

Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

The Price to three cents per copy (double sheet); or fifteen cents per week, payable to the carrier by whom served. The subscription price by mail is Nine Dollars per annum, or One Dollar and Fifty Cents for two months, invariably in advance for the time ordered.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1899.

RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR EDUCATION—"THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS."

There are many indications of a revival of the excitement which has on several occasions been produced by a discussion of the question whether the Bible should be read in the public schools. Newspaper articles on the subject are printed by leading journals; it is becoming a favorite topic in some pulpits, and it is reported that, independent of the agitators fomented in various cities, a member of Congress proposes to introduce a bill in the national House of Representatives, which, if passed, will set the dispute forever at rest, by prohibiting Bible-reading in all the public schools of the United States.

Considering the difficulties which educational systems have encountered in foreign countries in consequence of prevailing sectarian disputes, it is not at all surprising that America, too, should be threatened with similar embarrassments, but here they have fortunately proved of minor importance heretofore, and we trust they will always continue to belong to a secondary class of controversies. The policy of England, in suffering millions of children to grow up in ignorance mainly because warring sectarians could not reconcile or adjust their disputes in regard to the religious influences that should control secular education, is to the last degree infamous, and it entails just reproach upon British Christianity as well as British civilization. To some extent it has been improved of late years by the voluntary action of the leading sects, in combination with the Government, but the principle practically adopted is that at least a moderate amount of religious training must accompany all secular instruction, and Parliament grants a small amount of aid to all the sectarian schools which observe certain general rules it has prescribed.

The real meaning of the renewed attack upon the prevalent custom of having the Bible read in the public schools of the United States appears to be a concerted movement to secure, if possible, the adoption, in this country, of a system similar to that existing in England, under which the parochial day schools attached to various churches would receive appropriations from our State or local authorities. The plan appears to be to find so much fault with the practice of reading the Bible in the schools that those who favor it will finally consent, as a matter of compromise, to give to the objectors their proportionate share of the school fund.

This policy may have suited England as a *demerit resort*, but it deserves no favor here, and it should be sternly resisted at all hazards and in all contingencies. While entire freedom is granted to all religions in the United States, no principle is better established, and none is more important to our future welfare, than that there should be a total avoidance of governmental aid, to any sect, as such. If the Catholics, Episcopalians, Quakers, or any other denomination wish to establish day schools in which their doctrines are systematically taught, there should be no governmental interference on the one hand, nor a pittance of Government aid on the other. State help to religious schools is but another ramification of the European idea of State help to Churches and church organizations, which has been wisely ignored in America; and it would be as unjust to burden tax payers with the cost of indoctrinating children with sectarian ideas as to ask them to pay the salaries of the preachers who address adult congregations.

The question of reading the Bible in the schools should be decided on its own merits, and we cannot see that any great wrong results to any sect from the practice. If it be the wish of a majority of the people of Philadelphia, for instance, that it should be continued here, we think that they display no unfairness in giving all whom it may concern to understand that the benefits of the school fund, raised by the taxation of their property, can only be enjoyed by those who comply with this condition. Any pointed sectarian discussions would be entirely out of place in a public school; the whole policy of the country, as well as its customs and sectarian diversities, warns school boards and public school teachers to avoid them; but it requires no small amount of ingenuity to discover a serious cause of complaint in the mild form of religious instruction intermingled with the present common school system of this city. Still it is desirable, if possible, that every child in the community should be educated; and if the fact should be well attested that a large amount of the absenteeism which is becoming a chronic evil is caused by the prejudices of parents against any special book, it is a matter worthy of consideration whether the school authorities might not provide special schools free from this objection; but they should never for an instant lose sight of the leading American idea, that no State aid should be granted to sectarian operations.

JUNO JOHNSTON, one of the Senators elect, from Virginia, is a sensible man and a true patriot. In acknowledging the receipt of his credentials from Governor Walker, he has written a letter approving the proposed fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution and advocating entire good faith in the payment of the national debt. In his hands the honor of the whole country, and the of peace and justice throughout the

IN THE BROOKS CASE ENDED?

