

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

B. S. RAMSEY..... EDITOR.

Communications on Educational Topics, Reports of Educational Meetings, etc., are respectfully solicited for the Educational Column, and may be addressed to Educational Committee Box 9, Rock Bluffs, Nebraska.

TRAIN THE INTELLECT.

One of the most fruitful sources of failure on the part of teachers is a wrong definition of the word education. This is not without its adequate cause. To the superficial style of teaching practiced by the mass of teachers, and the materialism of the text books which deluge the country, and it is not at all strange that the prevailing idea of education is a storing away of knowledge for future use. The teacher teaches only in accordance with the plan of the text book, using only such questions as he may find therein, and requiring the author's answer verbatim; and if the inquiring mind of some pupil chance to require the why for a certain operation he is answered by an array of jaw-breaking words to him as unmeaning as ancient hieroglyphics; or, in perhaps snubbed as being "too inquisitive." No matter how it is done, if the teacher can only sustain a reputation for profound learning, and impress the idea on his pupils that what he does not know is not worth knowing. The consequences is that the current idea of education obtains among the scholars, and they become regular book worms; that is, such of them as do not lose all their energy and interest in the pursuit of their studies.

The deviation of the term education indicates a different sense from that which is generally given to it. The Latin verb *educere*, from which it comes, means to lead forth. Education, therefore, in whatever connection we use the word, signifies a development, a leading out of power already possessed. True, the every day business of life requires knowledge, and this knowledge is indispensable. But the gaining and applying of this knowledge are but the means of developing the mental powers; and the result is always more important than the means used for the accomplishment of a given result.

In arithmetic, therefore, teach general principles, and let each example regarded and used as merely an illustration and means of impressing these principles. And teach *practical* arithmetic. That is, make sure that your pupils not only understand principles, but can apply them readily in common business transactions. This ability can be tested by frequently laying aside the text book in recitation, and manufacturing examples based upon the principles of the lesson.

In grammar, strive to show how natural and reasonable the subject is, even to its most minute details, and thus you will overcome existing prejudice, and excite an interest in this subject among your pupils.

In short, whatever you teach, present in a clear, plain manner, throwing your soul into the work, and impressing the school with the idea that study is to the mind what food and exercise are to the body—means of development and strength. Training is more important than knowledge.

TELEGRAPHIC!

New York, Nov. 19. The jury in the Tweed case this morning found a verdict of "guilty" on all the counts. The defense took exception to any verdict except a general verdict on all counts, but the jury were discharged.

The telegraphic report of the death of Thomas Baring, Sr., head of the London house of Baring Bros. & Co., is confirmed by private dispatches to bankers in this city. Mr. Baring leaves no children, and the bulk of his great property goes to his nephew, Edward Baring, a member of the banking house, and brother of Lord Northbrook. Mr. Hodgson, formerly of Finlay, Hodgson & Co., which firm amalgamated with the Barings in 1869, now becomes the active business head of the house.

A Dover (N. H.) dispatch announces that the Hon. John P. Hale died there at 9 o'clock this evening.

The President commenced writing his annual message to-day, and has not received any visitors, except Secretary Fish who had a long interview.

The Postoffice Department has concluded a partial postal cart arrangement with Germany.

Unusual activity prevails in the Washington navy yard, and in some of the departments overtime is being made.

Washington, Nov. 21. Dispatches from Madrid to the secretary of state that a mob which collected in front of the American legation was promptly dispersed by government. There is no doubt here in official circles but that the authorities at Madrid are fully capable of preventing any outbreak. The position of Minister Sikes is very uncomfortable, but it is not believed violence will be offered. Sikes is hourly in communication with the state department, and his dispatches indicate the existence of a very strong feeling against the United States.

There is great activity at the navy yards. Twenty-six hundred men are employed, and six vessels are preparing for war. Admiral Porter's torpedo boat is being rapidly prepared for service. Working men are engaged on the Florida, which has the reputation of being the fastest vessel ever built, being capable of making eighteen miles an hour for six days, without stopping to coal. The steam yacht America, built for Henry N. Smith, has been purchased or chartered by government for a dispatch boat.

New York, Nov. 21. Ten thousand dollars reward is offered for the arrest of Sharkey, the condemned and escaped murderer.

Chicago, Nov. 21.

The billiard tournament closed this evening at 11 o'clock. Largest runs, 400 to 293, in 21 innings. Largest runs—Gatnier 63, 71, 21; Ubassy 23, 38, 42; Daly beat J. Dion; score—400 to 336, in 43 innings. Largest runs—Daly 49, 41, 61; Dion 66, 43, 21. Garnier takes the first prize, Ubassy second, C. Dion third, Daly fourth and Joseph Dion fifth.

London, Nov. 21. An explosion took place in the colliery at Wigan, to-day, twenty-five miners being killed and injured. Parliament reassembles on the 5th February.

RUFFS.
[From the Springfield (Mass.) Republican.]
The fashion of wearing wide ruffs is revived, but we trust they will not attain to the dimensions of the ruff of the Elizabethan age. The wearer of the ruff was then, it is said, in a state of ceaseless agony lest his inflexibility should be broken or injured, and his bearded and starched circumference should have a fall. The Elizabethan dame drew back from all who approached too near, crying, "Not so close; thy breath will draw my ruff!" And it was almost as venturesome to clasp her in an embrace as to clasp a circular saw. The chief utensil for keeping ruffs done up was the forking stick, heated in the fire, the quills of the ruff were ironed into the exact symmetry which was the glory of the period. The fashion of wearing ruffs began about 1576, according to Stowe, and under the fostering hands of starch and forking-sticks, they were worn to the length of a quarter of a yard. The belles were not the only ones who were adorned with these immense wringles, for the dandies of that day also assumed the ruff in its largest proportions, as all the portraits of the ancient cavaliers attest. This vast structure was styled in England "the French ruff," but the French in retaliation, named it the "English monster." Queen Elizabeth, whose throat was very wrinkled and yellow with age, wore the broadest and stiffest ruff of any one in Europe, excepting the Queen of Navarre, and her ruffs were composed of the finest embroideries, enriched with gold and silver threads, and even precious stones were introduced into them. She employed, as we are told, endless yards of cut-work and purple needle-work, lace, and lace of gold and silver, enriched with pearls, and bugles and spangles, in the fabrication of her three-ply ruff. But she would not permit any of her subjects to adorn themselves in a similar manner, and ordered grave citizens to stand at the gates of London, and lay hands on the wearers of all ruffs beyond a certain width, in order to show her prerogative to dress more absurdly than any of her subjects.

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