

The Scranton Tribune

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When space will permit, the Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its readers bearing on current topics, but its rule is that they must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name, and the Tribune is not bound to accept letters in which all contributions shall be subject to editorial revision.

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SCRANTON, JUNE 21, 1901.

Mr. Bryan seems to have been of the opinion that the Missouri third party ship is not of sufficient tonnage for his use.

One Result of an Evil System.

THE Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, commenting editorially on the discovery that Miss Mabel L. Burt, the young woman who confesses to the theft of watches and jewelry from her fellow-students at Smith college, Massachusetts, is the victim of mental derangement brought on by overstudy in the Brighton preparation high school, and its affording a possible explanation of her otherwise unaccountable conduct, makes some pertinent remarks on "the evil fruits of the forcing process."

It relates what came out in the legal investigation of the case, that three days before her graduation at Brighton she was notified that her rank as a scholar entitled her to valedictory honors, and she wrote them for the coming commencement. "The previous strain of intense application was thus supplemented by unexpected pressure, and, young as she was, her mind seems to have received an abnormal bias in the direction of kleptomaniac."

Our Rochester contemporary makes note of the existence of a habit in the press to speak sneeringly of this mania as simply a name for plain stealing. But, making all due allowances for cases in which this may be true, there are real instances of it as insane mania. It goes on to quote the conclusions of several eminent physicians who have taken into account not only the peculiarities of her conduct, but the conditions apparently leading up to them, and have pronounced her mentally deranged.

As the Democrat and Chronicle says, "the case deserves general notice only because of the suggestions it affords regarding the perils of overstudy in our schools." Of the results these perils bring about in great numbers of cases it summarizes whole classes of them in a way that every thoughtful reader of the daily news knows to be true. It says: "Sometimes the effects take the form of nervous prostration. The system suddenly breaks down completely and the victim becomes a mental and physical wreck. In other cases the brain alone is affected, while the physical powers retain their accustomed vigor. Melancholia often ensues and the newspapers repeatedly announce the suicide of students upon some trivial pretext, such as a failure to pass an examination. In nearly every such case the trouble is due to unnatural and cruel over-stimulation as a result of a system of study in many of our schools which goads young and growing youths into unflagging exertion to pass creditable examinations."

Of this juggernaut idol of written examinations and averages made up from them instead of from each pupil's daily school work, our contemporary goes on to speak, and to answer the false and unwarranted excuses for it made by its advocates: "It is said by apologists for this system that it is adjusted to the average intelligence of pupils, and that while the brighter ones easily cover and exceed it only the dull but conscientious scholars have to subject themselves to the strain which imperils their health. That is plausible but not always in accordance with the facts."

It proceeds, with clear insight into the truth that this paper has been engaged in stating, to point out that "the new plan now in vogue in some cities, of permitting the ready learners to advance to higher grades as they excel their slower classmates, is a rational one and, if intelligently applied, will put an end to much of the trouble caused by the old system under which efforts were perpetually made to force dull pupils into a killing pace so as to secure a general high standing for their grade."

"The schools are maintained not for the benefit of teachers, superintendents or school boards, but for the benefit of the pupils. To sacrifice the welfare of the pupils to the ambition of teachers or officials is in a high degree culpable."

Our Rochester contemporary is glad to say that under the present administration of the schools there is a new and better way has largely come in. We wish the same could be said here.

The czar of Russia can at least select a few desirable sons-in-law.

soon after his arrival, and it is really surprising that this convenience has been so long neglected.

Varied Views on Wise Giving.

THE LEGAL proceedings recently begun by citizens of Norristown to restrain the local authorities from accepting a gift from Andrew Carnegie for the erection of a library building and the beginning of a library, caused the Philadelphia Times to inquire into the way Mr. Carnegie's library gifts are looked at in some other towns. Mr. Carnegie's gifts, as now perfectly well understood, are conditioned upon the towns accepting them pledging themselves to appropriate yearly ten per cent. of the amount of his donation, to keep up the library.

"The Times a few days ago published replies to its question from nine municipalities in this state. Of these, Reading is the only one from whence the reply comes that public officials and people would welcome the gift with its conditions. This, although the city already has one free library, Wilkes-Barre says no; the Osterhout free library is all it wants, but it would "glad to accept a donation from Mr. Carnegie, or some other wealthy man, for the Boys' Industrial association."