The opinion delivered by Judge Ludlow on Saturday disposing finally of the Brooks case was a worthy finale to that *casus celeberrimus*. To a person of legal acquirements it is overwhelming in force and clearness, while even to the general reader its reasoning must appear unquestionable. Most of the points which were presented for settlement were of a technical character, in strict keeping with the desperate nature of the defense, but they were all decided by Judge Ludlow, from the purely technical standpoint, against the defendants, and his line of argument throughout is without a flaw. Going back, in his consideration of each point, to those ages when the great system of the common law was moulded by the practice of the English courts, he traces it down through the centuries, notes the modifications which were made by acts of Parliament and by express legislation in this State, and finally brings the burden of the authorities to bear with crushing weight upon the quibbles by which the counsel of Dougherty and Marrow sought to rescue them from a punishment commensurate, in some degree, with the heinousness of their offense.

The exhaustive and convincing character of this opinion presents a fitting subject for congratulation. It was extremely desirable that to these men should be meted out the severest and most exemplary punishment known to the law bearing upon the crime of which they were universally believed to have been guilty. If it had been necessary to contort either the law or the facts to secure such a result, the lesson imparted by the verdict and sentence would have been robbed of half its force. But, happily, after such an elaborate review of the reasons assigned for a new trial, the solemn declaration of the Court "that the verdict was a most just and righteous one, and that, beyond a reasonable doubt, the prisoners were in deed and in fact guilty," will inspire all evil-doers with a wholesome terror of the law. Such an example as the punishment awarded Dougherty and Marrow presents has been sorely needed in this community; and now that it has been given, and the fact established that men who are hired to commit the foulest of crimes, in the interest of such reckless and unconscionable villains as make up the whisky ring, cannot go unwhipped of justice, we may anticipate a slight improvement in the demeanor of the horde of evil-doers who have made this city a regular hunting-ground.

One thing, however, remains to be done, and not until it is accomplished will the lesson of the Brooks case be complete. The men Dougherty and Marrow entertained no particular malice against Detective Brooks, they did not seek his life because of any real or fancied wrong which they had sustained at his hands. They were simply hired to assassinate a faithful officer of the revenue service, just as a master butcher hires men to kill his bees. They went about their bloody business coolly and deliberately, inspired solely by the money which they had received or been promised; they were simply hired assassins, and the greater guilt is upon the shoulders of those from whom they received their pay, or the promise of it. As far as we have learned, the cowardly wretches who were at the bottom of the transaction are as yet unknown to the authorities, but we trust that the Mayor and the District Attorney are not content to let them remain unmolested in the background. Every effort should be put forth to obtain a clew to them, and when this clew is once obtained, it should be worked up with the same energy and perseverance that have characterized the prosecution of Dougherty and Marrow.

MIXED CLINICS.

The Professors of the University of Pennsylvania, the Jefferson Medical College, the members of the medical staffs of the various hospitals, and most of the prominent members of the medical profession in Philadelphia, have united in a remonstrance against mixed classes of male and female students at clinics. This remonstrance is a plain, practical, and temperate statement of the objections against such classes, and the reasons advanced are such as will commend themselves to the dispassionate judgment of the public.

These gentlemen urge that clinical instruction in practical medicine demands an examination of all the organs and parts of the body, and they contend that there is a manifest impropriety in the exposure of male patients before a class made up of persons of both sexes. A large class of male surgical diseases are of so delicate a nature as altogether to forbid inspection by female students, and yet a thorough knowledge of them is of the utmost importance to the community. Such affections can only be properly investigated in the clinics of large cities and before a class of male students. If both sexes are present the lecturer is necessarily embarrassed, and is precluded from going into his subject with that detail that is absolutely essential for its thorough exposition. The impropriety of male and female students attending in company at clinics when such cases are brought forward is so apparent that it needs no argument, and such mixed classes cannot be otherwise than detrimental to the cause of medical science, by embarrassing the lecturer and preventing inquiries that ought to be made.

