Nebraska Herald.

LOCAL NEWS.

We learn that *Mr.* John F. Buck, of this county, was hurt one day this week by being kicked by a horse which he was attempting to drive into a yard.

We learn from the Brownville Daily *Democrat* that the man Phillips was not killed, as reported; but that he was seriously wounded. It is thought he will recover.

Mrs. L. B. Crocker & Co. have moved their Bazaar to the second building west of the Brooks House, where their lady customers can still find the very latest styles of Millinery and Fancy Goods.

W. C. Brown, Assistant Treasuer and Secretary of the B. & *M.* R. R. Co. in Nebraska, leaves for the east this evening. He will be absent only a few days.

Elder Dungan will preach at the Court House in this city, Saturday evening, August 20th, and Sunday 21st, at 11 o'clock a. m.

A new method of testing one's sobriety is suggested in the New York *Mail*: If he can distinctly pronounce "veterinary surgeon," he may consider himself sober as a judge. The test is infallible.

A young man named Marcellus Sands was killed at Lima Station on the Rock Island Railroad last week, by falling from the train while in motion. He was working under the alias of H G. Morley, and has a wife in Ohio.

We learn from Wm. Bischof, Esq., who went to Lincoln last Tuesday, that there were at least fifteen hundred persons on the train from Plattsmouth, going to the convention and that the crowd in Lincoln was immense.—*Chronicle.*

Married, at the office of the Probate Judge, August 13th, by A. L. Child, Probate Judge, Mr. John Cain, and Mrs. Mary Owen. The groom is aged about 21 or 22, and the fair bride is only 65 or 70. The happy couple went west to commence life, as soon as the knot was tied.

Married, at the residence of John Inhelder, in Louisville precinct, Cass county, Aug. 9th, by Nicholas Haney, Justice of the Peace, Mr. JOSEPH LEUCHTWEIS and Mrs. MARGARET LEVI, all of this county.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, of the Treasury Department, Washington, was in the city this morning. He went west on the 10 a. m. train to take a look at our new Capital City, and will return to Plattsmouth in a few days.

Died, in this city, on the morning of the 9th, Eddie, son of David and Emma Shoopman, aged 9 months

Gov. Saunders informs us that they will soon be ready to visit Cass county for the purpose of looking out a route for the Southwestern road.

In another column we publish the account of the murder of Theodore Johnson, 16 miles west of Beaver Crossing.—We met his father, this morning, who lives in Illinois, going to the scene of the murder.

The Pawnee *Tribune* has been enlarged to 32 columns. This speaks well for Pawnee county. There is no better criterion by which to judge of the prosperity of any locality than the appearance of its paper.

We passed over the B. & M. R. R. to Lincoln and back this week, and must say that the road is superior to any road in the west. The track between this city and Ashland is as smooth as any old road of the east. We knew Col. Doane was making a first-class road, but it far surpasses our most sanguine expectations.

We were favored this morning with a call from Mr. G. F. Dement, of Lexington, McLean county, Ill. He is a man of considerable means, at present engaged in the mercantile business at Lexington, and visits our State on a kind of prospecting tour. He expresses himself as highly pleased with Nebraska, and especially with Plattsmouth, and says the country is far superior to what he expected to find. He appears to be a gentleman of sound business ideas, and we hope to see him again in our city soon, ready for a permanent stay.

Married, at Weeping Water, Neb., on the 9th instant, at the house of the bride's father, by Rev. Simon Barrows, ARLINGTON O. ASHLEY, Esq., of Tallmadge, Ohio, and Miss. JULIA A. ASHMEEN, of Weeping Water.

Mr. Thos. Johnston, of Monmouth, Illinois, called on the HERALD to-day. He is very favorably impressed with our country and thinks of investing his money in Plattsmouth which shows good judgment.

The *Chronicle* says that Elder W. B. Bingham is recovering from the injuries received from the running away of his team, and that Mrs. Bingham is doing as well as could be expected, she having been seriously injured.

From conversations with returned lobbyists from the Convention, we learn that full delegations from different counties were present, and that, while considerable feeling was manifested by partisans of the different candidates, the utmost harmony prevailed.

Ninety-one and one-half bushels of oats to one acre was grown on the farm of Hon. Wm. B. Hail of this county.—We have no comments to make on this item, only that it is strictly true. Can any State beat Nebraska for grain?—*Chronicle.*

Died, in this city, on Sunday morning, Aug. 7th, 1870, Charles, son of Conrad and Amelia Heisel, aged 3 years and 10 months.

The parents desire to return their thanks to the many kind friends who sympathised with them in their sad bereavement, and attended the funeral of their child. D.

Locals are scarce in Brownville. The editor says if a dog has a fight he goes off to some out-of-the-way place.

The third term of Mr. Dilley's select school will commence Monday, 15th inst., at the German school house.

