

A PIONEER SCHOOL. The Perils of an Early Pedagogue. PRENTICE MULFORD'S NOTE BOOK.



WAS not confident of my ability to teach even a 'common school' when the situation was offered me in a little Tealuma mining camp.

It was legally necessary, however, that I should be examined as to my ability by the school trustees. These were Dr. D., Bill K., a saloon keeper, and Tom J., a miner.

Before the spelling book. The doctor opened it, glanced on me leisurely, and finally said: "Spell cat." I did so. "Spell hat," I spelled. "Rat," said the doctor, with a look of explosive fierceness.

My school house was the church, built and paid for partly by the gamblers and partly by the good people of Jintown.

The majority of my pupils' parents being from New England and North America, they brought and carried into effect all their North American ideas of education.

My scholars came, bringing a great variety of school books. They brought "The Arithmetic," "Smith's Grammar," "The Spelling Book," and "The Reading Book."

I could not so organize a battalion of ten different grammars as to act in concert on my grammar class of twenty pupils. So I put them all on the retired list, and tried to teach this so-called "science" orally.

However, I lost nothing by this experience, for it helped me to the conviction that I have held to ever since, that

the right in the world, though he could on such a trip have been obliged to memory several hundred words per day on any subject, whether he understood it or not.

It was not until I had been in the school for some time that I began to feel the perils of an early pedagogue.

I held public examinations every six months, and was careful to do all the examining myself. An interesting thing about one of these examinations was the question of the show of geography.

But the parents who attended these exhibitions of stuffed metaphors were not so much impressed with the impression that they had parroted off so much that was all Greek to them.

The California schools were not then "graded." They were conducted on the "go as you please" plan, sometimes going with boundary lines, and sometimes with no boundary lines at all.

I excoriated his son mathematically in what, in those days, were called "vulgar fractions." "Don't want," said he, "my son to have anything to do with fractions, anyway. They're no use in business. Anything over half a cent we call a cent on the books, and anything under it we don't call nothing."

So I grounded Thomas in "taro and tre." He grew up, took to evil ways, and was hung by a vigilance committee somewhere in Southern California. A boy who damaged my books very badly sent me, I was expected to cure him. Five or six of my pupils were Mexicans, and spoke very little English.

One of my hardest trials was a great, stout boy, so full of vitality that he could not remain quiet at his desk. I could not blame him. He had force enough inside of him to run a steam engine. It would have vent in some direction. But it would not expend itself in "learning lessons."

But that boy at that moment hiring polished and scholarly men to do work for him, took repair harness or wagon and keep an eye out for skulking Indians. Who, if not "hostile," were not saints. When it came to using the hand and the hand together he had in him "go," "guption" and executive ability, and none of my "teaching" put it where it was in him either.

But he was not the boy to drive a team through a wild country and dispose of

concessions in stage machinery, dramatic criticisms, with notes; how to play baseball indoors; The World's funny side; Bill Nye on his travels; a page story by E. J. Conroy; David Porter, and a page devoted to the entertainment of the young.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOTED MILLIONAIRE. His vast wealth and unostentatious character—leading a frugal life—The Grandeur of His Wife's Tomb—The New Head of the Family.

"He died as he had lived, like a gentleman." This was the statement of the physician who stood by the bedside of the head of the house of Astor, listened for his latest breath, and closed his eyes when his battle had ended.

The greatest personal owner of real estate in the largest city of the Union, he had many responsibilities as a landlord outside the main duties of keeping his property in repair and collecting his rents.

Mr. Astor's pedestrian habits from his childhood in quiet surroundings, something of a disagreeable and somewhat of an unassuming character. On one occasion, when he was passing the muddy, muddy street, he was struck by a horse.

He was not a man of many words, and he was not a man of many actions. He was a man of few words, and he was a man of few actions.

