# Original Communications.

## THE EDUCATION OF THE SOUTHERN FREEDMEN.

BY ONE OF THEMSELVES.

Though I know that the friends of the freedmen, in the North, feel a deep interest in their welfare and progress, and have shown their sympathy in benevolent deeds, still I sometimes fear that even they have not a full conception of the magnitude of the work of educating and fitting to extend the helping hand; and could they tions. Travellers will find it very well suited to for intelligent citizenship these newly emancipated millions. Looking on from the distance of a thousand miles, and calling to mind the hundreds of missionary teachers, who, during the past three years, have been at work in the South, it will, doubtless, appear to many in the North, that these people have had, within their reach, good, if not superior means of acquiring intelligence and education, and the conclusion is likely to be reached, that the mass of the freedmen should, by this time, be sufficiently advanced to conduct intelligently their own educational affairs. Now, I do not, by any means, wish to try to disparage the results of the labors of the selfsacrificing men and women who have so nobly was going to manage it. "O," said he, with a It belongs to the better class of juveniles, and led the march of education into the wilds of broad grin, that showed entire absence of any-Southern ignorance and barbarism, but I do dething like melancholy or despair, "when the watsire that the friends in the North may not fall into error in regard to what has been accomplished, and that they may have a correct knowledge of the situation.

Three years ago, when the work of educating the freedmen commenced, the teacher or missionary had two principal obstacles to combat. The first was, the malicious prejudice and the determined opposition of the whites; the second was, the ignorance of those whom they came to indid to overcome the latter. School-houses were burnt, in some instances teachers were assaulted and even killed, and, generally, all manner of insult and annoyance was used by the whites to hands. dishearten them and to discourage them from their work. Then the bitter passions engendered, or, at least, increased, by our late civil war, had not died away, and the teacher stood surrounded by enemies, determined in their hostility to the education of the freedmen. In those dark days, it was a bold thing, even here in Alabama, to raise the standard of man's rights and declare for freedom and education. Now, all that is changed There is not a village, hamlet, or precinct in this whole State, where a freedmen's school may not be opened and taught with perfect safety. The spelling book has once more gained the day, as it ever must, and the Southern people have every where been forced to recognize the fact that the black people are to be educated and enlightened, and that they are powerless to prevent it. So much has been accomplished toward overcoming

the slaveholder's hostility to education. Now, as to the extent and progress of the schools. It must be borne in mind that, while many teachers have been sent into this field, still no society has aimed to establish schools at other than central points. In other words, the thousands of youth in the smaller places and rural districts have, so far, been almost entirely destitute of schools and instruction. I have not the statistics by me, but I estimate (roughly) that there must be, at least, 50,000 colored youth of schoolable age in the State of Alabama. It cannot be that over 5,000 of these have had anything like systematic instruction. In this county (Lauderdale), as nearly as I can estimate, there are about 2,000 colored youth between the ages of 5 and 21 years. Of this number, perhaps 300 are gathered in schools. This statement will give you an idea of the vast disproportion of the force of teachers compared with the work to be done. I have said that the societies aimed only to establish schools at central points. In this they showed wisdom. A well-regulated school at any county town of the State would be a great source of benefit to the freedmen of that county. It would be a radiating centre. But there is a significant fact connected with nearly all of these schools which must be borne in mind. I allude to the Normal feature found in most of them. In nearly all freedmen's schools the idea is kept prominently before the minds of the pupils that they, particularly the older and more advanced ones, are to make use of their acquirements in instructing others. We generally find it practicable to gather into a Normal class, those who give evidence of capacity for teaching, and instruct them with especial reference to that work. So far as my knowledge extends, this plan has everywhere been attended with the most gratifying results. From these Normal classes we have not only been able to supply the primary departments of our Central schools with good teachers, but also to send teachers into the country to open small schools of their own, which are generally self-supporting. This much we have been able to do here at Florence, and at other points, perhaps, more has been done in the same way. So it will be seen that every central school is, to a great extent, a Normal school, and, properly conducted, is able to do much toward supplying the surrounding country with teachers.
() four own papils here, eight are, at this time, or have been, engaged in teaching. There are, perhaps, ten who are capable of conducting small primary schools, and some of whom will engage in teaching during the present summer-months, n the country. In another year we could probably increase this number of young teachers to twenty five, who again would, perhaps, be able to gather into schools and instruct 1000 or 1200 others. And thus the work will go on, un- quently found in mercantile circles, and of the less from want of means or other causes these

central schools are compelled to stop. Touching the pecuniary condition of the outhern people: the whites, even those who formerly were regarded as wealthy, are now nearly all bankrupt. All classes of persons find it diffiult to live here. There is very little money in ly patriotic, pure, pervaded with genuine unreserved piety, and wrought out of the abundant materials furnished by the various phases of the have stopped. The freed-people especially, labor struggle, at home, on the battle-feld, in rebel hard, and have done so since the close of the prisons, and in perilous flights, with considerable dramatic skill. Based on familiar scenes and inmoney from their labor. Most of what they didents and simple in tone, it cannot truly be callhave earned, to their credit be it spoken, they ed common-place. The perusal will quicken patrote applied toward the purchase of small homes

for their families. Last year a large cotton crop was raised, but, as every one knows, from some cause or other, cotton sold for from four cts. to five cts. per lb. less than it cost to produce it. Planters lost heavily, but cotton speculators reaped a harvest.