G. W. Adams has been appointed Postmaster at Centre Valley, Cass Co., in place of H. W. Farley, resigned.

Everard S. Child, has received the appointment of postmaster at Glendale, Cass Co., in place of A. L. Child, resigned.

The man Phillips, who escaped from jail at Brownville, a few days ago, in company with two desperadoes from Kansas, visited the house of Dr. Kent, some twelve miles from Brownville, expecting to take the Dr. by surprise, and get what money and other valuables he had about the house. The Dr. was aroused by a watch dog, and called out for his gun. The villains hearing him started to run; but just then a party of neighbors appeared upon the scene and followed them. Phillips was found dead next day. The manner of his death is a mystery. We learn the above from the *Democrat*

Married, at the Probate office, by A. L Child, Probate Judge, on the 9th of August, Mr. BRANTLY H. DAVIS to Miss. KATE LYNCH, all of Cass county.

A grain elevator is being erected two blocks north of the HERALD office, near the railroad track.

E. T. Duke & Co. are open for business in their new building, nearly opposite the HERALD office.

The steam ferry "Dazzie Warden," from Independence landing, came up this morning. She goes to Yankton, where she will hereafter operate.

Judge Child informs us that there has been seventy-eight marriages in Cass county during the past nine months.

We give full proceedings of the Republican State Convention in to-day's paper, which occupies most of our space. It will be observed that the fight for Governor was long and determined, the supporters of each of the candidates persisting in their efforts to make the others "weaken." At last a part of Furnas' strength went over to Butler, thus effecting a choice.

The B. & M. folks are putting up very nice Station houses between this city and Lincoln. The one at Louisville is neat and commodious.

We had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Converse, the builder of the great Midland railroad (no sarcasm about that, Dr.), while coming down from Lincoln last Thursday. The Dr. informs us that many of those fine notices about the progress of the Midland which we have seen from time to time in the Nebraska City papers are only sarcasms. We had supposed the road was progressing rapidly, and are sorry to learn from the Dr. that such is not the fact.

The Brownville *Democrat* of the 10th says: "Col. Remick left yesterday for Burlington, in pursuance of his appointment on the committee to confer with the B. & M. railroad directory in reference to the proposed extension of their road from Hamburg to this point." We are glad to know that Brownville is now taking hold of the railroad question in a manner that is likely to prove beneficial. Col. Remick is a railroad man, and knows what he is doing; and if he can induce the B. & M. to reach out to Brownville the people of that city may rejoice with great joy.

The Omaha *Republican*, in noticing large shipments of eggs and produce to that city, sorrowfully says: "These facts are interesting, but if the shipments were *out* instead of *in*, they would still be more interesting." It is a little more interesting to ship them *out*, as the people of Plattsmouth can certify. Butter, eggs, chickens, etc., are worth nearly double, in this city, since the completion of the B. & M. than what they were before. These are apparently small items of trade, but there is a large amount of pocket money, at least, derived from their sale.

The Corning *Gazette* says: "The office of Assistant Superintendent Mallory, of the B. & M. R. R. together with the train dispatcher, etc., has been removed from Creston to Chariton"

A love affair and attempted runaway match in Leavenworth recently, terminated in the horse-whipping of the valiant Romeo by the paternal ancestor of the dashing Juliette.

We learn that Mr. Cyrus Woodman, Vice-President of the B & M R. R. Co., in Nebraska, and recently a resident of this city, has lost, during the last month, over $50,000 by the failure of other parties in business. This is a heavy loss, yet it makes but a small hole in half a million.

It is amusing to see the contortions of the Democratic papers of the State over the Republican nominations. They are evidently exorcised. They may as well subside quietly, for their efforts to make sore-headed Republicans will prove abortive.

The Nebraska City *Times* denounces the resolution of symathy with Germany passed by the Bepublican State Convention, as "an insult to moral honesty."—We doubt not every hater of the German race views it exactly in the same light. It was not expected this resolution would please the Democracy of the country.

Mr. Azro Smith, of Rock Bluffs brought us a fine lot of Sweet Potatoes yesterday, the first of the season. They are of the Yellow Nansemond and Brazillian White Species—the best varieties known. Mr. Smith will soon be able to supply the market.

The local of the Nebraska City *Times* and "another feller" have gone on an excursion over the Red Oak, Hamburg and Brownville Railroad. Look out for a heavy account of where each tie on the road was cut, and all about it.

Maj. J. W. Pearman, the great Nurseryman of Nebraska City, was in the city to-day, on his way to Lincoln. We used to know the Major in days gone by, and he looks and talks as of old.

John Smiley, Esq., contractor on the Omaha, Plattsmouth & Gulf R. R., was in the city to-day.

See new advertisement of Mendler & Wheeland, who have leased the mill property of Rohwer & Sich. They are wide-awake men, and believe in printer's ink.

The Hon. J. Sterling passed through the city to-day on his way to Lincoln. He did not call on the HERALD.

Carl Richardson, Sheriff of Lancaster county, passed through the city this evening on his way to Omaha with a deserter from the second cavalry.

