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The School Question as it Relates to Length of Term, Teacher's Salaries &c.

In a former article I endeavored to point out the inequality of the distribution of State aid to our public schools.

I wish to say right here that I am a warm friend of the State Superintendent. In writing upon this subject I am governed by the purest motives, and not by unkind feelings toward any one. I believe it to be the right of every citizen to give expression to his views on all questions of public interest. A question which involves the expenditure of thirteen millions of dollars, and in a certain sense the future of one million of the youth of our State certainly deserves careful consideration.

It is an old maxim, that our best friends are those who tell us our faults and teach us how to correct them. I intend in this way to prove my friendship for the State Superintendent.

In the article above mentioned I quoted from the State Superintendent's report the desirability of securing a change in the basis of distributing the State appropriation. I quoted from and commented upon his suggestion upon the subject in which it seemed to me, that he was showing us just how not to do it.

This time I shall make some comments upon his plea for a more adequate support of good teachers. In this case he has succeeded in telling us just how to do it. We are not justifiable in supposing that his missing it so far in the one case, and hitting it so exactly in the other, is the result of his greater anxiety for the welfare of the teacher, than he is for fair dealing among those who have to foot the bill. His suggestion in regard to a change of basis for distributing the State aid, is an improvement on the old plan, and he is entitled to and should receive due credit for the same. It has set a goodly number of people to thinking about and looking up just how much the money is divided. It is now the people's place, if they are not satisfied to speak out and tell what they do want.

It is not manly to go around with a frown upon your countenance and a chronic grunt in your throat, because you do not get what you have never asked for.

If there is any fault in the Superintendent's suggestions about long terms and high salaries for teachers, it is no doubt the result of taking a one sided view of the matter. If he will take the trouble to read my article, I shall try to give him a glimpse of both sides. To do this I ask that he in imagination place himself in my position, or that of any other moderate farmer; let him further imagine that some fine morning he is engaged at some of the necessary work of the farm, clad in hickory check shirt, striped overalls and cowhide boots, with his boy or boys (if ten or twelve years of age) by his side clad in similar regalia, minus the cowhide boots, as they are likely to be barefoot; and then see some school teacher stepping along with head erect, and for costume a derby hat, stand up shirt collar, broadcloth trousers and morocco gaiters. It seems to me that he would conclude that teachers were faring well enough; especially if he knew that their monthly income was considerably more than his own. He would be likely to conclude that he would not agitate any increase of salary for the present, not at least until times should get better. That is just the way that I feel about it.

This is no fancy picture, its counterpart may be seen every week, every day in the week except Sunday.

The Superintendent says that "three steps toward a better support of good teachers are easier now than ever before." I must confess that I fail to see why it is easier now than heretofore, and in fact it is no easier, only upon the hypothesis that the State is an organization separate and apart from the people composing it, and that it has kindly offered to aid the people in the noble work of educating their children. Such supposition is so manifestly absurd, that it needs no comment.

I suggest that all persons interested take an intelligent view of these three steps, and then judge whether they are for our benefit or otherwise. The first is lengthening the term in the short term districts. Certainly it is very ingenious of him to say that this is to be done for the benefit of school teachers, as all know that it cannot benefit children who cannot be spared even six months in a year to attend school. I am aware that the Superintendent does not mean this arrangement for the benefit of the teacher alone. He assumes that teachers and children of the various districts are to be mutually benefited. His mistake arises from lack of acquaintanceship

with a large portion of our people. A closer acquaintance will bring about a change of opinion. It is not an unusual thing for a man to reverse his opinion, when he becomes better acquainted with the subject. There was a man in a neighboring township, who no doubt had changed his opinion about his wife when he said that he never would have married her, if he had been better acquainted with her. There may be more men similarly situated in their domestic relations, but they are not all so honest as this old gentleman was. A man does not generally like to own that he has been worsted in a deal of any kind.

I should have suggested a different and I believe better plan for teachers to increase their incomes in the short term districts. It is this; let the teacher take up some honorable and useful employment between terms, from which he or she may readily realize as much as many of the taxpayers do, and it would give them a clear idea of how folks who have to work for their living get along. They could then point with pride to the fact, that they had earned a part of their bread by the sweat of their brow.

