

LOCAL INSTITUTE AT BERWICK

The local Institute was held in Y. M. C. A. Hall last Saturday Mar. 21, but owing to the inclemency of the weather the attendance was not large. The Rev. Stephens opened the day's programme with devotional exercises. After the election of a secretary, Supt. Johnson appointed Mr. T. B. Hanly, Miss Bloss and Mrs. Thompson a committee on resolutions.

A very appropriate address of welcome was given by Mr. Hanly, the Vice Principal of Berwick Schools and ably responded to by Prof. Clark of Nescopeck.

After a short recess Mrs. Welsh of Bloomsburg State Normal School gave a very instructive talk on "Literature," in which she showed its effects on character, how it might be incidentally taught in connection with the other branches. Methods of conducting exercise in silent reading were also discussed during this period by Mrs. Welsh and Prof. Richardson.

Prof. Hartline of Bloomsburg State Normal School occupied the next period with a discussion of the subject of "Manual Training." The Prof. spoke of the necessity of increased attention in this direction, the good results that come from it and the methods of conducting class work. He illustrated his talk by specimens of work done in his classes, that would do credit to a professional machanic.

Prof. Clark's talk on "The Old and New" was listened to with interest. He related some of his personal experience with the old time school masters, show what a revolution school government and methods of teaching have undergone within the last forty years and concluded by telling what he hoped to see in the future.

The afternoon session was opened by singing, after which Supt. Johnson addressed the teachers concerning the necessity of training in connection with intellectual and moral fitness. He dwelt particularly on three requisite qualifications, forethought, firmness and charity. Mrs. Welsh then favored the audience with a recitation from Holmes, "Rip Van Winkle M. D."

Mr. Bullard was then introduced in a well prepared speech on "Theory and Practice," full of practical truths, showing that there is no short cut to success for either pupil or teacher. He spoke of the influence of home training on the child's school work and emphasized the necessity of the parents co-operation with the teacher in order to get the best results, and in conclusion presented a couple of cases of discipline and asked advice concerning them. Prof. Richardson took up the discussion and talked adversely concerning a law prohibiting corporal punishment in schools as is the case in New York and New Jersey.

Physical Culture was the next topic on the programme and Mrs. Welsh spoke of it in such a way as only a person of observation and experience could do. The points touched upon were many but the most prominent was the necessity of physical culture, for children as it effects habits for life, the matter of dress as it concerns health. She illustrated some parts of her talk by exercises.

The programme was closed by Prof. Richardson, who showed some interesting experiments with electricity, as a motor power.

On the whole it was a day well spent and we hope that on the occasion of the next Local Institute we will be favored with pleasant weather and the people of Berwick will show interest in a work so important to themselves as the public school work is, by crowding the house.

The Committee on resolutions reported the following:

Be it resolved by the teachers of the Berwick school district:

That we tender our sincere thanks to County Supt. Johnson for his earnest and encouraging words; to Mrs. Welsh for her interesting and practical address; to Mr. Hartline for his masterly manner in which he handled a new subject before the minds of the teachers; to Messrs Clark, Richardson and Bullard for their capable addresses on work appertaining to practical Educational work;

That profiting by experience of this year we shall each and everyone of us look forward to our future Institutes with the knowledge that it is indeed time well spent.

T. B. HANLY,
S. W. THOMPSON,
ANNA BLOSS.

Don't Be Gloomy.

Those who are the victims of mercurial poisoning, or who are suffering from mercurial rheumatism, are inclined to take a gloomy view of life when, as the poet says, "Winter is folding its white tents and spring getting its thunderstorms together." Yet these victims have no reason to despair. S. S. S. is a sure remedy for all forms of mercurial poisoning. Though it is purely a vegetable medicine, it is powerful, indeed when called on to chase mercury, and the last lingering effects of mercury, out of the system. It performs the work with neatness and dispatch, as thousands of testimonials show.

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RED MAN AND THE CABINET

IT IS PREDICTED THAT SECRETARY FOSTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL QUARREL OVER THE INDIAN QUESTION.