Hon. John Taffe and Col. E. B. Taylor came in from Lincoln this evening, and left immediately for Omaha. Mr. Taffe has only partially recovered from his recent illness.

The lamps for lighting the streets have arrived, and the requisite amount of orders have been taken. The council meets to-night, and we suppose the lamps will be put up at once.

Don't forget the Theatre at Union Hall to-morrow evening. The Plunkett Troupe can amuse you—there is no kind of doubt about that.

Many of the citizens of Plattsmouth have supposed our population on the first of June would reach 4,000; but the indications now are that it will not go over 3,500 at that date. The increase since the first of June—the date at which the census is taken—will probably cause our present number of inhabitants to fall but little, if any, short of 4,000; but the census returns will not show over 3,500.

We understand Fitzgerald contemplates erecting a large brick business house yet this season. It would pay big.

The steamer *Mary* McDonald, of the "O" Line, went down this afternoon.—She took on a quantity of freight at the Main street landing.

Mr. Eagan, proprietor of a boarding house, and Mr. Brady, a boarder got into a forcible discussion yesterday evening and Eagan got a severe cut on the head. Whiskey was the cause.

A fellow entered a house on South Second street last night and his face came in contact with something solid, propelled by the hand of a "strong armed female." His comrade had to go for "camp fire," and said his friend had "fell over a *phot*, sure."

In accordance with provisions made by the City Council, side walks are being put down on the south side of Main street. This will improve the appearance of the street materially.

We learn from Mr. Noyes, of Louisville, that his child—a little boy of two years old—which was bitten by a rattlesnake a few days since, is in a fair way to recover. The leg is still badly swollen, however.

FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.

We learn from the St. Joseph *Union* that during the storm at that place last Sunday evening a lady in attendance upon the festival of the Turners at the New Ulm Garden was so frightened that she died next day, at her home near Savannah.

A FORTY POUNDER.

We had the pleasure of knifing, this afternoon, a Watermelon which weighed *forty pounds*. It is of the Russian American species, introduced into this country by Bayard Taylor. It was from the garden of Azro Smith, Esq., of Rock Bluffs, and was the finest specimen of a melon we have seen in Nebraska—and Nebraska can certainly beat the world. It was large enough to supply some twenty persons who had assembled to assist in the eating. It was cut at Streight's Ice Cream Saloon.

BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE.

We learn that one of Mr. E. Noyes' children was bitten on the instep by a Rattlesnake at 9 a m., yesterday (Sunday.) The leg was badly swollen this morning, but it was thought the bite would not prove fatal.

ON THE RAMPAGE.

A Wild Texas Ox Gore's an Old Citizen.

We learn that Mr. Henry Eikenbary, who lives two miles south-west of this city, was attacked and severely injured by a Texas ox one day last week. He was on his way home from work, when the ox came upon him, knocking him down, cutting a large gash on his right temple and bruising his face badly. A party of men went out next day to kill the ox, but could not find him. He is supposed to be a stray from some of the herds of Texas cattle that have been brought here for shipment. Mr. Eikenbary has been confined to his bed, but is not considered dangerous.

REPUDIATION.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, a leading Democratic organ, says: "A large, and perhaps, controlling section of the party here and in the West, are for open and undisguised repudiation." The *Enquirer* is an outspoken advocate of Democratic doctrines. Those who dance to its music out west may not care to advocate the doctrines of repudiation as boldly as does the *Enquirer*, yet they are with it in sentiment, and will act and speak as openly whenever they get their spinal columns braced to the requisite strength.

ANOTHER HEAVY PURCHASE.

Fitzgerald Bets His Money on Plattsmouth.

We have heretofore noted that John Fitzgerald, the man who built the B. & M. Railroad from Plattsmouth to Lincoln, has purchased much valuable property in this city; and now we have to note that he has made another extensive purchase, being no less than the O'Neill property, consisting of the lot and store building adjoining the HERALD block on the west and the lot fronting on the railroad immediately north of the HERALD office. This property is in one of the best locations in the city, and of itself is the foundation for a fortune. If Plattsmouth had a half dozen men like Fitzgerald she would soon outstrip all competitors.

THE "EBLEMATICAL" FAMILY RECORD.

Unquestionably the finest thing of the kind we have ever seen, is a *Family Record designed and executed with a pen* by Prof. Clark. We examined a specimen copy to-day, in the hands of the general western agent, and it certainly merits the many praises it receives. The "All-Seeing-I ye" overlooks the scene, which is composed of representations of the vicissitudes of life, from the cradle to the grave, with suitable blanks at the various points in which to record the births, marriages and deaths of the different members of the family. *It must be seen to be appreciated.* It will *soon* be on exhibition in this city.—Agents wanted everywhere. Address, Perswell & Bro., "L B. 388," Omaha, Nebraska.

THEATRE FOR THREE NIGHTS.

