency worth less than it purports to be worth will in the end defraud not only creditors, but all who are engaged in legitimate business, and none more surely than those who are dependent on their daily labor for their daily bread."

## Then Shall Have None Other Gods but He.



Absurdity of Double Standard Legislation.

There isn't a double standard country in all the world, never has been and never will be. Commerce and not law regulates value. And yet we are asked to adopt—by law what can't be in fact—the double standard at a ratio of 16 to 1 regardless of consequences. The more an honest investigator thinks about the proposition the less likely is he to advocate it. Politicians for office only may seek to work their passage at a 16 to 1 ratio, but the man who works in the shop and on the farm is pretty apt to reach the conclusion that he is entitled to the best money extant.—Belton Tex. Journal.

## Cuba's Faith in Our Gold.

The bonds of the new republic of Cuba, issued yesterday, are made payable in United States gold coin. Thus even a republic in the throes of partition makes haste to pay her tiny tribute of faith in the determination of our people to preserve our standard of value against debasement.—Philadelphia Record.

## Business Paralyzed by Free Coinage Legislation.

The Wooden and Willow Ware Trade Review of April 10 offers the following explanation for the cause of the present unsatisfactory business conditions:

All business is done by the medium of the existing measure of value. If there are any doubts about the future of that measure, commerce gradually approaches a standstill. When the Sherman silver law was repealed, confidence in the future began to return, and it was expected that steps would be taken to remedy the evils of the currency system under which the business of the country has been operating. Stimulated by this view, some business men launched new enterprises and started up old ones. There was an appearance of a revival in business a year ago.

When, however, it was found that there was a small band of men, whose whole future was based upon securing the free coinage of silver by the United States mints, in a position to block every move made to insure the continuance of honest money in this country, commercial people became nervous again. They commenced to prepare for financial trouble, which they thought might come. This preparation involved the withdrawal of loans, the curtailment of manufacturing, the abandonment of new projects and the gathering of reserves. Thus manufacturing and trading have for some months been suffering from gradual paralysis.

These conditions should convince every business man of the paramount importance of having the so-called currency question settled. Just now one of the most profitable things a business man can do is to use his influence and spare time in working toward currency reform and impressing upon the politicians the fact that the business interests of the country require sound money. Our national politicians who are now setting up the pins for a presidential election should take warning. No candidate who is not in favor of the gold standard ought to be elected president this year. Efforts should be made to prevent any man not sincerely and earnestly in favor of it from being a candidate upon either the Democratic or Republican ticket.

## Safety Only in Sound Money.

"The Democrats," says Mr. Harry, "cannot temporize with a question of the finances. They must declare for sound money, and there is not the slightest doubt that their plank in the national platform will be sound and explicit." They must declare, as did the last national convention, that "the dollar unit of both metals must be of equal intrinsic and exchangeable value." That covers the question. It is the Democratic position. In every national election since 1872 the Democrats have won on a sound money platform. They have lost when compromising with flat money or the silver dollar. "In the name of everything that is sane and honest and politic," asks the New York World, "how can the Democratic party now do anything except make its platform clear and explicit for sound money?" With a silver plank pledging the party to free coinage, or, what would be more detestable, an evasive platform, read one way in one section and another way in another, no matter who was nominated, overwhelming defeat would be certain and sure, and it would be defeat with little hope of resurrection, as it would involve lasting division of the party.—Pittsburgh Post.

## Beneficiaries of Cheap Money.

Every period of the depreciation of the monetary unit has at once sent prices up, the prices of the merchant, who gets the news quickly, before those of the farmer, who gets the news more slowly, and a long time before the wages of the laborer who cannot afford to hold his labor out of market till he gets a proportionate increase for it. Fixed incomes remain the same, and the rise of prices suffers great suffering on their recipients. Wages remain the same for a time and rise slowly, and in the meantime the laborers complain that prices have gone up so that they cannot afford to buy enough food and clothing. The farmer gets two prices for all he sells and pays two prices for all he buys, and is no better off than he was before the change. The beneficiaries are debtors on obligations incurred before the change, and these are not a very large class—many of them are also creditors and lose out of one pocket while gaining into the other—and the speculators, some of whom always make a profit in panics and crises and periods of sudden changes of values out of the losses of others.—New York Journal of Commerce.