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DEVOTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF MORALITY, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

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THE GREAT EXODUS NORTHWARD.

The long-continued cold weather has worked a great revolution in the course of trade. The bridge of ice, extending the whole length of the Ohio, has given new activity to a large and constantly growing business. While the severity of the season, and the state of the roads, prevent the farmers of western Virginia and Kentucky from taking most of their produce to market, some of it seems endued with the power of taking itself from market quiet effectually. Across that friendly ice away is made for the self-ransomed to pass over. Jack Frost himself, in his old age, has become incendiary. He "burns froze," and that river, whose past devotion to slavery entitles it to at least a first class Foreign Mission, now thrown into chains, feels a strange sympathy for its fellow-bond-sufferers, and reaches out its manneled hands for their aid. Along the whole line where slavery and freedom confront each other, scenes are enacted that remind us of the earlier flight of Julia and her boy over the same river. Should the present cold snap continue, there is reason to fear that it will snap the fetters of many a poor bondman, thus frozen into freedom. The underground railway, being below the frost and snows, at present so troublesome in the upper world, is enabled to land its passengers with great regularity and promptness.

The Rev. Mr. Hunt, the temperance lecturer, used to tell a story of a Virginian, slightly shattered in his intellect, who one day came to his brother, a large planter, with a most important discovery. "I have found out," said he, "that the coons never eat any corn only on the outside rows; and when we plant next year, we won't have any outside row." How to take care of the outside row of slavery is just now one of the great problems of the age, and one imperatively demanding a solution.

The *New York Times* asserts that, since 1850, not less than thirty-five millions of dollars (\$35,000,000) worth of slaves have escaped from the North-ern slaveholding States to Canada and the free States; a drain upon the profits of slave-breeding that few other industrial interests of the country would bear. Nor is there any reasonable prospect that the loss will be less in years to come. The causes that have created this state of things do not disappear or grow weak.

We well remember the interest with which we first examined the movement of a pocket compass. Great was our childish wonder at the mysterious power of the North Star to draw objects toward itself. But since that day it has developed a moral power. It has become one of the great benevolent forces of the age. Poets celebrate its praises. Philanthropists bless it. It is associated in our thoughts with that Star in the East which guided wise men to one who came to open the prison doors, and to set at liberty those that are bound. Not only iron, but human beings, magnetized by the love of freedom, own its power. While we write, scores, drawn by its influence, are hastening across our slavery-tainted soil to the wished-for land, where they shall find themselves!—that manhood of which they have heard, and never known. In weariness, in faintings, in

cold and nakedness, in perils of robbers and in perils of the heathen, do they urge their way. May God preserve the poor wanderer, and bless the kind heart that takes him in and cheers him on.

When nature and the stars in their course fight against our institutions, it is high time they should be looked after. If our Government seriously intend to put a stop to the scenes now enacted upon our soil, let them show their sincerity by thawing out the Ohio at once. Then let them hang a green blind over the North Star, and cut off the tail of the Ursa Minor, that rampant beast that roams at will round the heavens.

"And bids the North forever know its place."
While nature is unrestrained, while the stars are suffered to kindle nightly their incendiary fires, something more than the stork in the heaven will know its appointed time, and something better than the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow, will observe the time of their coming.

And so we cheerfully submit to the rigours of this frightful winter, and admire that superintending providence, "that out of seeming ill educes good." When, from our lonely room at midnight, we look forth upon nature, and hear the howling of the winter's wind, the gloom is all dispelled by the reflection that this is freedom's hour—the hour when the stars shine, and human beings, guided by their light, find their lost manhood.

"The hunter now hath left the moor,
The scattered coverts meet secure."
And so, in face of radicals and fanatics, we avow our love of that great American Tract Society that has opened a pathway for freedom across our soil, and guides the pilgrim safely through it; its unselfish aims—its "catholic basis." The daily and nightly issues of its steam expresses commend it to the love of all the good. In its managers and "Life Directors," "Congregational" or otherwise, we have entire confidence, and, from our heart, do we wish them success.

HONOR AMONG BOYS.

If, as it is said, there is "honor among thieves," why should this noble quality be lacking in so many little boys?

"Boys will be boys," said one in reply to a remark of mine on this subject. This I know, and do not desire to see "old heads upon young shoulders." What I want is to beg boys to be governed by honor, and honesty, in their dealings with one another.