The Plunkett Troupe Will Play at Union Hall Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Simonds, agent for Plunket's famous Theatrical Troupe, arrived in our city Saturday and made preperations for three nights performance here, commencing Thursday evening the 18th.—The Troupe consists of fourteen members, besides the star, Kate Mayhew, who lately held the position of leading soubrette in Aiken's Chicago Theatre. She will appear the first night in the "Little Treasure" and also in that splendid burlesque "Pocahontas". The full performance for the three evenings will be given on programmes. This Troupe has established an enviable reputation during the past four years throughout the west, and we doubt not the theatre going people of this city will be more than pleased with their performance.—They have first-class stage scenery, and are every way calculated to amuse our people. Remember the place—Union Hall, opposite the Brooks House—and the time—Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

We are requested to announce that *Mr.* Charles Wolcott has from 10,000 to 15,000 choice strawberry plants which he desires to distribute gratis among those who assisted him in his late trouble.—Bro. Wolcott is really desirous of showing his gratitude to those who so disinterestedly stepped forward to assist him, and we know it would give him pleasure to have them accept this small tribute of his regard.

Freight is 68 cents per hundred pounds on the B. & M. R R. from Nebraska City to Lincoln. So says the *Times.*

We clip the above from the Omaha *Republican.* No wonder freight is 68 cents, for it has to travel several hundred miles in a roundabout way to get from Nebraska City to Lincoln via the B. & M. or any other railroad.

DEAD MAN FOUND.

A. R. Kipp Struck Dead by Paralysis.

Mr. A R. Kipp, who has been living with L. G. True, Esq., of this county, for the past two years, was found dead in the road near Mr. True's house last Saturday evening. He was born in New York in 1800, and has lived in Logansport, Indiana, where it is believed he now has children residing. He was an inoffensive, civil old gentleman, who had worked for his board at Mr. True's for the past two years. He has said to Mr. True's folks that he has twice in his life been picked up for dead, caused by partial paralysis. Mr. True's family were all absent at Rock Bluffs Saturday, and Mr. Kipp was left in charge of the house. He was found some distance from the house, in the road, where it is supposed he had went in search of the cows. Coroner Thomas was immediatly notified, and he summoned a jury to hold an inquisition. Dr. Thomas and the jurymen made a thorough examination of the body and the circumstances attending the death, and the following is their verdict:

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, } ss.
CASS COUNTY. }

At an inquisition holden at the residence of Larkin True, in Cass county, Neb., on the 7th day of August, A. D. 1870, before me, J. W. Thomas, Coroner of said county, upon the body of A. R. Kipp, lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereto inscribed, the said jurors upon their oaths do say that the said A. R. Kipp came to his death on the 6th day of August, 1870, by Paralyses, in testimony whereof the said Jurors have hereunto set their hands the day and year aforesaid.

JOHN F. BUCK,
GEORGE F. SHRYDER,
WM. D. JONES,
W. W. WOLFE,
CLARK WILCOX,
HENRY WOLF,
Jurors.

Attest,
J. W. THOMAS, Coroner.

MORE HOUSE-BREAKERS.

Hoover's Store at Louisville Broken Open and Robbed.

Yesterday morning Sheriff Johnson received notice that Capt. Hoover's store at Louisville had been entered the night previous and a quantity of goods taken therefrom. The Sheriff and officer Frank Williams started about two o'clock yesterday, in a carriage, for the scene of the robbery. Arriving there they soon made up their minds who the guilty parties were, and proceeded to take them into custody. They arrested Thos. Kelley and James Barry, both of whom had been recently discharged from work on the railroad, and were "lying about loose" in the neighborhood. The arrest proved that the officers had been correct in their surmises, for a large quantity of the stolen goods were found upon their persons. They were brought to the city this morning. A complaint was made before Judge Child and the parties were brought before him for examination. After proceeding with a part of the examination to-day, they were committed for further examination to-morrow morning. They had entered the store through the window, and had carried off somewhere near $50 worth of goods, so far as could be ascertained.—Sheriff Johnson informs us that officer Williams rendered him invaluable services in the arrest of the criminals.

STREET LIGHTS.

We understand that arrangements have been perfected for lighting the streets of our city with gasoline provided a sufficient amount of city orders can be disposed of to raise the necessary funds to purchase the lamps. The lighnting of the principal streets is a project which every citizen, and especially every business man, should feel an interest in, and it is hoped the business men of the city will take enough city orders, at a reasonable discount, to insure the lighting of the streets. The gosoline is said to be very much cheaper than coal oil, and it certainly produces a far better light.

CHARITABLE.

Immediately after the receipt of the war news last evening, announcing the defeat and routing of the French army before Metz, Mr. Henderson, the gentlemanly and obliging officer in charge of the Burlington & Missouri river R. R. land office at this place, promptly despatched one of the company's land circulars, in the French language, to Louis Napoleon, "the nephew of his uncle," setting forth the glories and profits of Nebraska lands up the *Salt creek* and on the *Blue river*. No doubt now remains as to where the prince, the empress and the diseased accident will take up a homestead. We may soon look for a peaceful solution of the bloody struggle in Europe, and the Christian world is under great obligations to Mr Henderson for his well-timed efforts in behalf of peace.

