

THE ART OF COMPOSITION.

How it is Taught in the German Schools.

Correspondence Boston Journal. In still another branch have the Germans succeeded. American teachers know to their sorrow the difficulties encountered in educating scholars to be essay writers—that is to write what is generally known to us as essays or compositions. The fault lies here just where it does in all our other higher studies—it is not begun early enough. We wait until we think that their minds are a trifle mature and then come upon them with a wild rush of rhetoric, history and all the frightful curriculum.

The Barge Route.

San Francisco Chronicle, July 3. The St. Louis papers note an important improvement which is now being made in the large system of grain transportation on the Mississippi which will give still greater advantages to the river over the rail routes to the seaboard than those now possessed. This improvement is a perfect system of ventilation, which has been introduced by Capt. Lowrey, president of the St. Louis & New Orleans Transportation Company.

The Premier of Birds.

Five hundred dollars for a bird would seem to most people to be high price to pay for any kind of the feathered tribe, but that is the sum asked for a parrot. He is owned by Mr. George H. Holden, of the Sixth avenue bird store, New York, and wonderful statements are made of the sayings of this remarkable bird. Parrots live to be a hundred years old. This fellow is only five years old, and seems to be in a fair way to entertain some wealthy family at the second centennial anniversary of America's independence.

Good-Bye.

Did you ever hear two married women take leave of each other at the gate on a mild evening? This is how they do it: "Good-bye!" "Good-bye! Come down and see us soon." "I will. Good-bye!" "Good-bye! Don't forget to come soon." "No, I won't. Don't you forget to come up." "I won't. Be sure and bring Sarah Jane with you next time." "I will. I'd have brought her up this time, but she wasn't very well. She wanted to come awfully." "Did she now?" "That was too bad! Be sure and bring her next time." "I will; and you be sure and bring the baby." "I will. I forgot to tell you that she's cut another tooth." "You don't say! How many has she now?" "Five. It makes him awfully cross." "I care say it does, this hot weather. Well, good-bye! Don't you forget to come down." "No, I won't. Don't you forget to come up. Good-bye!" And they separate.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

Nearly every large school in the South States is said to be a military school. The special teacher of music in the schools of Worcester, Cal., is to be dismissed with his salary.

Johns Hopkins University had during its last session 170 enrolled students, the largest number of whom—forty—studied chemistry. Twenty-five students took biology.

The salaries of the teachers in the schools of Worcester, Mass., have all been increased; the school board of that enlightened town has discovered in advance of other boards that these are times of prospective improvement.

Some of the Indian girls at Mr. Moody's Northfield school are said to be very jealous of their dignity. They are the daughters of quite wealthy chiefs, and consider themselves very aristocratic. They make rapid improvements.

The proposition to establish normal schools in Texas for the benefit of the teachers of that state meets with no favor there. The teachers held a convention recently in which they voted so far as to protest against the action of the State Board of Education in importing teachers from the North "to teach them how to teach."

Among the graduates at the Yale Law School the other day was Peter Doyle, who is now 45 years old. Being conscious of some defects in his legal education, he determined to remedy them at an age when most men would not feel like "going to school."

The Chinese boys at Holyoke, Mass., who have been re-located to China, have just received orders to return within two weeks. There are twenty in the vicinity who are to go, three of the number being in Holyoke. They will be accompanied by Mr. Yang, the Chinese tutor at the Hartford education institution.

At Lasell Seminary, for girls, at Auburn, Mass., an excellent system of self-government is practiced. Any student who at the end of one term is regarded as worthy of such trust is enrolled on the list of "self-governed," and thereforward does his or her share so long as she continues to show herself entitled to unlimited confidence.

At the recent meeting of the Education Society in England a discussion on science-teaching in intermediate schools ended in these conclusions: That natural knowledge should be taught not from books but from things themselves; that the lessons should not consist of information committed to memory but of knowledge acquired by the child's own observation and experience; that by such object-lessons he should be led to observe facts and to draw processes around him and to exercise his powers of comparison as well as of perception, and thus arrive at such generalizations as are within his capacity; that after the more general knowledge of the common things around him the child should be led along the broad lines of interest to some more special departments of science.

Chemnitz, the third largest town in Saxony, has many public technical schools. They are either state institutions or belong to some public body and are under the oversight of the Home Minister. The expenses are chiefly borne by the state, the fees of the pupils being only sufficient to pay a tenth of the expenses. Poor students who are worthy of assistance can usually obtain remission of the fees and even help from the state. A peculiarly useful system is pursued with the teachers—every year a number of them are furnished with money for the purpose of visiting various countries, cities, or exhibition connected with their special branches. They thus keep themselves acquainted with all that is new in science and invention in different countries. The schools are graded so that the pupil can pursue a regular course to the highest technical institution in the kingdom. The development of manufacturers in the town of Chemnitz during the last thirty years is mentioned as remarkable.

RELIGIOUS.

There are about one hundred thousand Shakers in the United States. Over 500,000 copies of the revised New Testament have been sold in Philadelphia. Mormon missionaries have established a branch of the Latter-Day Saints in the Quaker city.

Pere Hyacinthe, leader of the Old Catholic movement in France, sails for this country in September. The Irish Presbyterians have banished organs, violins and all instruments of music from their sanctuaries.

Dwight L. Moody announces a second convocation, to be held at Northfield, Mass., beginning August 3. The Bersean Baptists are happy because the latest returns show that they made \$10 by their jug festival last week.

It is understood that the Rev. Brock Herford of Chicago has declined the call to the pastorate of the First Unitarian church of Cambridge, Mass.

The Seventh-Day Adventists are making arrangements for a grand state camp-meeting, to occur on the old fair-ground in Battle Creek, in a few weeks. The denomination known as the United Brethren in Christ has five bishops, 242 churches, and 100,000 members. The total membership of its Sunday school is 190,000.

A Norwegian Synod (Lutheran) in Iowa recently had the question brought before it was proper for one of its ministers to accept a nomination to the Legislature. After discussion, the body said: "No! No! None in their shoes!"

Friday, August 5, has been designated as "a day of fasting and prayer to be observed by all the Methodists of all lands for the blessing of God to rest on the Ecumenical Union," which meets in London in the fall. The Baptists have now three summer resorts under their control. The oldest of these is at Martha's Vineyard and the next oldest is at Chestnut Hill, Pa. The latest resort is Round Island, Park Road, Island, St. Lawrence River.

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PROPOSALS FOR SPRINKLING DOUGLAS STREET.

SEALED proposals will be received by the undersigned until the 25th day July 1881, 12 o'clock noon, for the sprinkling of Douglas street from 12th to 16th street, the contract to cease when the water works company supply water in such district. Said bids to be opened by the committee on streets and grades. Said committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Said bids must be accompanied by the name of the contractor under the usual conditions. Envelopes containing said proposals will be marked "Proposals for Sprinkling Douglas street," and they must be addressed to J. J. L. C. JEWETT, Omaha, July 21, 1881-31.

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED proposals for the erection and completion of the new Central Hotel, Omaha, Neb., for Kitchen Bro's, will be received at the Witham House, Omaha, and the Pacific House, St. Joseph, Mo., July 14th to 14 o'clock p. m. July 23d, 1881.

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