"Why don't you lend your skates and sled to the other boys when you are not using them?" I have asked, and been answered, "Because boys think nothing of breaking one another's things, and sometimes consider it smart, and then laugh at you for being so green as to lend them."

"But don't they pay the damages?"

Now was my turn to be laughed at for the absurdity of my question. "Pay damages! never!" This grated harshly upon a mother's ears, and I'll tell you why. Because in the first place I know how much a boy thinks of his first sled, first skates, and first pocket knife. Many rich men who live in free-stone palaces in New-York will confess that they never had a greater prize than their first sled, with its bright paint and well-ironed runners, and that the possession of skates gave them many sleepless hours of delight. Now when boys know so well now much they prize their own things, is it not very much like stealing, to carelessly injure another boy's property and make no effort to repair the loss?

"But how can a boy pay, when he has got no money?" I hear one of my readers say, perhaps, immediately.

He can go home and tell his father what he has done, and beg him to give him the means of repairing his loss. If his father sees fit to refuse his request, he can save his pennies till he has enough money of his own; or he can select from among his playthings

worth enough to pay for the harm he has done, even if he has to give away a very precious toy. If he is too poor for this and has a little Yankee contrivance, perhaps he can mend the injured article and make it as good as new. If this cannot be done, he can go to his playmate, and say he is very sorry for the accident, and that he is not able to repay the damages, and then show his sorrow by improving the first chance to do his injured friend a favor. He will not have to wait long for an opportunity to show kindness which is better than money.

This is as much a young boy's duty as it will be when he is a few years older, and accidentally injures a borrowed horse and carriage, to repay the owner for his loss. A boy who will break another's knife, lose his ball, drop his new book in the mud, or break his sled; and then laugh at his playmate's distress, or even refuse to pay him in some way for his loss, will be very likely to make a forger, defaulter, burglar, or perhaps something worse.

A mean unfeeling boy is a sad hopeless sight. Like a crooked, dwarfed, young tree; nothing grand or noble can be made of it. Age will only make it more ugly and despised.

It is too much the fashion among boys to scorn gentle loving manners, or leave their sisters to learn such ways, while they try to be what they call men. A boy who wishes to be a true man, "the noblest work of God," must begin while he is young to be honest honorable, and do as you would be done by, for he will be the same person when he grows up that he is now, only stronger, larger, in mind and body, and better able to do good or evil, let us by all means have "honor among boys."
M. E. W.

TO TEACHERS AND DIRECTORS.

Many of the certificates given to teachers in this county, have expired, or will expire on, or before, the 1st day of June next. Some of those who will wish to have their certificates renewed, will be prepared I trust to pass that "Thorough Examination" which will entitle them to the "Permanent" or "Professional" Certificate. Others will at least be prepared to receive a higher grade of the "Temporary" Certificate.

Should it meet the convenience and wishes of Teachers and Directors, I now propose to hold a general Teachers' Examination, at Coudersport, the last week in April. The time proposed, is in view of the fact that a considerable number of schools will probably open the first of May. The time of the examination will be altered, however, if it is found expedient.

The proposed examination is not intended to supersede local or individual examinations, but to be made an occasion of interest and benefit to such Teachers, Directors and others, as may attend.

In accordance with the above design, and as a matter of general interest, some hints are given below, as to the kind and degree of acquirements which a person should possess, who aspires to an honorable and professional standing, as a Common School Teacher. The law enumerates Orthography, Reading, writing, Geography, Grammar, and Arithmetic, as the branches which must be taught in every district. The candidate is therefore usually examined in all these branches, if no more; likewise in the "Art of Teaching." Some brief remarks therefore will be made under each of these heads.

1. Orthography. Under this head, the candidate should be able to explain the nature of all the elementary sounds of the language, and the office of all the letters of the alphabet, and characters used in writing. He should be able to spell words, not only by giving the letters used in writing them, but the sounds of which they are composed as spoken words. He should also be able to analyze or parse words

by their letters and sounds, and should be acquainted with the Rules of spelling, and with variant authorities in Orthography.