"Foster" said an observing citizen the other day, "was one of the Sioux Commissioners who spent the summer two years ago over the negotiations whereby the Sioux ceded about 9,000,000 acres to the government. He went all through the reservations and got well acquainted with the head men and chiefs. He thinks he understands how they have been treated. When the late war broke out there was much discussion as to the responsibility, for its origin. Secretary Noble held that it was through no fault of his department. It was due, his agents reported, to the fanatical belief in the Messiah, whose coming some bad Indian had predicted. He was emphatic in his avowal that his department had given the Indians good treatment.

"When the question of the cause of the war came up in the State, Dan. Voorhees, of Indiana, made a hot onslaught upon the Administration. He held that it was responsible for the outbreak which was costing the Government \$6,000,000 or \$8,000,000 and the lives of brave soldiers. He thundered with all his lungs against the treatment the Indians had received from agents of the Interior Department. 'The Sioux are starving,' he repeated again and again, and each time with greater emphasis. His authority for this charge was Commissioner Foster, who had been interviewed by a Cincinnati newspaper and had said that the cause of the outbreak was starvation. Ex-Gov. Foster had stated, Voorhees said, that it was simply a question of fighting or dying of hunger, and that the Indians were desperate from the gnawings at their stomach and wild for something to eat.

"These statements which Mr. Voorhees kept hammering into the minds of the Senators were based upon declarations of Foster, he said, and Foster has never denied having made them.

"The result of the Voorhees' onslaught was the appointment of the Senatorial committee to investigate the situation and fix responsibility for the uprising on Secretary Noble. Commissioner Morgan, and others in authority in the Department of the Interior chafed at the lashing which the Department was given. They were fond of quoting General Miles, who agreed with their ideas more nearly than with the ex-commissioner.

When the general requested that some of the agencies, notably those at Pine Ridge and Rosebud, should be taken from the management of the Interior Department and placed under control of Army officers, Secretary Noble was again stirred up. He regarded this as a stab at him direct; and there was a good sized row in the Cabinet for several days.

"Noble stood up for exclusive control of the reservations. The President and Secretary Proctor sided with Miles. A compromise was patched up by which an Army officer was sent to Pine Ridge, the agent removed, the two Departments united to the extent that an Army officer was instructed to report to the Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Noble claimed a victory, but was unhappy over it, because the charges against his Department were allowed to stand. He was bitter against all who had sided against him. It was with difficulty that the row between himself and Secretary Proctor was patched up.

Now that Mr. Foster is in the Cabinet, he will either have to keep still on the Indian question, change his sentiments, or indulge in a row with Secretary Noble. Secretary Proctor will be one of the participants, for he has a way of sticking firmly to a position which he has once taken.

"The President will find his Cabinet a hornet's nest whenever the Indian question is discussed."

ROBBED THE STATE OF A MILLION.

AN ALLEGED SWINDLE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS' ORPHAN SCHOOL.

Recent revelations at Mercer, Pa., disclose the fact that the state of Pennsylvania has been robbed of more than one million dollars in the management of the soldiers' orphans' schools. The illegal profit of one of ten big schools amounted to \$270,000, and this school was one of three that were controlled by a syndicate headed by ex-State Senator George W. Wright, of Mercer.

The fortunes accumulated by eight men through pinching the orphans and fleeing the state are alleged to be, roundly, \$1,095,000.

A considerable part of this sum may be recovered, as the persons named have retained \$750,000 of the profits.

The statute of limitations does not work against the commonwealth.

All of the gains appropriated by these men were acquired in direct violation of law, without contract of any kind.

The method to be employed is very simple, and has been repeatedly done at Harrisburg.

The auditor general reopens the accounts and makes a new settlement.

Then the commonwealth proceeds in the courts to obtain the moneys that have been illegally taken from it for traffic in orphan misery.

COURSHIP IN JAPAN.

Mediation the Most Usual Form, but Poetry and Love Songs Permissible.