The next step which the Superintendent mentions, is raising the salaries. Now this is a very direct, straightforward way of doing the thing, and one that almost any of us might have thought of if we had been accustomed to thinking. All you have to do is to do it to reach a little deeper into your pocket and the thing is done. That is if you have not already got to the bottom. To press the matter and punch a hole will do no good. But just why this step is easier now than ever before, I fail to see but that is perhaps my own fault.

The third step mentioned is restricting by statute the number of provisional certificates. I was rather at a loss to see just how that was going to benefit the teachers so far as adequate support was concerned, and I am not yet certain that I see the point. The only logical conclusion that I have been able to arrive at is that it will break down competition and enable the teachers to form a combine or trust and fix their own salaries. If human nature has not changed, and I see no clear evidence that it has; if that power is put in their hands they are likely to turn it to their profit. I should say therefore, that it is high time to call a halt. We have trusts enough and more than enough, without fostering or providing for a school teacher's trust.

I have too much confidence in the State Superintendent to suppose that he would intentionally favor any thing of that kind, but I think that he will agree with me, that his suggestions are open to that construction.

I had thought of saying a few words about the plan suggested to get rid of provisional certificates or those holding them, but I shall leave that for "a more convenient season."

JAMES I. CAMPBELL.

High Revels in an Unoccupied House.

A gang of about fourteen boys were arrested in Danville and bound over for court on charge of robbery last week. E. S. Kase and his sister have been spending the winter in Philadelphia and locked up their house. The boys in some way gained an entrance and have been having high old time for some weeks past. They have been going in and out at their pleasure, building fires, cooking eggs, and destroying such household goods as they pleased. A neighbor saw them coming out and wired Mr. Kase, who came home and had them arrested. They are lodged in the Bloom jail.

Normal Theses for the World's Fair.

Among the exhibits being prepared by the Normal School is a very handsomely bound volume of theses, which is a credit not only to the school but also to the binder, Mr. John D. Lingle of Sunbury, who does all work of this kind for the school.

The volume is bound in Turkish Morocco, of three colors, red, white, and blue, so arranged on the front and back as to form a star. Around the edges, forming a border around the star are triangles and squares of different colored leather, tastefully arranged, with lines of gold between. It is very handsome and is very appropriate for a national exhibit.

Monday, September first, as "Labor Day" has proven a failure. If Saturday had been selected, it might have been a success, but business men cannot afford to lose Monday in such a business time of the year. Besides it always interferes with the opening of the Public Schools, since nearly all schools begin the first week in September, and schools beginning earlier are retarded by such an early holiday.

CENTRAL.

Well, Central is beginning to liven up some. The club of ten belonging to the new organization has commenced looking for jobs.

The applicants for the Post office have not joined the new order and it looks as if the present Post Master will hold over at least till he strikes something better.

The lumber business at Jameson City is once more about ready to start operations. They have the right men at the business now.

Hub factory will soon start again. This with the industries on the West Fishingcreek will make Central better than it has been for two years. The club of ten finally after seventeen ballots decided to elect Lamon, Secretary of the order.

Frank Myers is going to move his stove from the Post office so he can get it in working order for next winter. It chokes up and seems incompetent to throw out any heat.

The club also expects to have the Postal laws over hauled. We don't mean to say anything against any one for personal harm, for take it all through, Central is represented by men with good trades and talent generally.

Mrs. Perry has been visiting with friends in Central during the past week.

Wagons and rigs have taken the place of runners mostly, and all seem glad to see terra firma again.

We are waiting, says the club of ten, to have all comers get their usual spring term of Barley corn training.

Therefore, says Martin, I will close by stating the health of the Central people is good and all look for the time to catch a few, if they are chuck full of saw dust.

MILLVILLE.

Some of the fleitings to take place this spring are as follows:

Abram Tilman from his farm above Lola, to Millville; Walter Tilman from here to the A. Tilman farm; Thompson Lewis from Iola to farm of J. A. Diddle at this place; J. A. Howard from C. W. Eve's house to Frank Eves' house; Edward Moyer of Sweet Valley to Dr. Patton's house in East Millville; Louis Brenner from East Millville to Iola; Amos Long will take the house vacated by L. Brenner.

Edward Eves and Chas. Brink have sick horses.

Where is the Benton Prophet who said there would be six weeks good sleighing in March.