NAOMI INSTITUTE.

An Enterprise worthy of Encouragement.

We noticed some time since that Mr. J. D. Patterson was endeavoring to establish a first-class school at Rock Bluffs, and that he had commenced the erection of a very fine building to be devoted to that purpose. We are now able to state that the brick work is completed, and that the work of finishing off the building has commenced. The building has advanced so far that Mr. Patterson feels justified in announcing to the public, as he does through the HERALD, that the fall term of the Institute will commence on the 13th of Sept—less than one month. Mr. Patterson is entitled to the thanks of every parent in this part of the State for his untiring energy in this matter, for the school will be of incalculable benefit to this section.—Mr. Patterson has established an enviable reputation as a teacher and what is of far greater importance, he is a man of great moral worth. Pupils placed under his care at the Naomi Institute will receive as good moral training as at home, and many of them far better. The Institute is very favorably located, as pupils will be far removed from the allurements of vice so common in large towns. There is not a dram shop within seven miles of the Institute. Good board can be had at from $3.00 to $4.00 per week. Competen teachers will assist Mr. Patterson, but the entire Institute will be under his personal supervision. We predict that Naomi Institute will prove one of the best and most successful schools in the State.

BOOKS IN SCHOOL.

There is no subject at the present time that should receive more earnest and absorbing attention by our people than that of the system of public instruction in the State of Nebraska. Our State is young, and while we would not expect it to excel or even equal older States, yet, in educational matters, we expect the fruits of education to ripen earlier in this State than they have in any other. Can we not avoid the crooked paths that they have made in the past and are making now? Can we not "avoid the evil, and cleave to the good," or must we spend years in perfecting a system of public instruction? I propose to examine one of the many evils in our present method of public instruction: And permit me to say here that this is an evil which is found, not only in this great State, but in many others. The evil of which I shall speak is no other than that which I shall denominate the *word for word method.*

When I was young the teacher that required his pupils to give their lessons memorily, in the exact words of the book, was considered by many the best teacher. If the idea was correctly expressed, it went for nothing in the teachers's estimation if it was not clothed with the exact language of the text book. This over-taxing of the memory, and the attendant physical restraint and endurance, with no mental results but stupid, meaningless words, made school life irksome.

The aversion that I formed for this disgusting method of using books, has induced me to try other plans and introduce other methods less disheartening and more rational; methods that would make school life comfortable and attractive, and the acquisition of knowledge at least tolerable, if not inviting.

You never find students well posted on any subject when they are required to swallow all that one author has to say on the subject and no more. Whenever you find a teacher who has adopted one book as an ultimate standard, on any given science, at the same time pronouncing every opinion wrong that does not tally in every particular with his favorite author, you will find a teacher that does not thoroughly understand that science, and who cannot correctly interpret the views of the author whom he so blindly follows. A one-book man is too narrow minded to understand any subject thoroughly. He might justly be called a blind bigot, full of positive assertions, and ostentatious egotism. If such a man should (unfortunately for the county) occupy the office of County Superintendent, this accidental election to official position by no means mitigates the evil. He was once intolerable, now abusive. He was in the school room unreasonable, now in his official capacity, tyranical.—This man following this indiscrete course injures no one but himself.

I do not wish my reader to understand that I denominate all teachers, who use but one *text book* in their classes, *one book* teachers. I would be far from making an assertion of this kind. The use of a single text book is in most cases necessary in our common schools; but the true teacher will make himself perfectly familiar with the leading authors upon the subject before him before he comes to the recitation so that he may be better prepared to interpret his author for the benefit of the class. If he dosn't help them in some measure to understand the subject before them, his work as a teacher is a failure.

I have shown how the true teacher prepares himself for his work, and maintains his own interest in every subject, by keeping thoroughly posted in the latest and best authorities. He carries an ardent and progressive spirit to his recitations, and he will not fail to excite a corresponding interest in his lipups.—If he criticizes his text book, it is in a spirit of candor and liberality; and his own opinions, when differing from the text book (for text books are not infallible) are sustained by satisfactory reasoning and not egotistical assumption.

The use of one text book in a class is not incompatible with thoroughness, provided the teacher is not a one-book teacher. Where one book is the text for any science, I would recommend works of refference. These may be furnished from the teachers private library or the public library, if one is accessible.—This will enhance the thoroughness of the class instruction by awakening a stronger interest in the develoment and mastery of any subject on which the class are engaged.

I will illustrate one method by an example. I will assume that the class are in descriptive Geography, and that the lesson assigned is a description of Weir's cave, in Virginia. Now let the class be requested to report on this subject the next day. The teacher will see that the pupils are supplied with the necessary refference books—a History of Virginia, Physical Geography, Enciclopedia or any others that may contain the desired information.