2. Reading. The candidate should be prepared to explain the requisites of good reading, to read, himself, in a proper and graceful manner, and to criticize the faults usually committed in reading; under the several heads of articulation, pronunciation, inflection, emphasis and modulation.

3. Writing. Besides writing a fair hand himself, the candidate should be able to point out the ordinary faults of writing; and to explain how skill in the art is to be acquired.

4. Geography. An adequate knowledge of this branch implies, not only some acquaintance with Mathematical Geography, an ability to explain the phenomena attendant upon the diurnal and annual motions of the earth, and to give the ordinary description of its natural and political divisions, but likewise to give some account of the more important facts and principles of "Physical Geography," as pertaining to the Land, the Water, the Atmosphere and the Organized Existence of our planet. Some attention should also have been paid to Comparative and Statistical Geography, and to Chronology and History—especially of our own country.

5. Grammar. Under this general head, the candidate would be expected to give some account of the origin, history, and peculiarities of the English Language; to analyze and parse such sentences as might be proposed, and to know something about the derivation and analysis of words. He should also have a proper acquaintance with Punctuation, Figures of Grammar and Rhetoric, Prosody, and the general Art of Composition. In addition to this, he should be able readily to detect and correct grammatical errors, and to give reasons for the corrections.

6. Arithmetic. Readiness and precision in the mental analysis of such examples as are given in Colburn or Stoddard, may be expected of the good school teacher. In the solution of questions in Written Arithmetic, there should be ability to demonstrate the principles involved, as well as to give rules for the operations.

It should also be understood that a satisfactory examination in any branch includes an ability to explain the Art of Teaching that branch.

ADDITIONAL BRANCHES.

Algebra. Some knowledge of Algebra is quite useful, but in the present condition of our schools a thorough training in Mental Arithmetic, is far more important. This foundation for mathematical attainments is not yet appreciated as it should be.

Geometry. The simpler elements of Geometry may be taught even to little children, and the study be made a recreation rather than a task. It is very well therefore for the teacher to be able to teach this branch.

Physiology. It is to be regretted that the Law does not yet require this branch to be taught in school. Directors however may wish it, and every teacher should know at least so much of the science, as will enable him to exercise an intelligent care for his own health, and that of his pupils.

The Natural Sciences. Generally.—Some knowledge of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy and Natural History, is very useful to the teacher, although he may not be required to give instructions in them. Such knowledge will enrich his own mind, and increase his ability to interest and benefit his pupils.

LATIN. An acquaintance with this language is more useful to the teacher than any other beside his own. It enters largely into the composition of the English Tongue.

MUSIC AND DRAWING. These accomplishments are eminently useful to the teacher; the former for the sake of its refining, softening influence, upon a school; the latter as an

aid to instruction in almost every branch of study, and as a means of recreation for the pupil.

Moral and Intellectual Philosophy. Although the teacher be not familiar with the received theories upon these subjects, still he must have some correct practical knowledge of the laws of mental and moral development, and would do well to read to some short approved treatise upon these branches of science.

Logic. The teacher should know how to reason; and will find much help from reading Wheatly, Wilson, or some other approved author upon the subject.

Professional Reading. No one is supposed to be qualified to discharge the duties of a Physician or Lawyer, who has never read a Medical book, or a treatise upon Law. It can hardly be imagined then, that any one will be entitled to rank as a Professional School Teacher, who has never read some books as those which Abbott, Hall, Emerson, Potter, Page, Mayhew, Northend, &c., have written upon the subject of common school education. The good teacher may also be supposed to take one or more Periodicals devoted to the interest of his calling.
J. B. PRADT,
Co., Sup't.

Coudersport, March 15, 1856.

A EUROPEAN CONGRESS.

If the rumor brought by the Arabia that Russia demands the convention of a general congress, should prove true, then such a declaration or move ought to be considered as a masterly act on the part of the otherwise decrepit Russian diplomacy. This is simply a check aimed at England, as Louis Bonaparte can have few, if any, real objections to such a decision. The Congress will of course take place in Paris, to the great delight of French *amour propre*. It will attract numbers of diplomats, intermediaries and travelers. By this means a current of gold from all parts of the world will set toward Paris. The manufacturer and the shop-keeper will find rich and easy booty, and the working classes and day-laborers additional rewards. The central advantages will be diffused over the country and, as interpreted by the creatures of the usurper, redound to his glory. As we have before said, his fame as leading the Peace Conferences or the sessions of a European Congress, will be made to surpass that of his uncle. Everything, therefore, can tend only to increase and strengthen the hold of Louis Napoleon over a majority of Frenchmen of all classes and parties; and accordingly, he must hail with pleasure a Congress the probability of which a month ago he himself suggested.

