

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED KURTZ, . . . Editor. CENTRE HALL, PA., MAR. 25, 1885.

THE SCHOOL TERM.

In the House, on 17 ult., on the bill to increase the minimum of the school term, our representative, Mr. Woodward, delivered the following remarks which will be endorsed by a majority of his constituents:

Mr. WOODWARD. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to say a word upon this bill, but as the gentleman has referred to my own county, I simply desire to endorse in the most emphatic manner that he has said. While in some few districts, possibly, this might work as an improvement, in the great majority of the districts in my county the passage of a bill of this kind would operate as a hardship. The population which I have the honor to represent is largely agricultural and consists chiefly of farmers—small farmers, who do a large portion of their work by the assistance of their children. In the planting of their crops in the early spring and the harvesting of those crops in the late fall they are obliged to keep their children at home; they find it an absolute impossibility to send them to school in the late weeks of the spring or the early weeks of the fall, and enjoy the privileges of the present five month term. I am certain that I represent a great majority of the people of my county, therefore, when I appeal to this House not to attempt to maintain a longer term or to lose the appropriation from the State.

There is no district in the entire State, where a six or eight month term could not be maintained at the option of a majority of the people in that district. It is only necessary that they elect a school board with that understanding. We have frequently passed bills here which recognized the different circumstances of the different portions of the Commonwealth, by having in them a local option clause. Now, I am not here to advance the local option idea, but since this feature of local option is already incorporated as an element in the very matter we are talking of—since the central of this matter already exists in the board of directors, I appeal to the House to let it remain there, where it belongs.

In reply to Mr. Colborn: Mr. WOODWARD. The imputation has been made by my friend on my extreme right, that those who oppose this bill oppose it from mercenary motives; at least that is what I understood him to say, that it was because thereby the rate of taxation would be increased. Now, I have to say that neither the gentleman who cast that imputation upon us nor any other gentleman in this House will go any further than I will go in any measure tending to increase the efficiency and importance of our public schools. If the gentleman who has charge of this bill will formulate a measure to levy the tax paid now by either individuals or the appropriation of the State, and arrange that it increase so that it will aid us in an increased efficiency of our common schools by paying higher salaries to teachers, and thereby secure better qualifications, leaving the question of the length of terms where it is now, in the hands of the people, and I will go as far as he or any member dare go. It is, in fact, for the efficiency of the schools that I am pleading, and not against them. It is for the efficiency of teaching—the best methods of educating our young people, that I am speaking and not against such a system. I am for a measure—any measure that will promote the welfare of the young people in our schools, but not a measure that is advanced by the teaching population of the State, simply for adding one more month to their meagre salary. Whenever the gentleman will formulate a bill that will secure the advantages I mention, I will aid in its passage. Let him introduce a measure that will so apply our school tax that they will increase the efficiency of our school by securing teachers who are teachers, teachers who are qualified to teach as they should be, and I will go to the bill full length in its support. I am for the welfare of the schools, head and hand. I say, Mr. Speaker, that in voting against this bill I vote because I believe it to be a bill against the interests of our common schools, adding thereto an increased length of term, and adding to the inefficiency of the system. It is as efficient now as it can be made without an increase of taxation. You may double the taxation, as I said before, if you will apply it properly, and I will support you; but I must resent the imputation that I oppose the bill because it would increase my taxation or the taxes of any other man. It is not generous, and it is not right to make such a statement.

HAPPY THOUGHTS IN THE NIGHT. For years Mr. Jas. R. Ackley, of 123 West Fayette street, Baltimore, had suffered with neuralgia so that he could hardly sleep. But he writes, "One night I was suffering very much, and the thought struck me that Brown's Iron Bitters would do me some good, and I bought a bottle. It was a happy thought, and to my great joy it has entirely cured me after using two bottles. After three months I have had no return of the symptoms. I cheerfully recommend it as the best tonic I have ever used." Neuralgia sufferers, take the bit.

THE BELLEFONTE FIRE. The Bellefonte News thus counts up the losses and insurance of the late disastrous fire in that borough: Goldsmith Bros., \$40,000, insurance \$27,000; T. B. Reynolds \$22,500, insurance \$14,000; Bauer & Co. \$4,000, insurance \$3200; Van Pelt & Spangler & Co. loss \$6,000, insurance \$4,000; J. B. Spangler & Co. loss \$2,000, fully insured; Joseph Bros. loss \$1,300, fully insured; C. Geiring loss \$500, insurance \$400; J. Newson loss \$500, insurance \$350; A. Brockerhoff loss \$3,800, insurance \$2,800; J. L. McClure loss \$1,000, insurance \$750; J. Ammerman estate loss \$500, insurance \$250; sundry losses about \$3,000, making the total loss about \$125,000.

