

Friday, Oct. 29, 1899.

(For the Star and Sentinel.)

AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOLS.

Most of us remember how dull and desultory was our school studies. We learned geography, perhaps, with satisfaction, because we were obtaining what we considered truth which would benefit us in after time. We "cyphered" to become conversant with the science of numbers. We were taught to read, and we were not for the love of it, but because we honestly believed that it made us "speak and write the English language correctly."

And how often we have been forced to read in the old English reader, or some other equally stupid text book, which we could not understand, and which would render us but little benefit, even under a fall opinion of its meaning. The truth is one-half of the men and women of Pennsylvania took little or no pleasure in the studies of their school days. There was an aversion, a repugnance, a dislike to the study of the English language. To understand and apply what was assigned, was most distant from their thoughts.

Though schools at the present day have greatly improved, in many respects, yet there still exists this "Academy" fault. There is no interest manifested, too often, there is no tangible meaning to the lessons assigned, or they are beyond the comprehension of the learner. The practical part of their education is neglected. We perceive the fault—they know it is necessary to engage the mind of the pupil, as we know from experience. And a good understanding of the nature of the subject, to perceive the fault—they know it is necessary to engage the mind of the pupil, as we know from experience. And a good understanding of the nature of the subject, to perceive the fault—they know it is necessary to engage the mind of the pupil, as we know from experience.

The object of all these means with the fact that books have been simply improved, so improved to such a degree that there is no room for further improvements. We understand it. We are not ignorant of the vast improvement which has been made within comparatively a few years. But they have not been improved in the right way. There is still a deficiency. There is too much technicality about them. Too many rules, too much lumber, and too little practicality in them. They are not like that of civil engineering. We would have them so written as to apply more directly to the common affairs of life—to commerce, to trade, the mechanic arts, agriculture, domestic economy, etc. We know that this is not possible in any branch, but in a great measure it is not only possible, but quite easy. Every science has some practical, useful application, and that which is studied, which should not its application constitute a part of the study?

Let us apply our idea to one branch of useful knowledge, that of agriculture. We know more through knowledge of the principles of agriculture, and a practical application of the sciences on which it is based. As people are exceedingly ignorant of agricultural facts. We do not understand why a certain piece of ground will produce one kind of vegetable and afford no description to another. We cannot tell why one description of manure will double a growth of corn, while another will produce no visible effect. And there are a thousand just such anomalies in nature which are beyond our power to explain. To be sure many of them are known to some men—but not to the mass. Now what we want is, to place the reasons of these things before the mind of the scholar, in such a manner as will induce him to consider them. Let him see the reason for any change that is produced in nature, and he will soon learn to remember that fact, and to search out others in like manner.

We would have our reading books made up of that class of articles which, while they present a great variety of style, would contain practical information. There are now so much written and spoken on the subject of agriculture that a choice selection might be made. The strongest minds, the most gifted intellects, have been exercised in this department, and the most eloquent addresses have been delivered on this subject. There is no death of material for a splendid selection of agricultural reading adapted to the scholar in our common schools and academies. There is a work by Dr. Blake, well adapted to the wants of scholars in this respect—a book, too, full of interest and instruction. Our mathematical studies might be so arranged as to afford practical instruction, while their efficiency in disciplining the mind would not be diminished in the least. One of the best Arithmetics within our knowledge, has a few chapters on this plan, which are given under the title of the "Farm," the "Garden," the "Horsehold," the "Garden," etc. It is too difficult a work for common district scholars, but it serves as a model for one requiring less effort and qualification to master. It is a work by Horace Mann and P. H. Chase. So in Chemistry, Philosophy and other studies—there is no difficulty in making them practical.

We need say more on this subject at present. We only desire to call attention to it, that it may receive a candid consideration by the public. We hope farmers will think of it, and discuss it. Let it be a topic for debate in district townships, in Farmers' clubs, and in agricultural societies whenever they meet for discussion.

There are many ray reports and witty sayings attributed to the Irish, which some are vulgar and bungling enough. Among the former, we class the subjoined. An Irish woman who had kept a little grocery store was brought to her death bed, and was on the point of breathing her last, when she called her husband to her side, and said, "Fleming," she faintly said, "there's Mianus 'Och'—she owes me six shillings." "Oh!" exclaimed her husband, "Biddy, darling, ye're able to the last!" "Yes, dear, and there's a man, McDerm, I owe her one dollar."

"Och! ye jabers, and ye're as a foolish as ever!"

In Freeport, Armstrong county, on Sunday last, Mrs. Strub, who is subject to this mania, slipped behind her son, twenty-two years old, who was eating breakfast, and struck him on the head with a pick, splitting open his skull. He died on Tuesday morning. The mother is in jail.

Apple and pear trees well scraped and then washed with this preparation will not only be freed from some of the chief insects preying on them, but will be protected by their own glands from being infested by insects.—Germantown Telegraph.

A call for a Woman's Suffrage Convention has been issued, signed by eighty-five advocates of the "coming event." It is proposed to hold the Convention at Cleveland, Ohio, on November 24 and 25 prox.

The Williamson horse fair commenced on the 19th inst. and continued four days. Prizes to the amount of \$31,500

Clothing, Hats, Shoes, &c.

FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING, Hats and Caps.

NEW FIRM COBEAN & CUNNINGHAM

HATS AND CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES, NOTIONS, &c.

LATEST STYLES. FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING.

COATS, PANTS, VESTS, SHIRTS, Trunks, Valises, Umbrellas, and a great and large variety of NOTIONS, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, CLOCKS, WATCHES, TOBACCO and CIGARS.

BOOTS & SHOES. GENTLEMEN, LADIES & CHILDREN'S WEAR.

DR. KITZMILLER & BRO. YORK STREET, OPPOSITE THE BANK.

REMOVED! New Store Room near Court-house!

LADIES' GOWNERS GAITERS, LADIES' BALLOON GAITERS, LADIES' KID BOOTS, GENTS' KID BOOTS, GENTS' FUR BOOTS, GENTS' FUR GAITERS, GENTS' BROWN BOOTS, GENTS' BROWN GAITERS, GENTS' BROWN BOOTS, GENTS' BROWN GAITERS, GENTS' BROWN BOOTS, GENTS' BROWN GAITERS.

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Clothing, Hats, Shoes, &c.

HAS ARRIVED AT NORRIS HEAD-QUARTERS.

GETTYSBURG, PA.

Fall & Winter Clothing.

HATS AND CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES, NOTIONS, &c.

Woolen Under-Clothing.

NOTIONS, TRUNKS, and everything found in a Gentleman's Furnishing Store.

GIVE US A CALL. Ready Made-Clothing.

THE PLACE TO GET THE Worth of your Money, AND MORE.

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Carriages, Harness, &c.

DANDY HORSE. JOHN S. MCKENRY

"Best always Cheapest." THE Best and Cheapest, SADDLES, BRIDLES, COLLARS and HARNESS of all kinds.

OUR Riding and Wagon Saddles, our Harness, our Collars and our Bridles, are all made to order.

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Farming Implements, &c.

THE WORLD, DOBBS' DRIP AND BUCKEYE Reapers and Mowers.

A careful examination of these machines will show their superiority over all other machines.

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Miscellaneous.

GROVER & BAKER'S ELASTIC STITCH SEWING MACHINES.

POINTS OF EXCELLENCE. Beauty and Elasticity of Stitch.

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Miscellaneous.

STILL AHEAD! HOFFMANN'S REAPER & MOWER.

One of the Greatest Machines of the Age. Superior to any other machine now in use.

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Miscellaneous.

MEAT MARKET. FRESH MEAT EVERY DAY.

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