

EDUCATIONAL.

Chess is taught in all the Australian public schools.

It is said that the demand for colored teachers in Maryland exceeds the supply.

There are 13,288,170 enrolled pupils in American schools, 363,922 teachers and \$148,173,487 are expended annually.

Gov. Flower of New York has given \$1,000 to the university extension movement, which he thinks should be supported wholly by private beneficence.

Professor E. S. Dana, of Yale, is quoted as saying, in regard to the attendance upon chapel: "The whole thing resolves itself into the question as to whether Yale is a college or a university. If it is a college it may be a proper thing to compel students to attend religious exercises; but a university demands a more liberal spirit."

Beside the system of common schools, attended by over 300,000 pupils, the city of New York supports two colleges, the Normal College for girls, one of the best institutions of the kind in the country, and the College of the City of New York, in which 1,100 young men are educated. These institutions are controlled by the Board of Education and are supported by taxation the same as the common schools are.

The results given in the annual statement of the United States Commissioner of Education for the school year 1891-92 show that never has the support of the people to the public schools been so strong as now. Defects which have been disclosed by trial are being corrected all the time. Every year more attention is paid to the construction of buildings, to sanitation, to heating and the like, so that the health of the pupils may not be injured, and especially to improve methods of instruction. Especially gratifying is the marked progress of education among women. Colleges for women are steadily raising the grade of their work. The influences of these agencies will be strongly marked in the children. The stream can not be clear and pure and strong if the fountain is allowed to become defiled. The American people, especially those of moderate incomes, owe it to their children to jealously defend the public schools from the assaults of their enemies in any quarter, and especially from the debasing influence of the small, narrow-minded politician.—Baltimore American.

Of the sixteen American cities with a population of over 200,000 in 1890, only four—Philadelphia, Boston, Milwaukee and St. Louis—have incorporated the kindergartens on any large scale in their public-school systems. Four more—New York, Chicago, Brooklyn and Buffalo—have kindergarten associations organized to introduce the new method as a part of free public education. In San Francisco kindergartens are maintained with no apparent expectation of uniting them to the free-school system. Only Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Detroit, among the seven cities left—the other three being Pittsburg, Washington and New Orleans—are returned as having charitable or religious associations supporting kindergartens. In 1886-88, forty-six lesser places were named as having one or more kindergartens, "mostly experimental," connected with public schools. The entire work of providing a special education for children from three to six years of age is still in this stage in this country. Contrast this with France, where the *ecoles maternelles*, begun by Oberlin in 1771, and given new life in 1826 by Mme. Millet, have substantially adopted the Froebelian principle and practice, and had in 1887-88 an attendance of 741,324 between the ages of three and six in a population only two-thirds that of the United States, and having a far smaller proportion of young children.—Talcott Williams, in Century Magazine.

LITTLE PEOPLE.

Mr. Staylate—Is your sister expecting me to-night? Tommy—I guess so. She's been sleeping all day.—Brooklyn Life.

Little Dot—Oh, mamma, there's a sign, "Puppies for Sale." Won't you buy me one? Mamma—Wait till you are a little older, dear. Little Dot—But then they'll be dogs.—Tid-Bits.

A Chip of the Old Block—My papa says I am one of those children who can only be managed by kindness," said the little son of Leech, the illustrator, to a new servant. "So please go and get me some sponge cake and an orange!"—Youth's Companion.

Little Tommy—What is that man cutting the trees for, papa? Tommy's Papa—He is pruning them, my boy. Little Tommy—How soon will the prunes be ripe?—Philadelphia Record.

Little Dorothy, who was playing with her kitten one day, turned to her mamma and said: "Where will my kitten go when it dies?" Her mamma, for lack of a better answer, said: "You had better ask your papa." "Oh, yes," said Dorothy, "that is too hard a question for ladies to answer."

A Question of Legs—"You ought to run all mamma's errands without grumbling," said papa. "Little boys ought to be better than spiders and yet spiders are just as patient as possible." "Yes, sir," was the answer, "and perhaps if I had as many legs as a spider I'd be patienter."—Young People.

Little Johnny—Dogs don't need to talk, 'cause any one can understand their bark. Visitor—Can you? Little Johnny—Easy as rollin' off a log. When my dog is at the door and barks, that means he wants to get in; if he's inside the door and barks, that means he wants to get out. Visitor—Humph! Suppose he is half inside and half outside and barks, what does that mean? Little Johnny—That means that there's a bigger dog than him in our yard.—Good News.