The physicians who have issued this remonstrance have nothing to say against the study of medicine by women, and they would only injure their own case if they did. Women have quite as much right as men to study and practise medicine, and there is a very important branch of the business that might with propriety be given entirely into their hands, if they are properly qualified to take charge of it. They are entitled to every facility for obtaining a thorough knowledge of medicine and surgery in all their branches, and it is perfectly proper that they should have the advantages of clinical instruction, especially with reference to the diseases and complaints peculiar to their own sex. No lecturer who is capable of dealing with his subject in a thoroughly scientific spirit ought to feel embarrassed in demonstrating almost

any case that may come under his hands before a class of either sex, although he would very naturally and properly be confused by the joint attendance of male and female students.

The difficulty a few weeks ago at the Pennsylvania Hospital that called forth this remonstrance will not be without good effect, if it leads to some arrangements for separate clinics, by which the female students can have the advantages they are entitled to, and any occasion for further disagreement and discussion about this unpleasant matter avoided. We deprecate any attempt to deprive the female students of proper facilities for the prosecution of their studies; and it only needs a little good feeling and good judgment on the part of all concerned to come to a satisfactory understanding by which all interested can be accommodated without cause for offense to any one.

A CITY GOVERNMENT IN LIMBO.

Some of the Western towns and cities have a dashing way of running into debt in haste, and then either repaying interest and principal at their leisure, or not at all. Recently, however, long-suffering creditors have resorted to the summary process of arresting the supervisors and city officials who neglected or refused to levy sufficient tax to provide for expenditures, and the delinquent parties are discovering that practical repudiation is not such an easy matter after all. The latest demonstration has been made against the town of Galena, the former home of General Grant, the Mayor and five aldermen of that city having been arrested on a summary process by a United States Marshal, and taken to Chicago to answer before a Federal court for the shortcomings of the people whom they officially represent. A sojourn in prison seems to have furnished up the financial ideas of the city government, consisting of the aforesaid Mayor and aldermen, amazingly, and they have devised a plan for securing a sufficient advance from Galena property-owners to pay principal as well as interest. Our own City Councils should bear this occurrence in mind in making future appropriations and when they fix the next tax-rate.

OUT OF HIS SHELTER.—The Secretary of the Interior has received from an individual residing in Elkhart, Indiana, a letter in which one of the most novel financial propositions of the day was made. This Elkhart genius proposes to the Secretary that the latter shall loan him \$10,000 out of the funds of the Smithsonian Institution, receiving as security therefor a policy of insurance on his life for \$15,000. This Elkhart man is most assuredly out of his proper sphere. On Wall street he would be in his true element, and in the boldness of his schemes and the audacity of his manoeuvres would throw Admiral Fisk and all the most reckless of the bulls and bears into the shade.

MARYLAND, outside of Baltimore, boasts of but one daily newspaper, and that solitary exponent of the spirit of the age has just been established. The State is overwhelmingly Democratic, and the coincidence is therefore not at all a singular one.

SCIENCE AND ART IN HOME DECORATION.

We have more than once alluded to the School of Design for Women as an institution that is based upon correct principles, and that is doing an important work in the education of the public taste to the proper appreciation of the importance of that branch of art which applies more particularly to the decoration of homes. The means and facilities of this school are limited, and its real value has never yet been fully recognized, but the time is approaching when so practical a people as ours cannot longer afford to overlook the "economy of good taste," and the actual saving in dollars and cents that may be accomplished by the application of correct artistic principles to the embellishment of our homes and persons. The School of Design for Women is a pioneer in the good work, and it has to contend against a mass of ignorance, prejudice, and thoughtlessness that seems almost insurmountable. The School of Design was established for the purpose of furnishing young women with a respectable profession by which they can earn their living, but its real value is as an educator of the public; for without a public that can appreciate and understand true art in matters of decoration and industrial design, the pupils of the institution would be without patronage and encouragement. With a view of educating the public taste, as well as demonstrating the perfectly practical system of instruction adopted, the lectures given each winter are open to the public, and all who are interested are invited to attend. The first lecture of the course was delivered a few days ago by Professor Braidwood, the subject being "Science in the Decoration of Our Homes."