All the pupils may report the next day or if there is a want of a sufficient number of books, a part of the class may report upon that subject and another part report upon some other subject, and still another upon another subject. Thus any topic, particular or general, can be discussed and thoroughly understood by the proper use of reference books, it being obvious that no one text book can be very thorough, in its treatment of any one subject.

It may be affirmed by some that all such collateral information should be given in lectures by the teacher. If a delivery of a lecture is beneficial, why should not the pupil have the benefit derived from the delivery of these lectures, as they might be called. Your lecturing teacher is a perpetual nuisance, palsying all healthy effort and preventing all real development in his class.

There is no thoroughness without sufficient interest and enthusiasm to secure earnest and persistent effort to grapple and master a subject.

There are many other methods in the use of reference books by pupils, much more exciting and effective than the one described above, for drawing out the latent powers of every pupil in the class. Want of space foabids my describing them here. I have given but this one method, susceptible of the widest application, the one that can with suitable modifications (which the good sense of *any live teacher* will suggest) be made available in all branches taught in any school, and in all grades of classes that are old enough to study prescribed lessons.

If schools were taught by men and women that were up with the times, by persons who study to make teaching a profession, and not a stepping stone to matrimony or something else, they would be a most effective means of reforming those far gone in wickedness and depravity and not be the means of provoking vicious practices and entailing destructive habits. Where is the teacher that will say that we do not need a reform—and who will be the first to start the reformation? C. C.

A Swede mysteriously lost his pocket book yesterday, containing some sixteen dollars in money. Marshal *Murphy* was so close after the thief that he tucked the pocket-book under a plank in the side walk, where it was found this morning.

EXAMINATIONS.

MR. EDITOR:—Not long since there appeared an article in the HERALD over the signature of "C. C." denouncing the present system of examinations, and sweepingly proclaiming the teachers of our schools as being incompetent to perform the duties of their chosen vocations. While I am not prepared to believe in the incompetency of teachers generally, I must confess that sympathy calls me to have compassion on "C. C." in his misfortunes in not having had teachers capable of imparting such instruction as would better qualify him for preparing an article on the subject of examinations. He seems to have been particularly unfortunate in not having had the benefit of a good school. I candidly believe that if there has been no fault on his own part, that his teacher should never have had a certificate.

In these times, when a text book on grammar can be bought for a few cents, it appears strange that any one who is desirous of writing for the benefit of the public, should be guilty of such ridiculous solecisms as the following: "Have you been marked incorrect?" "Persons that were worse than none." "Not where there was no principle involved." "Tis the quack ignoramus," &c. But it is not my purpose to criticise the writer, but to refute only a few of the many errors which his fuerile pen has attempted to teach. It is rather difficult to discover what object the writer had in view, whether to apologize for the ignorance of some, who may be trying to hold the position of teachers without proper qualifications, or denounce the method in which Superintendents conduct examinations as now established by law, or deny to School-boards the sagacity of discerning in applicants, for scnools, those qualities which they may possess for governing and instructing pupils.

"C. C." complains that axaminers give the best certificates to the one "who knows the most." If this is wrong, I suppose, to fulfill "C. C.'s" desires, examiners would have to ignore the claims of the learned.

"Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise." Now as to the plea for unlearned teachers, I would answer that the teacher should be an individual of great research and profound erudition. If a person desires the services of a lawyer, he seeks one who is thoroughly versed in all the intricacies of jurisprudence. Should he attend church he is desirous that the minister should be familiar with the science of homiletics.—Why, then, not have the teacher educated in all the branches he is required to teach.

I think that all will agree that it is impossible for any-one to excel as a teacher unless he has previously acquired a store of knowledge from which he may daily draw the great truths of science.

"C. C." asks "what should be the object of examinations? To discover whether a person is competent to teach or simply to ascertain what knowledge he has of the branches? To find out whether he has ability to do what he proposes or merely whether he has committed to memory the answers given to the questions in some 'text book?'" The principal object in examinations should be to ascertain the applicant's qualifications both natural and acquired. That individual whom nature has endowed with faculties which lead him as by impulsion to study and acquire a complete knowledge of all that pertains to the profession he has chosen to follow, is certainly the best prepared to enter upon the duties of that profession; and for the very reason that nature has given him an intellect capable of great improvement and the impulse of genius has led him on to cultivate and adorn his mind, he will be very apt to be successful in the vocation in which he may choose to engage. And there cannot be devised a more appropriate method for ascertaining such a person's qualifications than the present system of examinations. It has been tried, and has the hearty approval of the most distinguished educators, both in this country and Europe. It seems to be the prevailing custom of illiterate persons to deride the merits of certain studious persons whom they denominate "book-worms." I would not pretend to say that the act of following written characters by the eye, without calling into active use the faculties of the mind will be productive of much good. But I will assert, as a historical fact that those men who have been the greatest poets, orators, statesmen and teachers; who have been the greatest ornament to the human species, have been the hardest workers and the most constant at their studies. The most obvious reason why they have surpassed the rest of mankind, is that they have been more diligent in the use of their time.