Blue birds sing,
Good news they bring,
And our sad
Hearts are glad,
Tis a sign of spring.

S. W. Eckman has the material on the ground to build a house this spring. He will build between the station and creamery.

Grant Johnson, now employed at Masters & Co's store, will move this spring to Selingsgrove, where he expects to study for the Ministry.

Four new scholars started in the new term of Friends' School last Monday.

J. C. Christian has recently enlarged his stock, by adding a complete line of dry goods.

Report says we are to have a new Doctor in town. He hails from Williamsport and is to occupy the house vacated by J. S. Howard on State street.

Mathias Wolk will move into part of D. W. Kitchen's house. He is a Carpenter.

The latest now told is on a certain railroad. A man was riding on the train and trying to read a paper, so the story runs, but could not, as the train surged from one side to the other. All at once it ran so smooth and nice that he wondered what was up, so he asked the Conductor what made it run so quiet. The answer was "why, it's off the track."

Always fully up to the times, and a little in advance, J. G. Wells has been making more improvements in his jewelry store. Last week another large show case, twelve feet long, was set up. It stands across the rear of his store, and is filled with an elegant display of silverware. Mr. Wells was in the city this week, and added considerably to his already large stock of cut glass, silverware, china, &c.

A new case has also been put up to hang watches in. It has a glass front, and excludes all dust.

Three accidents occurred in the Cameron Colliery at Shamokin last week. One fatal—a young man 21 years of age, meeting with instant death.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HARTMAN.

In the death of B. F. Hartman, which occurred last Saturday at noon, this community has lost an estimable citizen, and his relatives a kind and affectionate friend. He was a brother of L. W. Hartman and Wellington Hartman of this town, and of William Hartman of Catawissa. He was born in Catawissa, January 10, 1812, and was therefore a little past 81 years of age. He lived in Bloomsburg for fifty eight years. He was married to Abigail Maria Pursell in 1836, and two children were born to them, Henry, who died in infancy, and Mrs. O. T. Wilson, who died in 1881. Mrs. Hartman died in 1883. After her death Mr. and Mrs. I. D. White moved into Mr. Hartman's house, and have resided there ever since, thus affording him a pleasant home, and every care and comfort in his declining years. Mrs. White is his grand-daughter.

Since 1848 Mr. Hartman has been engaged in the fire insurance agency, and until incapacitated by old age, he had an extensive business. From 1865 to 1869 he was Deputy Collector of United States Revenue, and was the treasurer of the Bloomsburg Gas Co. from its organization. He was one of the Directors of the Bloomsburg Banking Co. for several years past.

He was an earnest and devout member of the Episcopal church. For more than forty years he had been a Vestryman, and for thirty-two years the treasurer of St. Paul's parish. He also for many years was accounting warden and secretary, and represented the Parish in the Diocesan convention. In all that pertained to the welfare of the church he was deeply interested, and whenever money was needed, there were none more liberal than he. He never missed a service unless it was unavoidable. It is here that he will be missed more than anywhere else, except in the family circle, and the church will be fortunate indeed, if some one can be found who will take up the duties that Mr. Hartman has laid down, after so many years of faithful service.

The funeral was held at the house on Wednesday at one o'clock, services being conducted by Rev. W. C. Leverett. The Odd Fellows attended in a body.

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Paul's church, held on March 19, 1893, the Rector having announced the death of Mr. B. F. Hartman, Accounting Warden and Treasurer of the parish, the following action was taken:

Resolved, that in the removal of Mr. B. F. Hartman from this world, we lament the departure of one who has long been connected with St. Paul's Parish and has ever been devoted to its interests. As Vestryman and Warden for many years, he has been constant and faithful. And especially in the important office of Treasurer, which he has held for the last thirty-two years, he has given his time and services to the parish and attended to its varied business affairs with much labor and perseverance and personal sacrifice.

Resolved, that we will attend his funeral in a body as a mark of respect, and enter this action upon the records of the Vestry.

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Vestry convey a copy of these resolutions to the relatives of our deceased friend, with the assurance of our heartfelt sympathy with them in their great affliction.

Signed,
WM. C. LEVERETT,
J. H. MAIZE, Sec'y. Rector.

LIGHT STREET.

A donation party was held at, Rev. E. E. Shaffer's house on Monday evening.

Miss Maggie Sands of Mordansville is visiting friends in town.