In Japan, courtship is regulated by many curious customs. It is carried on in many different ways, but the most usual one is by mediation. The duty of the mediators is to investigate and inform one party in regard to the property, reputation, and character of the other. After this investigation there is a meeting of the persons intending to marry and there they are introduced to each other. They may promise to marry at this time, but before the final consent is given each one must investigate the other's character. If both are satisfied the marriage ceremony will be performed by the help of the mediators, and the name of the contracting parties must be recorded in the official register. This is considered as a civil contract. In some instances children are betrothed to each other by their respective parents when mere babies, but of course such an engagement is voidable when the children become of age. The employment of mediators is a necessary one; all the people in Japan are obliged to follow this method, notwithstanding their rank in society. The service of the middleman is considered very honorable, and the Japanese term for this is "musu-buenokami," which means a god of connection of the opposite sex. Among middle class people there is positively no courtship between the parties themselves. With the higher classes courtship by poetry is in vogue. There are two kinds of this poetry, "Shi" and "Uta." The gentleman sends poems to the lady, and she replies in poetry. The following is a translation of a celebrated answer:

"The first plum blossom of the Isle of Quoshin, This night shall open, my lord, for you. Should you long to know all the charms of this flower, Come singing to the moon at the hour of midnight."

An allusion to the moon or flowers always stands for the word love. The following is a fine conceit attributed to a gay young lady:

"Parted from thee, I gaze upon the heaven's vault, How delightful were it for me, Could but the moon turn to a mirror."

Among the lower classes flirting is practiced by the use of the fan or handkerchief, or with a wave of the right hand, with palms downward, or by the fair charmer waving her long sleeves. Instead of winking, they convey the same meaning by twitching the left corner of the mouth or rolling the eyeballs to the right or left. Jealousy is expressed by erecting the two forefingers on the forehead, in illusion to the monster. The courtship of the lower class of young men and women is on Hanami, or picnic day, and on that day one can hear whispering behind the trees or flowers, but no kissing or slacking of hands. If they did such a thing they would be excluded from the society of their order. Middle class people could not go so far even as this; they are always endeavoring to preserve their reputation on account of their social standing. The celebration of a marriage ceremony is required not by the law, but by society. There are several forms, but usually the first step is "yuino," or the exchange of presents at the time of the espousal, usually of fish, belt, fan, money, etc., which consists of seven articles, as the number of seven is considered a fortunate one among all classes. After the exchange of presents a few days are suffered to elapse and then is celebrated the marriage ceremony. This is not performed in the church, but takes place in the house, as the people think the church the place for funerals and not for merry making. The expense of the ceremony varies according to the social standing of the parties. The married couple do not take their honeymoon trip until two or three days after the wedding; it is generally nothing more than a visit to the theater or a hot spring resort, of which there are many in Japan. The wedded pair very seldom separate from the parents, but live near them, though not in the same house. When the parents become old and feeble, the children are obliged to make them a comfortable home called "Inkie," which literally translated means a resting place. This is customarily built in the same place by the son. At a certain age the parents generally turn over as a gift their entire property to their son.

Mr. Parnell as a Playwright.

Mr. Parnell is known to a good many Australians in a character in which he has never figured on the northern side of the equator—that of dramatic author. For more than five years a play entitled "Shamrock Green." By Charles Stewart Parnell, Esq., M. P., has enjoyed prodigious favor among provincial audiences in the colonies. The lucky exclusive proprietor of this piece boasts of having already netted £5,000 by it. Whether recent events will add to or diminish its popularity remains to be seen. Its proprietor—an Irishman, by the way—has never yet ventured to produce it in Melbourne or Sidney, doubtless from a shrewd suspicion that the dramatic critics of these capitals would want to know something more about its history and antecedents than the bald announcement on the play bills that "Mr. Parnell wrote this play when a young man at college." Provincial pressmen are not so unpleasantly skeptical, and the Irish men and women of the interior towns consider it a patriotic duty to roll up in their hundreds to see "Mr. Parnell's play."

Burning Wet Sawdust.

In sawmills where the cypress and redwood sawdust is too wet to burn the mills have been at a great disadvantage owing to their being compelled to use a more expensive fuel than their competitors that could utilize sawdust. Recently, however, a grate has been invented which, by the aid of an air blast, burns the wet sawdust with entirely satisfactory results. The heat produced is as great as that from pine shavings. The invention is certain to have a marked influence in the South, where cypress sawdust is an abundant and hitherto useless product.

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