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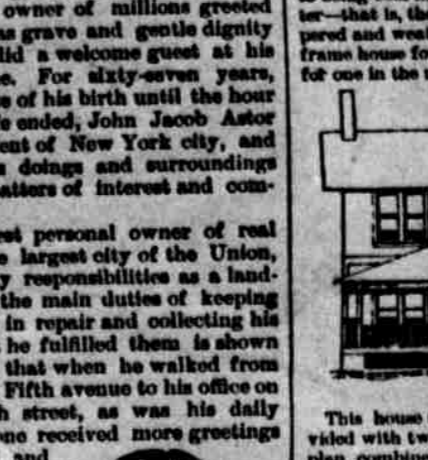
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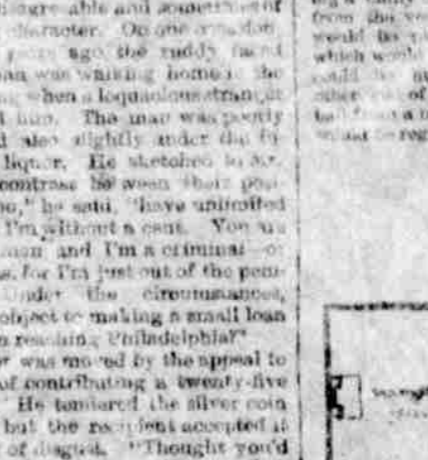
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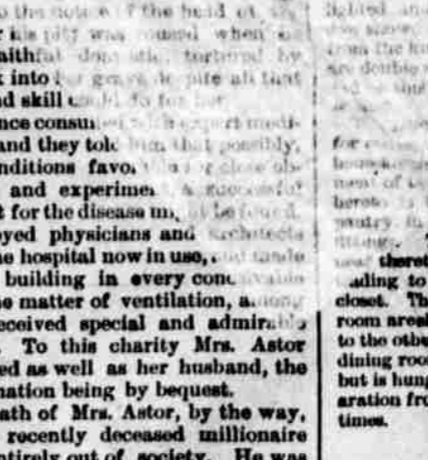
DESIGN AND PLAN OF A HOME FOR WINTER USE IN FLORIDA. While this plan was designed for a winter home in Florida, it is in many respects applicable to a home in any other warm climate.



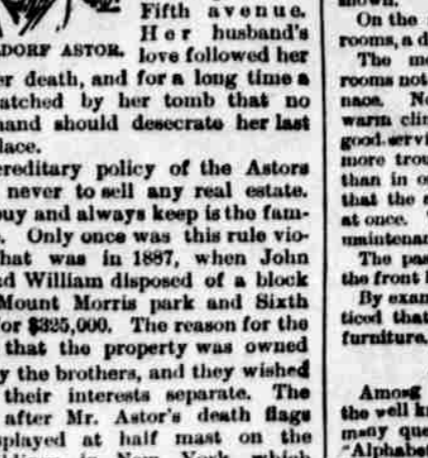
This house may be made smaller and is provided with two full stories and an attic. The plan combines the features of two houses which have been recently built in the north.



During the periods of ordinary temperature this feature would add to the comfort of living in this building. It makes a very attractive feature architecturally.



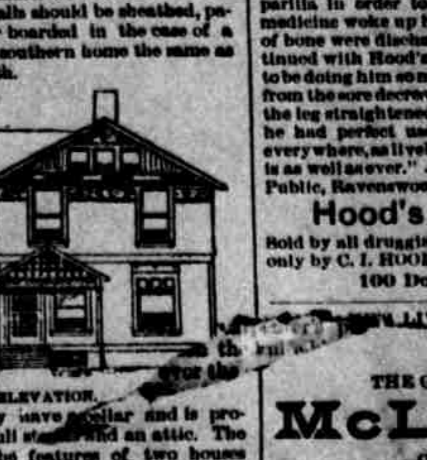
Over the fireplace, and extending the full width of the room, a gallery from which the book may be taken down into a room. Under it is a book rack, lighted by a window at one end.



A desirable arrangement of porch is shown. On the second floor there are four bedrooms, a dressing room and bath.

Among the papers of William DeWitt, the well known actor who died in 1868, are many queer records. Among them is an Alphabetical Record of Parts Acted by William DeWitt Since 1836.

HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA. A white swelling is one of the very best forms of scrofula and is distinguished from the remarkable effect of Hood's Sarsaparilla.



It is true that the temperature is quite often as high in some of our northern cities as it is in the south, though the continuance of the heated period is not usually so great.

During the periods of ordinary temperature this feature would add to the comfort of living in this building. It makes a very attractive feature architecturally.

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