Mr. Artman moved on Monday to the farm of Mrs. J. J. Keller.

Rev. Whitney and wife are attending the M. E. Conference at Bellefonte, during the past week.

Young Frisbie, one of the surveyors of the new railroad went home on account of sickness.

The colored family that have lived here for some time moved to Espy on Monday.

Some of the members from Columbia County who were in attendance at the M. E. Conference at Bellefonte last week were honored by being made members of Committees: L. T. Sharpless of Bloomsburg was on the Committee of Board of Stewards and Necessitous cases. M. W. Jackson of Berwick on Committee of Dickinson College. M. I. Low of Lime Ridge was on the Committee of Education.

Rev. C. Sones, pastor of the Evangelical Church for the past three years, has removed to Nanticoke.

Appointments.

The following is a list of appointments for the Danville District made at the M. E. Conference held at Belle font during the past week.

John Donahue, President Elder, post office, Bloomsburg.
Ashland, William F. D. Noble.
Audenried, Charles M. Barnitz.
Beach Haven, Joseph R. King.
Benton, Marion J. Runyan.
Berwick, Richard Hinkle.
Bloomsburg, William G. Ferguson.
Buckhorn, Joseph Gray.
Catawissa, John B. Mann.
Catawissa Circuit, William S. Hamilton.

Centralia, S. Milton Frost.
Conyngham, John H. Mortimer.
Danville, St. Paul's, Joseph B. Shaver, Trinity, George M. Klepfer.
Elysburg, Henry F. Cares.
Espy and Light Street, Reuben E. Wilson.

Excelsior, to be supplied.
Fountain Spring, to be supplied.
Freeland, Edmund White.
Gordon, John F. Kerlin.
Harveysville, to be supplied.

Hazleton, St. Paul's, David H. Shields; Diamond, George M. Larned.
Jamison City, Almon W. Hontz.
Jeansville, John L. Leitch.

Jerseytown, George V. Savidge.
Mifflinville, Jonathan R. Shippe.
Milnesville, to be supplied.

Mount Carmel, G. Tarring Gray.
Muhlenburg, William H. Norcross.
Nescopeck, William H. Hartman.
Northumberland, Henry M. Ash.
Orangeville, Henry A. Straub.

Riverside, Alfred L. Miller.
Rohrsburg, Elial M. Chilcoat.
Schloyersville, Henry B. Fortner.
Selingsgrove, James Eckersley.
Shamokin, First Church, William V. Ganoe; Second Church, John Horning Shickshiny, John A. DeMoyer.

Snyderstown, Nathan B. Smith.
Silver Brook, Wilber W. Cadle.
Stockton and Beaver Meadow, Oliver S. Metzler.
Sunbury, George Leidy.

Town Hill, Seth A. Creveling.
Trevorton, Wilbur P. Shrine.
Weatherly, John W. Buckley.

White Haven, Joseph W. Bedford.
W. T. S. Deavor, Professor, St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., and member of Schloyersville Quarterly Conference.

Supernumerary and Superannuated Preachers: John W. Leake, Irvin H. Torrence, Timothy H. Tubbs, Henry S. Mendenhall, David B. McClosky, Gideon H. Day, Hugh A. Curran, Samuel P. Boone.

The following letters are held at the Bloomsburg, Pa., post office and will be sent to the dead letter office April 28th, 1893.

Mr. A. Breadt, Miss Lizzie Chalanger, Miss Dora Parks, William Shaffer, Mrs. T. C. Smith.

Cards.—Miss Carrie Fisher.
Persons calling for these letters will please say they were advertised March 21, 1893. One cent will be charged on each letter advertised.

A. B. CATHCART, P. M.

Prof. W. F. Willcox has prepared an interesting paper on the subject of marriage and divorce. By a careful compilation of statistics, he has ascertained that there is a steady decline in matrimony in this country and a corresponding increase in divorces. In marriage there has been in the last twenty years a decrease of about 7 to every 100,000 inhabitants, while in Ireland only 1 to every 200,000; in Canada 5 to every 100,000 and in Japan 608 to every 100,000.

We were in error in announcing last week that John G. Jacoby Esq. was among the list of applicants for the Berwick Post Office. Our informant gave his name, and as we knew him to be a faithful worker in the democratic party, we did not doubt it. Mr. Jacoby desires us to state that he is not an applicant.