THE HUSTLER.

The hustler, being unbeliever,  
By every Grace and Muse,  
He eats at night in Boston and  
Next morn'g in Syracuse.  
From the Adirondack Mountains  
To the far Pacific slopes  
He plays with lines of latitude  
Like little skipping-ropes.

His home is in the sleeping-car—  
No vine or fig-tree's shade—  
His music is its clanking wheels,  
His poetry its trade.  
This missionary of the mart  
He spreads the true faith's germs—  
The endless merits of his house  
Above all other firms.

He buttonholes the kings of trade,  
His sample case unrolls,  
And talks until the love of life  
Grows feeble in their souls.  
The bolted doors swing wide for him,  
He heeds not bolts nor bars,  
And fears not any face of man  
Beneath the sun or stars.

The heroes of baronial times  
Were armed from hair to heel,  
With iron pots upon their heads  
And poisonous steel.  
The hustler hero of to-day  
Is armorless and weak,  
But for the vigor of his tongue  
And bluish breadth of cheek.

He meets all men with fearless mien  
Nor knows to pause or swerve,  
With Adirondack bashfulness  
And Brobdignagian nerve.  
No dim abstraction vex his soul,  
His creed and happiness  
Is just to make a sale and catch  
The two o'clock express.

—Yankee Blade.

How They Were Married.

The wife of a popular preacher says that a fine-looking young farmer, roughly dressed, with an ox whip in his hand, knocked at the door and was shown into the parlor. There he laid his whip down upon the mantelpiece and proceeded to make known his errand.

"I say, parson," he began, with some embarrassment, "if I was to figger round to-day till I got things fixed to my notion, could I come up here along with a girl and git married?"

"Certainly," said the minister. "What seems to be the trouble?"

"Wal," answered the farmer, "I've got my license—that's all ready; I got it more than a week ago. And now I've got a place to get married at. That's two things. But I haven't said anything to the girl yet. She's in town to-day, though, and I saw her in a store buying some things, and I'm going right down now to ask her."

He took down his whip, flung it over his shoulder and went out of the door and down the street.

The minister and his wife laughed, but the wife went often to the window and peeped out to see if the couple were in sight.

More than an hour passed; she had nearly given them up; but at last they appeared—the girl, as the parson's wife expressed it, "a perfect little beauty and as neat as a pin."

"I had lots of trouble finding her," said the young farmer, by way of explanation.

Then they stood up and were married, while the bride seemed hardly to know whether to smile or to weep. But when the ceremony was over and the minister's wife said something to her about it being so sudden, she replied, while tears brimmed her eyes: "But you see, ma'am, I've loved Jim ever since I can remember, and he was just too stupid to find it out."

Too Funny.

In a small New Hampshire town, which happens to be the junction of two roads, a young woman had occasion to change cars. She explained to the station agent that she was to wait for the seven-forty train for such a place, and he nodded gruffly. A train came in about seven twenty-five, and she asked the guardian of the place:

"Is that my train?"

"No," said he gruffly, "it ain't."

She waited patiently. In half an hour she advanced again and asked:

"Isn't the train to—very late?"

"Gone," replied the man, laconically.

"When did it go?"

"Went at seven twenty-seven."

"What! You said that train wasn't my train!"

"It wasn't your train. That train belonged to the New England and Arctic railroad."

The humorist is now looking for a job.

Two Facts About a King.

An impressionable young gentleman in a country town recently met a charming girl whose grace and beauty took his heart by storm. While conversing with her he made a discovery which he fondly hoped would enable him to make at one brilliant stroke an elegant proof of his ready wit and his boundless affection. Glancing at a modest band of gold that encircled her finger he began:

"Sweet damsel, I pray you present me with the ring you wear, for I assure you it exactly resembles my love for you—it has no end."

"Indeed, sir," promptly replied the maiden, "you must excuse me if I keep the ring, for it exactly resembles also my love for you—it has no beginning."

Throwing a Slipper After a Bride.

The practice of throwing an old shoe after a bride is, it seems, quite misapplied when it is done by some of her companions for luck. According to the spirit of the ceremony, which is of very ancient lineage, it should be done by the parent or guardian of the bride, as indicating a renouncing of all authority over her. Chieftains in feudal times took off their shoes and handed them to their conquerors in token of accepted defeat, from which practice the slipper-throwing custom is said to have descended.

