

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

B. S. RAMSEY EDITOR.

Communications on Educational Topics, Reports of Educational Meetings, &c., &c., are respectfully solicited for the Educational Column, and may be addressed to Educational Committee, Box 26, Book Bluff, Nebraska.

B. S. RAMSEY,
Chm' Editorial Committee.

A MEANS OF INTELLECTUAL GROWTH.

If a man teaches as he should teach he must of necessity improve himself. Teaching, understanding pursued, gives accuracy. I know it is possible for a man to be a mere school master—a pedagogue, without any self-improvement. But I am speaking of the faithful, devoted teacher—the man who studies, reflects, invents. Such a man learns more than his pupils. Every time he takes a class through any branch of study, he does it more skillfully, more thoroughly than before—He brings some fresh illustration of it, presents some new view of it, and hence takes a lively interest in himself, and awakens a new zeal among his pupils. Measuring himself by his new success, he feels a consciousness of growth of progress. This consciousness is a precious reward. Brought constantly in contact with those who need a careful guidance, he feels impelled to earnest effort in order to obtain the mastery over himself, as the best means of gaining complete influence over others. Studying the weak points in their character, he is constantly reminded of those in his own, and self-knowledge is the first toward self-improvement. Encouraged by one victory over himself, he is prepared for another. Having learned by self-discipline to control his outward acts, he next attempts the mastery of his thoughts, and he soon finds that his moral power over others is very much increased.

PAGE

BRAIN WEARINESS.

For the Herald.

The point of mental fatigue, or brain weariness, is induced more readily in young persons than in those of mature age, and in that class who are not accustomed to brain work, than in those whose business has been steady. This fact is especially commended to the notice of parents and teachers.

Pupils, at the immature age of ten or twelve years, are required to confine their attention, often for a period of eight hours a day, to studies which are frequently obtrusive, uninteresting, and, to them, difficult; and this, generally, with but very brief intervals of rest.

After an hour or less of close application to study, if the pupil be required to divert the brain action in the direction of brisk muscular exercise, involving chiefly the functions of the spinal cord, the brain will return to its task refreshed, and in this manner it may labor safely and profitably five or six hours a day. After a period of close mental application, if the pupil finds himself unable to confine his attention to the subject of his investigation, or discovers an inability to exercise his ordinary powers of mental perception, he should be admonished at once, and interrupt his labors.

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Mr. Perkins is Vice President of the B. & M. R. R. Co., of Iowa.

With Maj. John W. Berks and the other corporators residing in Saline and adjoining counties, our local readers are mostly well acquainted.

So far as we know them, and we are well acquainted with the most of them, the corporators are live, wide-awake business men, who have the ability, the disposition and the energy to push forward any enterprise they take in hand.

We believe the proposed road is to commence at Beatrice, Nebraska, or at some point on the north Kansas line near there, and run in a south-southwesterly direction, through Washington, Cloud, Ottawa, Saline, McPherson, and Reno counties, to the south line of the State, in the direction of Camp Supply and El Paso, passing through the towns of Concordia, Minneapolis, Lindsey, Salina, Lindsburg, McPherson and Hutchinson. The entire route is over the richest farming lands that can be found, even in Kansas, a level as to make the expense of building a mere trifling as compared to the average of roads.

It is easily discernible that the proposed road is one of the most important now projected in the great undeveloped West. It traverses the richest country, in natural advantages, in the world in a direction as yet unprovided with any commercial artery, and, when built, will open up and create for itself an immense local business. Between the north and south lines of our State, it will cross no less than five east and west grand trunk lines of road, and will give us very desirable connections for Chicago, St. Louis, and all points north east and east.

Towards the south-west, it will open up the inexhaustible salt deposits of the Indian territory, and give us another route to Colorado, Texas and the Gulf of Mexico.

It is a grand enterprise, and has our best wishes for its speedy success.—Salina Herald.

Today was the last day of the year.

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