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 36, Rock Bluffs, Nebraska.

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

USES OF KNOWLEDGE.

Learning taketh away the wildness, and barbarism, and fierceness of men's minds; though a little superficial learning doth rather work a contrary effect. It taketh away all levity, temerity, and insolency, by copious suggestions of all doubts and difficulties, and acquainting the mind to balance reasons on both both sides, and to turn back the first offers and conceits of the kind, and to accept of nothing but examined and tried. It taketh away vain admiration of anything which is the root of all weakness; for all things are admired, either because they are new, or because they are great. For novelty, no man wadeth in learning or contemplation thoroughly, but will find that printed in his heart, "I know nothing."—*Bacon.*

EDUCATION OF YOUNG WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES.

No free communities ever existed without morals; and as I observed in the former part of this work, morals are the work of woman consequently, whatever effects the condition of women, their habits and their opinions, has great political importance in my eyes. Among almost all Protestant nations young women are far more the mistresses of their own actions than they are in Catholic countries. This independence is still greater in Protestant countries like England, which have retained or acquired the right of self-government; the spirit of freedom is then infused into the domestic circle by political habits and by religious opinions. In the United States the doctrines of Protestantism are combined with great political freedom and a most democratic state of society; and nowhere are young women surrendered so easily or so completely to their own guidance. Long before an American girl arrives at the age of marriage, her emancipation from maternal control begins: she has scarcely ceased to be a child, when she already thinks for herself, speaks with freedom, and acts on her own impulse.—The great scene of the world is constantly open to her view; far from seeking concealment, it is every day disclosed to her more completely, and she is taught to sway it with a firm and calm gaze. Thus the vices and dangers of society are early revealed to her; as she sees them clearly, she views them without illusions, and braves them without fear; for she is full of reliance on her own strength, and her reliance seems to be shared by all who are about her. An American girl scarcely ever displays that virginal bloom in the midst of young desires, or that innocent and ingenious grace which usually attend the European woman in the transition from girlhood to youth. It is rarely that an American woman at any age displays childish timidity or ignorance. Like the young women of Europe, she seeks to please, but she knows precisely the cost of pleasing. If she does not abandon herself to evil, at least she knows that it exists; and she is remarkable rather for purity of manners than for chastity of mind. I have been frequently surprised, and almost frightened, at the singular address and happy boldness with which young women in America contrive to manage their thoughts and their language, amid all the difficulties of stimulating conversation; a philosopher would have stumbled at every step along the narrow path which they trod without accidents and without effort. It is easy indeed to perceive that, even amid the independence of early youth, an American woman is always mistress of herself: she indulges in all permitted pleasure, without yielding herself up to any of them; and her reason never allows the reins of self-guidance to drop, though it often seems to hold them loosely.—In France, where remnants of every age are still so strangely mingled in the opinions and tastes of the people, women commonly receive a reserved, retired, and almost conventual education, as they did in aristocratic times; and then they are suddenly abandoned, without a guide and without assistance, in the midst of all the irregularities inseparable from democratic society. The Americans are more consistent. They have found out that in a democracy, the independence of individuals cannot fail to be very great.—Youth, premature, tastes ill-restrained, customs fleeting, public opinion often unsettled and powerless, paternal authority weak, and marital authority contested. Under these circumstances believing that they had little chance of repressing in woman the most vehement passions of the human heart, they held that the surer way was to teach her the art of combating those passions for herself. As they could not prevent her virtue from being exposed to frequent danger, they determined that she should know how best to defend it; and more reliance was placed on the free vigor of her will, than on safeguards which have been shaken or overthrown. Instead then of inculcating mistrust of herself, they constantly seek to enhance her confidence in her own strength of charater. As it is neither possible nor desirable to keep a young woman in ignorance, they hasten to give her a precocious knowledge on all subjects. Far from hiding the corruptions of the world from her, they prefer that she should see them at once and train herself to shun them; and they hold it of more importance to protect her conduct, than to be over scrupulous of her innocence. Although the Americans are a very religious people, they do not rely entirely upon religion to defend the virtue of woman; they seek to arm her reason also.