One of the main ideas that were set forth was the cheapness of good taste; how that beauty and elegance in home decoration do not depend upon the costliness of the materials used, or the amount of money expended upon them, but upon the correct application of easily understood principles of art. If these principles were generally understood there would be less bad taste in dress and in the ornamentation of homes; less garishness and display of costly materials merely because they are costly, and far more elegance, beauty, and real comfort than are produced by the lavish expenditure of money. There is scarcely a household in the land, however humble, that may not be made to present a bright, cheerful, and attractive appearance with the most limited means and the most unpromising materials, provided there is the good taste to apply them properly. The rules of art that regulate such matters as these are not difficult scientific abstractions, that come but those who make them a special study can understand; they are not the arbitrary dogmatism of learned professors, but they are simply the plain common sense and practical principles of nature, and are so easy to understand that it is a matter for wonder that they should be so habitually disregarded.

The very first principle of utilitarian art is utility. This would seem to be an obvious truism, but there is no plain, practical, and perfectly simple rule of art that is more habitually set at defiance by men who profess to be artists, but who have become so absorbed with pet theories and academic rules that they have lost sight altogether of nature and common sense.

Some men have become so fascinated with classic art that they have been unable to see beauty in anything that does not conform to the Greek standard. They can not understand that while Greek art was admirable for purposes of study, and as a standard of taste, that it is for the most part utterly unadapted for modern uses. Such buildings as the Custom House and Girard College are beautiful in themselves, but as specimens of utilitarian art they are abominations, and it was a happy day when architects became impressed with the idea that such structures are as much out of place in modern Philadelphia as the Post Office or the Academy of Music would have been in Athens two thousand years ago. Another example of glaring bad taste is the Parliament buildings in London. The gothic style of architecture was eminently suited for the purpose, but the

main idea of the architect was to put up a structure that would be an ornament to the city and a monument to his own artistic taste. In doing this he lost sight entirely of the real object for which the buildings were to be erected, and the consequence is that their internal arrangements are entirely inadequate, the chamber of the House of Commons being so small that it will not hold half the members, while throughout the entire structure there are mistakes, blunders, and misallocations of the most glaring kind. Girard College, the Custom House, the British House of Parliament are all admirable from a mere abstract artistic point of view, but unfortunately their builders lacked common sense, and the consequence is that they are monuments of incapacity and utter bad taste.

In erecting a building of any kind the first thing to be considered is the purposes to which it is to be adapted; the convenient arrangement of the rooms, the lighting, heating, ventilation, and other no less important particulars, all to be thought of first and amply provided for, and then the architect may add such ornamentation as he can with propriety, always harmonizing his ornaments with the character of the structure, the purposes for which it is intended, and the surroundings by which it will be affected. This is certainly plain enough and simple enough for any one to understand; but there is no principle of art that is more habitually disregarded, and our streets present constant evidences of an insufferable bad taste of sacrificing utility and convenience to meretricious and inappropriate decorations.

In the internal decorations of houses the same principles exactly are applicable. The question ought not to be whether this carpet is Brussels or Axminster, whether its design is elegant and graceful, or whether it is appropriate for the uses to which the room is to be devoted, and whether it will harmonize with the furniture, the decorations, and all the objects introduced. A wall paper should not be chosen simply because it has a gorgeous pattern in brilliant colors, but because it will form an appropriate background or relief for the objects in the room, and the colors in the furniture should be chosen with reference to harmony. A person entering a properly furnished and properly decorated room will not have his attention attracted by any one object, but he will be impressed with the air of good taste and the quiet, elegant, and home-like look of the place. It is this quiet elegance that ought to prevail in virtuous homes; and it is one of the most important functions of such an institution as that of the School of Design that it instructs plain, practical, and common-sense people how to make their homes attractive. Many persons who live in houses filled with costly furniture and expensively decorated with all that money can buy, do not find them attractive, and yet they are unable to understand the reason why; and it is on this account that we are chiefly interested in recommending the School of Design to the favorable consideration of the citizens of Philadelphia. The sphere of this school is limited, but it is the only school of art in the country that is connected with the School of Design, and its influence, importance, and utility are immeasurably by the benefits conferred upon a comparatively small number of women who are educated there.

In these remarks we have indicated the general outline of Professor Braidwood's views on the subject of industrial and decorative art, but for some of the opinions advanced he is not to be considered responsible. We call attention to this lecture as one of the course to be delivered at the School of Design this season, because the subject is itself one of great interest and importance, and because we desire the public to understand exactly what the aims, principles, and methods of this too little known institution really are.