Francis Joseph, too, cannot object to participate in such a Congress, composed of European monarchs or their attorneys and representatives, where Louis Napoleon and Alexander II. will sustain the prominent parts; where only kings will be performers, and where the word liberty will not be breathed, except, perhaps, in connection with British Free trade. The last hope of the liberals and of the nationalities will be stifled by its proceedings. All this will aid the Hapsburgs, and in a word, the Congress will be as absolutist and conservative as was the great one of Vienna or the smaller of Verona.

Russia, demanding such a Congress and promising on her honor to abide by its decisions, probably does not run any risk that it will turn against her. Louis Napoleon, in his celebrated speech at the Exposition of last year, appealed to the opinion of Europe; and by this—the opinion of France included in it being such as he permits—the old affinities of France and Russia will very likely be confirmed. This is not at all improbable the more so as there exists a near relationship between the nephews of Alexander II. through his sister, the Grand Duchess of Leuchtenberg, and Louis Napoleon. At a Congress,

Russia will find most of the German as well as Italian sovereigns friendly disposed, and of course her diplomats will not propose anything in the least distasteful to the French Emperor.

It is very likely that Russia may offer to dismantle Nickolaieff, suggesting that the same be done by England with respect to Heligoland. This island, menacing the whole of Germany, domineering over all her northern estuaries, was detached from that country by the Treaty of Vienna, and its possession by England as an armed stronghold has caused continual incursions to German sovereigns as well as to German patriots. Who knows but the Russian diplomats may go a step further, and suggest or claim, in the name of the equilibrium of Europe and of the security of the Mediterranean States, the dismantling of Gibraltar and Malta, to all of which France, Spain, and the Italian States, above all, Naples, will find no objection.

England has no friends among the Continental Powers, and this last war has contributed mightily to lower the prestige once exercised by her; while the offensive language of her press and her politicians has created much irritation. Prussia and other German powers, Denmark, Naples, Greece, Tuscany, Austria and Spain, will seize the occasion of such a Congress to repay England for old offenses. England seems to be aware that her position before such a body would be isolated, where she could rely only on Portugal and Coburg, or in some degree on Sardinia, since Sweden would probably follow France. The news by the Arabia, therefore, reports truly that the idea of a Congress has aroused great uneasiness among English statesmen, and that Lord Cowley hurried from Paris to London for new instructions.

Do Right.—The true motto for life, is to do right and let the consequences take care of themselves. It is all sheer vanity to strive to accommodate yourself at every point to the whim and notions of some other person, or that sect or party. On the score of mere personal gain alone, you must inevitably be the loser; and once losing sight of your integrity and independence, you become the slave of petty tyrants, and make for yourself burdens heavy to be borne.

Do right—though you have enemies. You cannot escape them by doing wrong. And it is little gain to barter away your honor and integrity, and divest yourself of moral courage, to gain what? Nothing. Better abide by the truth—frown down all opposition; and rejoice in the feeling which must inspire a free and independent man.

Love.—The imperishable, inexhaustible, unapproachable nature of love is shown in this—that all the millions of love stories that have been written have not one whit abated its immortal interest that there is in the rudest and stupidest love story. All the rest of the wretched thing may be the most dismal twaddle, but you cannot help feeling a little interest, when you have once taken up the book, as to whether Arabella will ultimately relent in favor of Augustus; and whether that wicked creature, man or woman, who is keeping them apart, will not soon be disposed of somehow.

A damsel was asked—When a lady and a gentleman have quarreled, and each other considers the other at fault, which of the two ought to be the first to advance toward a reconciliation? Her reply was, "the best hearted, and the wisest of the two."

The Sandusky Register has seen a potato vine six feet two inches in length. There was a fine yield of potatoes at the bottom.

St. Louis, Feb. 12.—The mail from Salt Lake arrived at Independence on Saturday last. The snow is fifteen feet deep on the plains. The westward bound mail was obliged to return.