J. R. Townsend has in his possession a book containing a number of old fashion plates. Among them is a plate showing the style of dress worn by ladies in 1834. The sleeves of the dress are puffed above the elbow, and tight below, identical with the fashions of to-day.

Our exchanges state that a man calling himself Charles Meyers, of Scranton, is travelling about the country swindling farmers. He claims to be a sewing machine agent, and after taking an order he receives part payment and never delivers the machine.

A big black bear came out of the wilderness into Will Fairchild's fields last Sunday, and after knocking out all the dogs of the neighborhood led their masters a chase as far as Cherry Flats, where it disappeared unmolested in the direction of Ringer Hill.—*DuShore Review.*

PERSONAL.

Lafayette Keeler of Benton was in town on Saturday.

B. W. Jury is building six new houses for Joseph Ratti on Sixth Street.

Prof. Welsh attended the meeting of Principals of Normal Schools, at Harrisburg last week.

Mrs. Layton Runyon and daughter, Miss Maude are spending this week in Philadelphia and New York.

T. H. Edgar, the enterprising planing mill operator at Stillwater, was in town on Saturday.

I. K. K. Laubach of Benton township came down on business on Tuesday.

J. G. Wells and family spent Sunday in Mauch Chunk with Dr. and Mrs. G. Stewart Kirby.

Mrs. Erath of Wilkesbarre, spent last Sunday in Bloomsburg, with her mother, Mrs. Geo. Hassert.

S. D. Neyhard went to Baltimore last Thursday on business connected with the electric railroad through Bloomsburg.

Mrs. J. G. Worthington has been in Cincinnati recently, settling the business of her late husband. She returned to Bloomsburg on Friday last.

Judge Ikeler held court at Danville last week, and this week went down to Pottsville to hold court for Judge Pershing, who is ill.

B. F. Armstrong will move to West Pittston soon. Paul Tustin will succeed him as Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

John Fox, who was seriously ill last week is improving slowly, and his many friends are anxious to see him out again. He is a member of the Bloomsburg Cornet Band, and of St. Paul's vested choir, and is missed in many places.

Simon Shive, an old-time resident of Bloomsburg, but now a farmer in Franklin township, was among our callers on Saturday. Some years ago Mr. Shive was one of the largest manufacturers in Bloomsburg, being the proprietor of an extensive furniture factory on the corner of Main and Iron streets.

William P. Eyerly moved on Tuesday from the Pursell farm in Hemlock township, to William Mathers' farm in Greenwood near Rohrsburg. He has lived on the Pursell farm for the past twenty-five years. For the past four years he was Supervisor of Hemlock township, and on Monday he settled up his account in full, and it came out straight to the penny, and left a balance on hand for the new supervisors. Mr. Eyerly and family will be much missed in Hemlock.

Ex-commissioner Washington Parr of Franklin township started on the 23rd for the west, and will be absent about three months. He will visit his son in law Samuel Loreman and family at Benedict, Nebraska, and will spend some time in Illinois on the way out. Mrs. Loreman has been visiting Mr. Parr for several months, and she will go back home with him. We wish them a safe and pleasant journey.

J. G. Wells has just purchased a chronometer of the very best make, for his jewelry store. This instrument is of superior construction, with a heavy compensation balance and beats half seconds. Chronometers are intended to keep time with great accuracy, and are used in astronomical observations in determining longitude, other purposes requiring the closest calculation. Mr. Wells will use it as a regulator, thereby attaining perfect accuracy in setting watches.

Never before has such an opportunity been offered to those who are building new houses, or repairing old ones, to select fine door or window hardware, as at present, at J. R. Schuyler's. He has a beautiful line of locks, knobs, hinges, bell knobs, drawer handles, bolts &c, in silver, brass, oxidized silver, bronze and black finish. Take a look at his lower show window.

In a coal mine unused for three years in Plaingrove township, Lawrence county, John Martin, exploring for minerals for the Juniata Land Company, found the skeleton of a man chained to a post in one of the rooms. The remains are supposed to be those of John Baird, a soldier who disappeared while on a furlough during the war. He came home to visit his sick wife, found her dead and became insane. The skeleton will be interred beside the body of his wife.

Read White & Conner's new advertisement in this issue.