THE POPULATION OF MEXICO.

A CENSUS of the republic of Mexico has recently been taken, by order of the Minister of Industry, from which it appears that the present population of the country is 9,989,254, against a population of 7,612,000 in 1851. It is distributed as follows among the different States and Territories: Federal District, 256,500; Morelos, 121,409; Aguascalientes, 86,576; Nuevo-Leon, 171,000; Baja California, 21,000; Oaxaca, 601,250; Campeche, 58,483; Puebla, 597,788; Chiapas, 188,100; Queretaro, 169,613; Chihuahua, 179,971; San Luis Potosi, 297,735; Coahuila, 67,691; Sinaloa, 161,157; Colima, 48,949; Sonora, 147,133; Durango, 173,942; Tlaxcala, 85,000; Guanajuato, 344,000; Tamaulipas, 107,547; Guerrero, 270,000; Tlaxcala, 177,944; Hidalgo, 404,987; Vera Cruz, 280,977; Jalisco, 294,550; Yucatan, 282,636; Mexico, 2,692,810; Zacatecas, 228,977; Michoacan, 415,072.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune calls the truthfulness of this exhibit in question from the fact that, while the capital, which is naturally the most crowded centre of population, contained 170,000 inhabitants according to the estimate of 1851, it is credited with less than 140,000 in 1899. One of the daily papers of the capital gives some figures in relation to the state of education in the republic, which are of interest in connection with the above table. In the year 1789, when the Mexico contained a population of 2,700,000, there were but twelve schools in the whole country. Now, however, there are said to be 3743 schools, public and private, numbering 276,854 scholars of both sexes. This gives one pupil to every 23 persons in the country, a very insignificant proportion, which shows how utterly demoralized and ignorant is the population of our sister republic. In the Federal district there is a better show, the schools numbering 248, and the scholars 18,196, which gives one pupil to fifteen inhabitants. In 1851, the schools in the City of Mexico were but 129 in number, and the scholars 7151. Since then the increase has been large and encouraging, but there is still abundant opportunity for an extension and improvement of the school system of the republic.

ONLY TWELVE LEFT.—Admirals Farragut, Shubrick, Montgomery, Paulding, Joseph Smith, Breese, Commodores Jameson, Champlin, Anlich, Graham, Ellery, and Captain Brownelle are all the officers left on the "Navy Register" who participated as such, in the war of 1812, in any of the battles which added so much to the glory of American arms.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES.

ON MONDAY EVENING, Nov. 23, 1899.

HON. S. S. OGDEN.

Subject—"Progress in Spain." Prepared expressly for this occasion.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 1.

HON. CHARLES SUMNER.

Subject—"The Question of Gales." FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 3.

REV. ROBERT COLLYER, D. D.

Subject—"Clear Grit." Dec. 7.—MARK TWAIN.

Dec. 9.—DORODOVA.

Dec. 16.—WENDELL PHILLIPS.

Admission, 50c. Reserved seats, 75c.

Tickets for sale at COLLIER'S Piano Warehouse, No. 923 CHESNUT Street, and at the Academy on the evening of the Lecture.

Orchestral Prelude at 7 1/2 o'clock. 11 21 74

THE PONEYVILLE LECTURES.

The last of the Course will be delivered by WILLIAM L. DENNIS, Esq.,

ON TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 23, 1899.

AT THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING.

Subject—"MRS. WIGGINS AND HER PARTY." Admission, 50 cents. Secured seats, 75 cents.

Seats at Trumper's. Lecture at 8 o'clock. 11 22 21

HALL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, No. 1210 CHESNUT Street.—The monthly meeting of the Association will be held next MONDAY EVENING, at 8 o'clock.

Essay by Rev. S. H. DAY. Subject—"Modern Rationalism." Question for discussion:—"Is there anything in Modern Rationalism that a Christian can adopt?"

Recitations by Professor R. T. ADAMS. Vocal and instrumental music. 11 22 21

THE FIRM OF LEVERING, DAVIS & CO. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business of the late firm will be carried on by J. LEVERING, JR., JOHN LEVERING, JR., WILLIAM LEVERING, JR., HENRY LINCK.

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