One Was Easily Recognized.

Gumney—You'll have to admit that Snodgrass has his strong points.

Glanders—Yes, of course I will. There is his breath, for instance.—Harlem Life.

BITS OF INFORMATION

There are 110,000 species of plants. Uncle Sam has 6,000 postmistresses. Stone bridges were built in China 2,000 years ago.

The world has thirty-three magnetic observatories.

Blotting paper is made of cotton rags boiled with soda.

During the Crimean War of 1854-55 785,000 men were slain.

Clocks were worn as ear pendants in Germany in the days of Charles V.

Millions of butterflies are eaten every year by the Australian aborigines.

Three of the first four presidents of the United States married widows.

The first book stereotyped in this country was a New Testament in 1814.

The blood travels through our arteries at a rate of about twelve feet per second.

There are said to be about two thousand varieties of apples raised in this country.

The temperature of the planet Neptune is estimated to be 900 degrees below zero.

A cherry tree at Elkin, N. C., is said to measure twenty-one feet in circumference.

The Croton aqueduct in New York surpasses all modern engineering efforts of this kind.

Before the War of Independence all the colonies, which afterward became States, contained slaves.

Place five hundred earths like ours side by side, yet Saturn's outermost ring could easily enclose them.

On the Isthmus of Darien either sex can do the courting, with the natural result that almost every one gets married.

In manufacturing occupations the average life of soap-boilers is the highest, and that of grindstone-makers the lowest.

The registry fee is reduced from ten to eight cents. The fee of eight cents must be in addition to the regular postage.

A recent estimate places the amount of standing timber in the State of Washington at three hundred billion feet.

The first patent in the United States was issued July 31, 1790, to Samuel Hopkins for making pot and pearl ashes.

The Hoosac tunnel in Massachusetts, which is said to be the longest in the country, is four and three-quarter miles in length.

The Italians invented the term influenza in the Seventeenth century, and attributed the disease to the influence of certain planets.

The longest day in the year at Wardbury, Norway, lasts from May 21st to July 23d. In Tornes, Finland, Christmas day is only three hours in length.

Of the whole length of the Suez Canal, sixty-six miles are cuttings, fourteen have been made by dredging through the lakes, and eight miles required no labor.

Punctuation points are comparatively modern. Only the period is more than five hundred years old. The colon is reputed to date from 1485, the comma about 1520, the semicolon about 1570; the others have been gradually added.

It is estimated that in the United States the annual expenditure for public charitable institutions is fully one hundred and twenty-five million dollars, and not less than five hundred million is invested in buildings and equipments for carrying on the work of these institutions. In this estimate no account is taken of penitentiaries and jails.

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

Electric heaters give satisfaction.

Sir Robert Ball declares that the smallest objects that would be discernible on Mars must be as large as London.

It is claimed that an electric plant has been discovered in India, which will influence a magnetic needle twenty-five feet distant.

Pipes of cement, in which wire netting is imbedded, are manufactured in Berlin. The wire netting is intended to greatly increase the strength of the pipes against bursting, so that they are well adapted for water conduits.

A new use for aluminum is mentioned by a French paper. It consists in inserting a thin plate of the metal between the two soles of a shoe, with the object of preventing the penetration of dampness, while retaining the warmth of the foot.

There is a point near the famous Stony Cave, in the Catskill Mountains, where ice may be found on any day in the year. This locality is locally known as the Notch, and is walled in by steep mountains, some of which are more than 3,000 feet high.

According to a French investigator the production of smoke does not result in an important waste of fuel. Even where the smoke is purposely made as dense as possible, he says that the waste of combustible material is less than 1 1/2 per cent. He considers that the best method of reducing the smoke to a minimum is to burn it by providing for its being mixed with very hot gases.

Russia has tried an experiment with aluminum shoes for cavalry horses. A few horses in the Finland Dragoons were shod with one aluminum shoe and three iron shoes each, the former being on the forefoot in some cases, and on the hind in others. The experiments lasted six weeks, and showed that the aluminum shoes lasted longer and preserved the foot better than the iron ones. No aluminum shoes broke, and they were used over again for re-shoeing. These horses were worked over hard and very stony ground. The most important fact of all is that aluminum horse-shoes are only one-third to one-fourth the weight of iron shoes.

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