Unfortunately the southern people, white and black, very generally still cling to cotton as their chief staple. But I take it that stern necessity will yet teach them to diversify their crops. Could the people of the north witness the manly struggles of the freedmen for independence, in spite of the many obstacles which beset their way, I am sure they would feel encouraged still know with what grateful and prayerful emotions | their wants. aid of any kind is received by these poor suffering people, they would never, never regret that, in the goodness of their hearts, they were led to extend their sympathies toward the freedmen of

To give you an idea of the animus with which many of these people are inspired, let me relate in the hands of children, and impressing a lesson an incident. We have lately had quite a freshet of practical benevolence of the highest utility. in this section, and much of the bottom land, some of which had been planted, has been flooded. A few mornings since, as I was riding along the river bank, I saw a fine specimen of the "new issue" (freedmen) sitting on a fence, looking at and Presbyterian rigidity in the training of chilabout four acres of water outspread before him, beneath which was his corn-field. After offering | bad ones; the story has sufficient variety of incihim words of condolence, I asked him how he thing like melancholy or despair, "when the water falls, I'll plow up the land and plant it again." lovely form of Presbyterianism prevails. We note that "Puritans" are said, pages 5 and 6, to have settled in Eastern Pennsylvania, but they good-humoredly, "I reckon." These people, de- are afterwards spoken of as Covenanters. "HARpend upon it, will come up; only give them time, and opportunity.

My chief anxiety now is, whether we are finally to close our efforts here in June. I humbly and prayerfully trust that Providence will open | Three illustrations. up some way for us to continue the work here next fall. We now have every thing in order 72. Two illustrations. Well describes the enstruct. It required fully one-half as much for another year of more successful labor than thought and care to counteract the former, as it any heretofore. To break off suddenly now, her paths. would be sad indeed, and I pray that we may be enabled to go on until we can safely commit this truly noble work to other and more faithful Truly yours,

OSCAR M. WARING. FLORENCE, Ala., May 8, 1868.

# Editor's Cable.

Publishers will confer a favor by mentioning he prices of all books sent to this Department.

JEAN MACE'S BOOKS. The unrivalled clearness, fluency and facility of the best French lecturers and instructors is well known abroad. They know better than any other civilized people how to popularize science. Arago was not more famous for his mastery of knowledge than for his skill in making it compreheasible to the dullest listener. There is a captivating combination of brilliancy, simplicity and thoroughness in the presentation of scientific truth to the young and the uninitiated by the children wholesome, attractive, piquant Stothis class of French savans that answers a very general want and that has been widely responded to by the public. JEAN MACE'S Book, the HISTORY OF A MOUTHFUL OF BREAD, is a late Branch, fearlessly exposing the incurable corillustration of this gift so peculiarly French. Starting from the act of mastication, the author describes, in "Letters to a little Girl," the process of digestion, the alimentary system and the entire relation of food to the human body. The second part of the book is occupied with a description of the various orders of animals. All best met by such issues in advance of time. The the leading facts in the structure of man, and the other animals, as living beings, are brought to view, and with such liveliness and picturesqueness of style and such assiduous and yet cheerful and happy attempts at illustration, that a child of eight or ten can scarcely fail to be interested; while many older persons would be interested as they never were before, in the mysteries of their own physical constitution. There is throughout a reverential recognition of the Deity, and a constant aim to inculcate gratitude to the wise and benevolent Author of our being.

The same may be said of a second volume, by the same author: "THE SERVANTS OF THE STOMACH," which, relates to the muscular and bony parts of the body, the brain and nerves. Seventeen editions of the first of these works had been issued in Paris in 1866. The translations, reprinted from London editions, with some slight revision, are issued in substantial and handsome style by Messrs. Harpers, of New York, and are for sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., at \$1.75 per volume.