In this they have followed the same method as in several other respects: they first make the most vigorous efforts to bring individual independence to exercise a proper control over itself, and they do not call in the aid of religion until they have reached the utmost limits of human strength. I am aware that an education of this kind is not without danger; I am sensible that it tends to invigorate judgment at the expense of the imagination, and to make cold and virtuous women instead of affectionate wives and agreeable companions to man.—*De Tocqueville.*

VICTORIA'S WEALTH.

The Income of the Queen of England---The Story of a Strange Gift to Her Majesty.

A writer in the May number of *Lippincott's* believes the Queen either is, or ought to be a very wealthy woman, and in support of his belief presents some interesting facts and the story of a peculiar bequest. In addition to the property mentioned in the extract given below, the crown property includes a large strip of the best part of London. All the clubs in Pall Mall, which pay the highest rents in the city, stand on crown land. But this property suffers much from the fact that it cannot be sold. The whole of the New Forest is crown land, and it is estimated that if it could be sold it would fetch millions, whereas it is now nearly valueless. Of the Queen's income from various sources, the writer says:

Her income was at the beginning of her reign fixed at £385,000 a year.—This sum, it was understood, would, with the exception of £96,000 a year, be divided between the lord steward, the lord chamberlain, and the master of the horse, the three great royal functionaries of the royal household. Of the residue, £60,000 were to be paid over to the Queen for her personal expenses, and the remaining £36,000 were for "contingencies." It is probable, however, that the above arrangements have been much modified, as time has worked changes.

The Prince Consort had an allowance of $30,000 a year. The Queen originally wished him to have £100,000, and Lord Melbourne, then Prime Minister, who had immense influence over her, had much difficulty in persuading her that this sum was out of the question, and gaining her consent to the government's proposing £50,000 a year to the House of Commons, which, to Her Majesty's infinite chagrin, cut the sum down nearly one-half.

During the happy days of her married life the expenditure of the court was very much greater than it has been since the Prince's death. Emperors and kings were entertained with utmost splendor at Windsor. During the Emperor of Russia's visit, for instance, and that of Louis Phillippe, 100 or 200 extra mouths were in one way or another fed at Her Majesty's expense. The stables, too, were filled with horses—and very fine ones they were—whereas now the number is greatly reduced, and many of those in the royal mews are "jobbed,"—*i. e.*, hired by the week or month, as occasion requires, from livery stables. This poverty of the master of the horse department excited much angry comment on the occasion of the Princess Alexandria's state entry into London.

But besides the previously-mentioned £60,000 a year, and what residue may be unspent from the rest of the "civil list," as the £385,000 is called, Queen Victoria has two other sources of considerable income. She is in her own right Duchess of Lancaster. Her revenune from this source has been steadily increasing. Thus, in 1865, it was £26,000; in 1867, £29,000; in 1869, £31,000; in 1872, £40,000. The largest of these figures does not probably represent one-fifth of the receipts of John of Gaunt, but the duchy of Lancaster, like that of Cornwall, suffered for a long time from the fraud and rapacity of those who were supposed to be its custodians. Managed as it now is, it will probably have doubled its revenue before the close of the century.

This source is still more strictly personal income. On the 30th of August, 1852, there died a gentleman, aged 72, of the name of John Camden Neild.—He was son of a Mr. James Neild, who acquired a large fortune as a gold and silver-smith. He received every advantage in the way of education, graduated M. A. at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was subsequently called to the bar. He proved, however, the very reverse of his benevolent father. He was a miser born, and hid all his talents in a napkin, making no use of his wealth beyond allowing it to accumulate. From the date of the death of his father, who left him £250,000, besides real estate, he had spent but a small portion of his income, and allowed himself scarcely the necessaries of life. He usually dressed in a blue coat with metal buttons. This he did not allow to be brushed, inasmuch as that process would have worn the nap. He gladly accepted invitations from his tenantry, and would remain on long visits, because he thus saved board. A few days before his death he told one of his executors that he had made a most singular will, but that he had a right to do what he liked with his own.