In the above we have not estimated the loss of the Messrs. Loeb, merchants, which was considerable, chiefly in having goods carried away.

Kidney, Liver and Blood Disorders.—Physicians too frequently fail to recognize what they are, and even if they know them, lack the skill or their proper treatment, so that they are liable to be allowed to progress until they are almost unendurable, and their victims are made to undergo the most frightful tortures of a surgical operation. Loss no time in taking Dr. David Kennedy's "Favorite Remedy," and thus avoid the surgeon's knife.

ABOUT THE HAIR.

To have beautiful hair and keep it in health requires as much care as the teeth, nails or face. So many twist the hair up in some becoming fashion the year round, and wonder that it gets streaked, thin in spots, and seems harsh and dry. The hair should be loosened every night before retiring, combed free from all tangles with a bone comb (rubber combs have done much to split and break the hair—nearly all have too much electricity to use rubber); then use a stiff brush for a long time, brushing from the top to the very ends.

It is well for the lady who has a maid, for it is impossible to properly brush one's hair if very long. Then braid and for the night.

The scalp should be kept clean and healthy; wash occasionally, and have it thoroughly shampooed two or three times a year as well.

To wash, braid the hair loosely in several braids, take raw egg and rub thoroughly into the scalp (if beaten first it rubs in better), then rinse in cold water with a little ammonia incorporated in it, wring the braids in a coarse towel, sit by a fire or in the sun until dry, then comb out the braids. The braiding prevents much snarling. Where one's hair is thin a quinine lotion will prevent its falling out and give life to the roots. The Parisian fashions for dressing children's hair are as follows: Ringlets are most favored for babies. Little boys have curls in the back and bangs in front.

Little girls have their hair waved and falling down the back, with a colored ribbon to keep it in place. Some young girls have revived the fashion of light hair nets, with large meshes, in which the hair falls loose and as low down as the middle of the back. This style shows the hair to great advantage, and will probably meet with general approval. From sixteen to seventeen years of age the hair is worn high and twisted on the top of the head. With this method of arranging the hair round hats have no elastic, so as not to conceal any part of the pretty waves which the hair forms when thus raised from the nape of the neck. The hat is fastened to the hair by a steel pin with a shell or jet head.

GEN. SHERMAN'S DILEMMA.

A correspondent to the Troy Press says: One incident, however, which happened in San Francisco about five years ago, came near breaking the General of the habit which has fastened its terrible grip upon him. The occasion was pretty Alice Harrison's farewell benefit, and, as luck would have it, Tecumseh and his staff were visiting the Pacific Coast Department. So they hired a box and went to the show. No sooner did Miss Harrison appear than old war horse snuffed the battle from afar and began to grow restless. The members of the staff winked at each other and suggested the propriety of going behind the scenes to compliment the beneficiary. This proposition suited the General exactly, so back they went. When they were fairly on the stage the old hero of Atlanta marched up to Miss Harrison with the remark that he hadn't kissed anything since breakfast, threw his arm over her shoulder and bent to bestow a paternal salute on her cheek. He had just reached the goal of his desire and was feeling like a just-addicted angel sliding down a buttered rainbow when that impish young lady saw that the prompter was about to ring up the "drop." Quickly placing her hands over the General's ears so he couldn't hear the bell, she backed him against the curtain. As everybody knows, this is wound around a huge wooden roller on the inside of the canvass. Well the General's coat-tails were caught, and before the prompter could reverse the motion the astounded man was suspended seven or eight feet from the stage like a sheet from a clothes-line. The sight was so ludicrous that the member of the General's staff who told me the story said the audience went into hysterics, for they knew that those convulsively clutching legs and venerable gaiters belonged to no one else than the commander-in-chief of all our armies.

THE SPEED OF THE ARAB.

The popular notion about the speed of the Arab courser is, I think, erroneous. Great speed is not his strong point; the chances are that on any ordinary race course the best Arab in the world would be beaten by a second-rate English race horse. These Arabs were not, of course, first-rate specimens of the race, but they were certainly not bad ones. A fortnight or so afterward, when I was at Tebessa, the commandant showed me an English thoroughbred, which, he said, had easily run away from every Arab he had ever tried him against. But what was far more remarkable about this horse was that a race acclimated and accustomed to the hard life and hard fare of the Arab horses he quite equalled them in hardness and endurance, as had been proved in the course of many expeditions and tours of inspection among the tribes of the district.