Thucydides, Sallust, Tacitus, Hume, Gibbon, Robertson and Bancroft the most illustrious historians, whose immortal works will instruct and delight mankind to the last generation, spent their lives in laborious researches.

Newton, Leibnitz, Galileo, Kepler, Franklin and Pascal who performed such great revolutions in science were almost constantly at their books, and the great truths which they unfolded and gave to the world for its instruction were but the rich harvests of golden grain acquired by many a midnight lucubration.

Demosthenes, Cicero, Brougham, Pitt and Webster, the most distinguished orators and statesmen the human race has produced, accumulated and arranged in order by means of close application those burning words against tyranny and wrong which will be read in all ages and countries wherever civilization and liberty have taken up their abode. The great poets Homer, Horace, Milton, Virgil, Byron and Shakespeare were thoroughly acquainted with all the knowledge of their times, and wherever the charming and sublime influences of poetry consoles sorrow or soothes grief, wherever it brings gladness to eyes which weep in wakefulness and tears, and ache for the dark house and long sleep, there is exhibited in its noblest form, the immortal influence of these sublime poets.

The great instructors of the ancients who assembled in the groves of the academy were said to have constantly a book in their hands. They loved to peruse the works of the philosophers; to ponder over the demonstrations of Euclid's Geometry or to reflect upon the conic sections of Apollonius. I might easily multiply the above list, and show that what is true of these illustrious teachers of mankind is also true of all who may aspire to the high and holy calling of a teacher; and that the real teachers of the human race are the earnest workers, or such as ignorance might denominate "book-worms." But without further expatiating on the meritorious conduct of those great luminaries that have emitted the celestial sparks of knowledge for the education, guidance and comfort of human kind. I may assert that in the productions of the mind, as in the soil, the gifts of nature are excelled by industry and skill; that genius may possibly anticipate the season of maturity—but in the education of a people, memory must first be exercised before the powers of reason and fancy can be expanded: nor may the artist hope to equal or surpass till he has learned to imitate the works of his predecessors. I have thus cursorily descanted on only a few of C. C.'s incoherent ideas and would be glad to proceed further and refute all the errors that might be attributed to him, but I fear in doing so I should encroach too much on our columns, hence I will close with the promise of another article on the subject of teacher's qualifications and examinations.

W. A. PATTERSON.

EXAMINATIONS.

"Truth will prevail, and justice show,
How tardy honors sure but slow,
Bear on—bear bravely on!"

MR. EDITOR:—One who publicly exposes the defects of a *pet system* of examinations, renders himself liable to such obloquy as is cast upon Canaan—But it is in no jeering spirit that the task of exposure is undertaken, and the hope that its performance may stir up some filial Shems and Japtheth to remove the cause, overcomes in my mind all fear of the parental curse.

The examiner that took exception to my views on our present system of examinations (as expressed in my article upon that subject,) appears to have a prejudice against any outside criticism of *his method* of examinations, "so old and illustrious." I was not criticising the examiners, and feel very sorry that such a homely shoe should fit one so well.—He says his system of examinations "is sanctioned by a generation of the best teachers and ablest scholars." He thinks "it is presumptious that we can suggest any improvement in it." But is not folly as well as wisdom transmitted from generation to generation? Should not education be adapted to the character and needs of the mind to which it is applied; and as those minds change in their character and wants, should not examinations undergo a corresponding change, in order that we may ascertain the teacher's ability to teach the children of the present day?

It is not a matter of the highest importance (as my friend seems to think) that a student should carry from school a considerable store of knowledge, but it is of the highest importance that *he* should enter upon active life possessing a mind capable of concentrated attention, of firm and accurate grasp of facts, and of ready and correct reasoning. So we say let parents keep complaining, until the schools adapt themselves to the general want. But our teachers' examinations are constantly sending out persons who are utterly unfit for the work, and waste not only money but do their part toward effecting the ruin of the children entrusted to their care. If a teacher "didn't do one bit of good," (a common remark respecting teachers) is it to be supposed that the teacher "did no harm," or did he not do what teachers so often do, "just ruin the school?" Why don't the people open their eyes? Why do examiners try to hide the facts from the people?

In former days I knew an examiner who prided himself on his thorough knowledge of Webster's spelling book; and *woe* to the candidate who was not well posted in the "first part" and "last part" of that spelling book; whatever else the candidate might know or might not know mattered little, if he was defective in the "first part" or "last part." I have found that one of these in more recent times has passed from the spelling book as far as into English Grammar. This examiner swears by *some text book*, and by taking a part of a sentence, accuses me of making use of "*ridiculous solecisms*." Take as an example the following, which is taken verbatim from my manuscript, viz: You will find none but the verient *quacks* or the most hopeless *ignoramus* to claim that he knows everything. Such men as Newton and Aggassiz are the ones that most frequently say "I don't know." Examiners and teachers should not ride a hobby to death. It does not take much common sense to discover that such hobgoblin performances don't do much, in favor either of knowledge or virtue.