From CARLETON, New York, we have received RICHARD B. KIMBALL'S last novel, entitled: HENRY POWERS BANKER, How he achieved a Fortune and Married;" a very slight story, in which some of the most trite expedients of the story-teller are used; while its revelations of Wall Street Life and of the workings of passion, principle, hypocrisy, cunning and legitimate business enterprise in the commercial circles of the metropolis, cannot compare with those drawn in the earlier work of Mr. Kimball, entitled "Was he Successful?" The manner in which bogus companies are gotten up and the culpable carelessness of good men, and of religious newspapers in allowing their names to be used in such enterprises, are well shown up. The chief merit of the work lies, perhaps, in its description and analysis of the almost upright character, not unfrepower of a pure affection to keep alive courage and correct principle in a young man, exposed to the trials and temptations of the beginning of a

mercantile career. Price \$1.75.
ROSE MATHER, by Miss MARY J. HOLMES, from the same house, is a story of the War, thorough-

of those times when it seemed natural even for the habitually indifferent to recognize God, and when so many were led, by His awful providences, to ask His aid and to seek pardon through His Son. Price \$1.50.

MESSRS. WYNKOOP & SHERWOOD, 208 Fulton street, N. Y., have sent us, through Dur-FIELD ASHMEAD, their "Handy Volume Editions of Thackeray's PENDENNIS. It is printed in very clear, legible diamond type, in double columns, much resembling the famous diamond edition of Dickens. There is, also, a handsome steel portrait of Thackeray, and a dozen copies of the author's own grotesque and effective illustra-

THE PRESBYTERIAN BOARD are showing constant enterprise in their line. We have recently from their press, in 18mo., pp. 136, ONLY A PENNY, by Nellie Grahame," well illustrating the value of those small sums of money so frequently Two illustrations. Also: "MARGARET ASHTON, or Work and Win, by Mrs. S. A. Myers," pp. 336, admirably illustrating the inadequacy of a dren, especially the wayward and open sort of

dent and of character to be deeply interesting. will do good in the homes where a stiff and un-OLD and other Stories, by the author of "Jennie Graham," 230 pp., is from the pen of one who knows his trade and whom the children need only know, to reckon him among their real friends.

"ONLY THIS ONCE, by Nellie Grahame," pp.

HENRY HOYT has issued a small but excellent book, for Little Girls, according to the title page, but pleasantly conveying lessons of value to all children, upon the duty of giving the heart to Christ and of suitably endeavoring to win others to the same duty. It is entitled "THREE CHRISTMAS DAYS." Pp. 74.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Messrs. John Wyeth & Bro. have issued a very neat 16mo. volume, entitled: "The Family Adviser, and Guide to the Medicine Chest. A concise Handbook of Medicine, by a Physi-We would of course much prefer a competent guide away from the medicine chest, but in the absence of that, it is the next best thing to know how to use remedies in those emergencies where a physician cannot be promptly obtained, or where the matter is scarcely serious enough for his attention. There is no purpose in author or publisher to discourage the reader from procuring the advice of a competent physician. The book is very neatly printed.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS. THE SCHOOLMATE FOR JULY, Joseph H. Allen Boston, (Vol. 22, No. I) still continues to give ries, Declamations, Dialogues, &c. \$1.50 per

THE THEATRE. By WM. P. BREED, D.D. An excellent tract, issued by the Board of the other ruptness of everything about the theatre, and showing up, with unsparing and truthful hand, the intolerable foulness of the theatricals of our

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THE CATALOGUE OF MIAMI, O., UNIVERSI-

TY shows 117 in the Collegiate and 69 in the Preparatory department. Robert L. Stanton, D.D., is President and Rev. S. H. McMullin, ate of West Philadelphia, is Professor of Greek.

THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW for June, 1868. New York: Leonard Scott, Pub. Co.; Philadelphia, for sale by W. B. Zieber), commences with an article on "A Liberal Education," discussing the rose-water theories of Education from which the study of the classics is to be excluded. "Mistral's Mireio" is an account of an idvllie Poem in the lately-restored Provencal dialect of France. Saint Louis," is an historical picture of the last of the Crusaders; the worthily sainted French King, who died August 25, 1270, a victim to his zeal for the overthrow of Mohammedanism. His life-long reverence for his noble and courageous mother was not the least commendable of his characteristics. "Creeds and Churches" is one of those Articles which are a sign of the Times. Dean Stanley's argument for the continued union of Church and State, is shown to be exceedingly defective. The responsibility of voluntary Churches to the State, as truly as State Churches for an abuse of their powers or fundamental violation of their own law, is clearly shown. Many points of significance to ourselves are adverted to and the whole drift of the article reminds one forcibly that we are entering upon a period of ecclesiastical reconstruction, in which the foundations have got to be re-examined and re-laid. 'Memories of Baron Bunsen," is suggested by the two volumed Life, just issued by the English lady who remains to mourn the departed German Scholar and Christian. The marked and noble and commanding traits of his character, as well as his serious defects, the strange combination of deep, child-like piety, with a bald rationalism in some important particulars, are clearly brought No. 24 Friend Street, Boston, Mass. out. The other articles are: The Greek Idyllic Poets; on Sleep and the History of Writing.

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