IRISH SUPERSTITIONS.

The belief in luck is deep and strong, and the happy possessor of good luck is always on the watch not to lose it, for nothing is easier than, unconsciously, to make over to some one else the benefits of it. The luck of a whole household may be lost by a careless housewife who lends anything on Monday morning. Some mothers even refuse their married children a turf to light the fire with on the first morning of the week, and carefully place a new turf on the fire for each lighted one lent on other days. To give away milk without first putting in it a pinch of salt is fatal to the prosperity of a dairy, and to part with a homeless dog or any animal that has sought protection also gives away luck. One odd belief is, that though some people are unfortunate in all their own concerns, they have the power of benefiting everyone they come in contact with; they are described as "sowsy;" the pig that is fattened in order to pay the rent due to them always prospers, the wages paid by them go far, their slightest gift is valuable, whilst those of a grudge only bring disaster; and there is something Eastern in the importance attached to gifts and their givers in this way. The peasantry can at once recognize anyone with the priceless blessing of luck by an open and cheerful expression, and, in fact, a good heart goes with good luck.

It is common for one person to put spells upon another, and to influence those at a great distance; thus, if any of the friends or children be travelling on Friday, the Irish mother does not brush or comb her hair on that day, or else they would surely wander and lose their way. Some people do not wash on Friday as a cure for toothache, and many wear little bits of folded paper sewn in their clothes as charms against the same affliction. There are spells and charms for other illnesses, and half the old women wear blessed rings of brass to preserve them from rheumatism.

Numberless are the means employed by young girls to pierce the darkness of their future as to marriage, but no efforts toward meeting their fate appear to be made by men. It ought to be remarked that pious people speak very sternly against these rites, as many of them—such as the one where girls throw a ball of wool down an old quarry and wait till it is held in the darkness—distinctly raise the Evil One.

CABINET DEFLECTIONS.

The diary of Mr. Adams shows that, while he never complained to his Cabinet that he had deserted him, he felt bitterly disappointed that he was not the choice of the politicians and of the people for re-election. He would not, however, even write a few pleasant words of thanks (when asked to do so) to an editor who supported him; neither would he appoint to or remove from office any one because of an individual preference for or against himself. Distinguished politicians from different sections of the country, who would call on him while sojourning at Washington, would be treated with glacial frigidity, and perhaps be unceremoniously dismissed, that he might take a solitary walk or ride on horseback. Gen. Jackson was meanwhile being brought before the public, under the direction of Aaron Burr, Martin Van Buren and Edward Livingston, as a "man of the people." They had persuaded him to resign his seat in the Senate of the United States, where he might have made political mistakes, and retire to his farm in Tennessee, while they flooded the country with accounts of his military exploits and his social good qualities. Daniel Webster told Samuel Breck, as the latter records in his diary, that he knew more than fifty members of Congress who had expended and pledged all they were worth in setting up presses and employing other means to forward Jackson's election.

FOSSILS FOR BALLASTING.

Some years ago a most interesting "find" of fossils was made at the Portland stone quarries. They were of high scientific value, and it was decided to send them to Yale College for preservation and study. They were accordingly loaded upon a flat car at Middletown and sent on their way via Berlin—a car-load of them. It was at that time that the fine stone bridge of the Consolidated Road was being built across the Farmington River at Windsor. After the arch of the bridge was set, the space was filled in on top with quantities of broken trap rock from the company's quarries in Meriden. This broken stone at just this time was being drawn to Windsor by the cars for this purpose. The conductor of one train discovered the car-load of fossils side-tracked at Berlin, and felt sure at once that it was a lot of ballast for the Windsor bridge, which had been accidentally left behind. With commendable zeal he fastened to it at once and drew it on to the bridge. There the rare fossils were dumped with the other stones, and there to-day they lie in the solid flooring of the massive bridges.

It is said that the grasshopper has proportionally 120 times the kicking power of a man. A poor young grasshopper never goes to see a rich Miss Grasshopper when old man Grasshopper objects.

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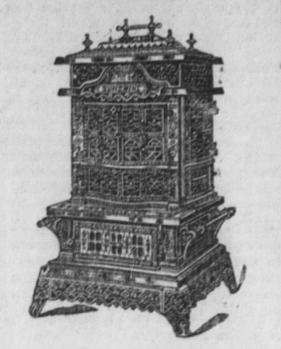
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