"When you stick on grammatical burrs,
Don't strew your path with rhetorical urs."

In these times, when a dictionary can be bought for a few cents, it appears very strange that one who is an examiner should place the word sympathy in the connection "I must confess that sympathy," &c.

"W. A. P." tells us what Newton (the one that says I don't know) and others "acquired" by many a midnight lucubration. Has he read the history of all those men named in his *article?* If so he must know that as far as midnight lucubrations are concerned they are failures. I have the testimony of some of the best physicians and educators in the world to bear me out with this statement, that *early rising* and study before breakfast is immensely more economical than study at night into late hours. He would have our teachers and students sleep in the morning when the physical energies are the highest; and make study a midnight lucubration. This "midnight lucubration" of his will account for his production having the appearance of being written by one who was very desirous of seeing how he might look in print.

Teacher, morning study is better than night study, "W. A. P." to the contrary, notwithstanding.

He says, "why not have the teacher educated in all the branches he is required to teach." My first article answers this. And while we would re-affirm what we stated in our first article, "that a teacher should possess a proper knowledge of all the branches he expects to teach;" yet there are other qualifications more important than book knowledge and such qualifications as your system of examination will never discover.

Much was said in my friend's article about *thoroughness* (book worms). It is not mere knowledge that confers power upon man. Knowledge is only an acquaintance with facts. One may know all the facts in the universe, and still be unable to apply them. So may a teacher or pupil acquire a mechanical knowledge of the branches with but little mental result. When a young man leaves school and goes out into the world, the question that settles the business with him is *not* how much does he know, but what can he do with what he does know? Newton, Leibnitz, Galileo, Franklin and Pascal were not men with their *brains* full of *old lumber* that could not be applied to the actual business of life. Let the mind be well disciplined once, and it is sure not only to acquire facts but to assimilate them.

It is manifest then that any plan of education, any course of training, to be what it claims to be, what it ought to be, must be brought into working harmony with the faculty's susceptibilities and true ends of our being, as revealed by the teachings of experience and the light of the gospel, before it will enable the possessor *to work from choice*, rather than necessity: and will give him the highest satisfaction and success in any calling he may decide to adopt, will make his life a joy to himself and his family, a blessing to the community in which he lives, an honor to his *country* and *race*. In order to find teachers that will excite in their pupils a glowing enterprise, we would have a different system of examinations.

Teachers, let us pursue faithfully our chosen avocations, by preserving conscientiously chacters of integrity and honor by looking carefully to the true interests of those minds for which we are so greatly responsible; in a word, by following closely the beautiful example of our Great Teacher, we shall ere long see with deserved pride that the nations far and near look with unconcealed wonder and admiration upon our *system of education.*

I close with a promise of another article on the subject of examinations and school government. C. C.

LOCAL NOTICES.

Vallerys & Ruffner have just received a new supply of Boots and Shoes, which they are selling very low.

Go to Vallerys & Ruffner's and look at the Panier Arabs, the prettiest in the market. ap15dawtf

If you want a neat calico dress, go to Vallerys & Ruffner's. They are now selling the best for 12½ cts per yard. ap15dawtf

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All persons knowing themselves indebted to us by note or account are requested to call and settle immediately.

VALLERYS & RUFFNER.

Go to Vallerys & Ruffner's to buy your Dry Goods. They are selling cheaper than the cheapest.

Grover & Baker's Sewing Machine is the best in market. Vallerys & Ruffner are agents. Those in want of a good Machine will find it to their advantage to give them a call.

Maxwell & Chapman offer for sale a good improved farm of 360 acres, well watered and fenced; 40 acres of timber, a good dwelling house and outbuildings. june30dawtf

D. H. Wheeler & Co. are offering for sale over 100 lots in the City of Plattsmouth, at prices ranging from $75 to $250 each. je23tf

Go to Vallerys & Ruffner and buy your Groceries. They buy for cash and will not be undersold.

VALLERYS & RUFFNER

Are now receiving the largest stock of Dress Goods ever brought to this market, which they are selling cheap for cash. ap15dawtf

Go to Vallerys & Ruffner's and buy your Boots and Shoes, the best in market. ap15dawtf

Fruit Jars and Flower Pots at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Crockery very cheap at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Glass ware, large stock, at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Best silver plated Castors at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Table Cutlery, full line, at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Bird Cages and Tea Trays at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Lamps and Lamp Goods at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Chandiliers and Mirrors at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Fancy Goods at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

Cheap Goods at China Hall. aug6d6twtf

After Saturday, July 30, we lay our Books aside and sell for cash.
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