When the document was opened it was found that, with the exception of a few small legacies, he had left all "to Her most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, begging Her Majesty's most gracious acceptance of the same, for her sole use and benefit, and that of her heirs." Probably vanity dictated this bequest. To a poor old housekeeper, who had served him twenty-six years, he left nothing; to each of his executor, £100. But the Queen made a handsome provision for the former, and presented £1,000 to each of the latter; and further raised a memorial to the miser's memory. The property bequeathed to her amounted to upward of £500,000; so that supposing Her Majesty to have spent every penny of her public and Duchy of Lancaster incomes, and to have only laid by this legacy and the interest on it, she would from this source alone now be worth at least £1,000,000. Be this as it may, even that portion of the public which survive her will probably never know the amount of her wealth, for the wills of Kings and Queens are not proved; so that there will be no enlightenment on this head in the pages of the *Illustrated London News.*

Both Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, and Balmoral, were bought prior to Mr. Neild's bequest. These palaces are the personal property of Her Majesty, and are very valuable; probably the two may, with their contents, be valued at £500,000 at the lowest. The building and repairs at these palaces are paid for by the Queen herself, but those of all the palaces of the crown are at the expense of the country, and about £1,000,000 has been expended on Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle during the present reign.

Mrs. Mary Dodge, editress of the *Hearth and Home*, is soon going abroad for her health. Pleasant voyage, and safe return to the paper she helps make so interesting and valuable.

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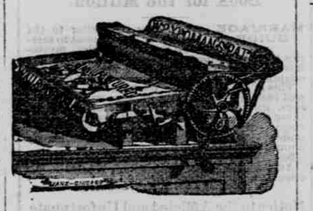

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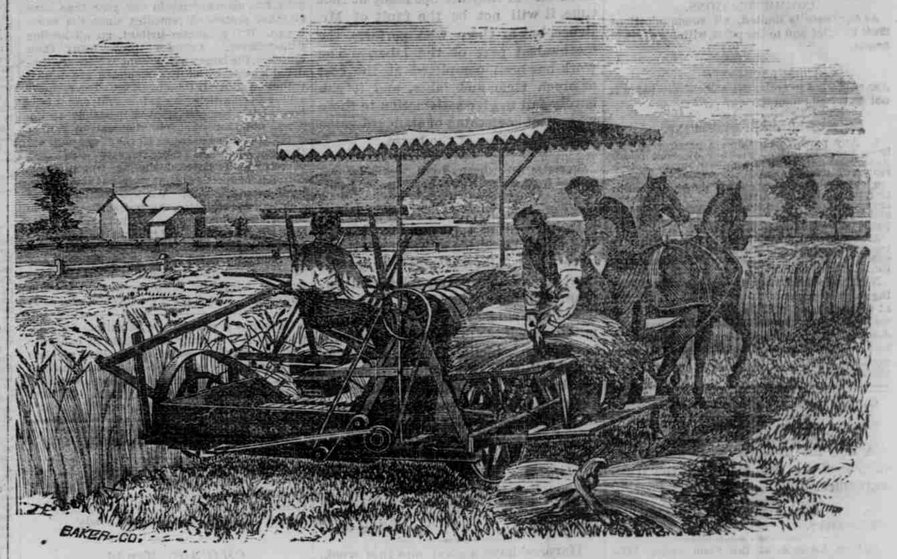

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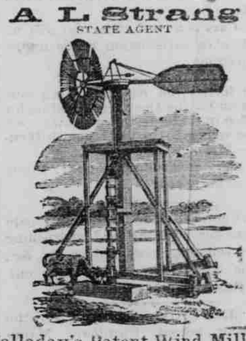

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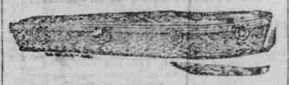

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