

THE COLUMBIAN AND DEMOCRAT, BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA.

Civil Service Reform.

ABSTRACTS FROM EXAMINATION PAPERS OF APPLICANTS FOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

A Western paper prints the following alleged extracts from examination papers:

Mention my occupation considered injurious to health?

Answer—Occupations which are injurious to health are carbolic acid gas, which is impure blood.

Another—A stone mason's work is injurious because when he is clipping he breathes in all the little chips, and then they are taken into the lungs.

Another—A bootmaker's trade is very injurious because the bootmakers press the boots against the thorax, and therefore presses the thorax in, and it touches the heart; and if they do not die, they are crippled for life.

Another—All mechanical work is injurious to health.

A reply to a question about digestion runs:

"When food is swallowed it passes through the wind pipe, and the chyle flows up the middle of the back bone and reaches the heart, where it meets the oxygen and is purified."

One physiologist replied, "We have an upper and lower skin, the lower skin moves at its will, and the upper skin moves when we do."

Another says, "The heart is a continual shaped bag."

"The organs of digestion," wrote one aspirant, are stomach utensils, liver and spleen."

What is the first day of Lent called?"

"Matrimony, which is necessary to salvation."

What is a volcano?

Answer—It is a large mountain with a hole at the top and a fireplace at the bottom, and sometimes the fire comes out at the top and destroys the cities at the bottom, if there are any.

"How many sounds of "g" are there?"

Answer—The soft "g," the hard "g," and the "refugee."

What is the feminine of bachelor?

Answer—Old maid, or widow.

What do you know about the treaty of Utrecht?

Answer—The treaty of Utrecht was fought between the Zulus and English.

What did you know of Chaucer, Spenser and Swift?

Answer—Chaucer wrote "Æsop's fables," Spenser wrote "Wealth of Nations," and Swift was a great astronomer and joker.

In sacred history there is the most absurd disregard of facts. "The Pharisees were bad people who used to wash." Pontius "Pilot," another office-seeker declared, "was one of the Arabian Nights." One genius discovered that "the Greek translation of the Old Testament was called Latin."

Who wrote the Catechism?

To this question one replied "St. Paul," another "Moses," and a third "One of the prophets."

To whom did St. Philip preach?

Answer—"To the unicorn."

What is the story of the "Good Samaritan?"

Answer—"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among thieves and the thorns sprang up and choked him; whereupon he gave a quarter to the chief and paid take care of him and put him on his own ass. And he passed on the other side."

"Who was Moses?"

Answer—"He was a man that lived in a ark made of bulrushes, and he kept a golden calf and worshiped snakes and he et nothing but quahos and manner for forty years. He was caught by the hair while riding under a bow of a tree, and he was killed by his son Absion as he was hanging from the bow. His end was peace."

The Growth of Weeds

Persons frequently express surprise at the universality, as it were, of weeds. A careful cultivator will keep a field free from weeds by frequent cultivation and hand hoeing through an entire season, and as none are allowed to go to seed he may look for a clean field the following year, whether cultivated or not. But those who expect to see land entirely cleared of weeds and all its weed seeds by individual effort are likely to be disappointed in their expectations. Many weeds will live in the soil for a long time, just how long has not been determined, but in the case of certain kinds of seeds, several years. Speaking in a general way, the ground is full of weed seeds; they are blown about by the winds, washed from place to place by freshets and by heavy showers, carried to new locations by birds and animals, and like the rent in the boy's coat, "it was there before."

Very few realize the extent of fecundity or prolificacy in many of our common weeds, or how rapidly a stock may be multiplied from a single plant. At both the New York and the Ohio Experiment Stations this subject has been investigated with much care. Dr. Stuntz found a vigorous plant of the Purslane family that had nine branches; an average branch had fifteen branchlets; an average branchlet had 212 seed capsules and one seed capsule had seventy-five seeds.

Bitterine. Bitterine, Intermittent and Malaria, is a vegetable Purifier and Tonic, made from the bark of the California Balsam, the medicinal properties of which are extracted therefrom.

It removes the cause of disease, and the person recovers his health.

It cures all forms of Purifying and Lifting Principle: A gentle Purifier and Tonic, and Invigorator of the system, which removes the cause of disease, and compounding possessing the power of VINEAR BITTERS.

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