Altoona says it has a free library "established some years ago by the Pennsylvania railroad and maintained by it, which fulfills all the requirements of the average Carnegie library and does not cost the city a penny."

Allentown says no, as to a library. If Mr. Carnegie would give \$100,000 to Millburg college there, conditioned on citizens and others raising an equal sum, the mayor says that would be acceptable. Lancaster, West Chester, Williamsport, Chester and Chambersburg say no. The public funds are wanted in each far more for other public improvements than for putting into yearly library appropriations as conditioned by Mr. Carnegie.

Across the Atlantic, as the world is aware from the paper made over Mr. Carnegie's Scottish universities gift, he has chosen another line than library founding for his donations. Now, according to information cabled over from London, the gift has stirred up intense jealousy for the sake of some of England's higher institutions, notably the "University of London," which both parliament and "the wealthy sons of the founders of the institution" are charged as dealing with a degree of liberality amounting to intense meanness.

One London educational paper is quoted by the correspondent as looking farther abroad than Mr. Carnegie's Scottish contribution. It notes American men's gifts to education. Such benefactions as, for instance, Mr. Rockefeller's to the University of Chicago, it says "are glorious." It asks, reviewing the London university's situation: "Is there no wealthy citizen sufficiently patriotic to emulate his example? Is there any expatriated British millionaire in the United States who will come to the rescue of institutions whose founders were in their day very advanced educational reformers, the men who first suggested that science, then deemed an unstart and infidel, had a claim to recognition in the curriculum?"

The correspondent closes his account of English feeling and published comments by saying: "It is literally true that Mr. Carnegie's gift has done more to open the eyes of Britons to the real source of America's swift advance to the foremost place among the nations than Mr. Cleveland's Venezuelan message, which they suspected of being a bluff, and Mr. Spurgan's organization of the steel trust, which is the most serious menace that ever hung over their industrial system."

"That," as Rudyard Kipling used to say, "is another story," but it is one most closely related in sequence to the story of library giving and university endowments.

When pay day arrives, Mr. Merriman realizes that he is not the whole thing at the census bureau.

Country Living.

THE STORY of Miss Kate Sanborn's beautifying and rehabilitating an abandoned New England farm that successive tenants had taken everything possible from while giving the ground nothing in return, is one of a number of such experiments successfully made in New England.

farmers' institutes and in the home by men who are quite ready to avail themselves of every modern aid to make outdoor work more easy for themselves, there will be fewer country girls going to cities, seeking for "the good times" they picture there and which for so many of them prove only bad indeed.

Some of the Wonders of the Exposition

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Buffalo, N. Y., June 20. THE PEOPLE who say the Pan-American is a trivial affair, not worth visiting in its present condition, don't know anything about the attraction. It is amazingly big in many respects and is simply interesting enough to pay for all the necessary expense. You are sure to be surprised at its magnitude and beauty. Whatever your preconceived ideas have been as to its completeness, you will not be disappointed if you visit it now, and by the time next week has arrived, very little will remain unfinished.

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western road is carrying heavy passenger traffic now, and the accommodations are fine. Trains are in on time and the service is highly praised here in Buffalo.

In the first place, Buffalo is the nearest place in the world, next to Scranton. Nobody can blame the Lackawanna Iron and Steel people for wanting to come here to stay. I would like to live in Scranton, I'd rather be in Buffalo than anywhere else. The magnificent streets and their beautiful neatness are a joy forever. Then they don't have any fat wheels and you never have to wait for a car. I haven't felt a flat wheel since I've been here, and the cars are all twins, summer cars and long, clean closed ones—you take your choice. The system is excellent in getting to and from the exposition. You are never crowded in going out, and the grounds an admirable arrangement of gray tracks under a colossal shed gives opportunity for securing seats in almost any of the innumerable cars assembled at that point.

You enter the Midway almost as soon as you pass the turnstile, and it winds in a zig-zaggy fashion at once mystifying and delightful. There are all sorts of things you want and do not want to see. I'll tell you all about them tomorrow, so that you don't waste time nor money in doing like the young girl who wanted to go to the ball and see the folly for herself, not wanting the remonstrances of her grandmother.

Tonight, as I sit looking at this wonderful mass of color and richness of architecture lined against the soft rose-tint in the western sky, where, in the air, the lights of the fair glow moon, and one by one the jewels of electricity gleam out. I think it does pay to come a very long distance to see this wonder of American genius, a mass and a famous hand, over yonder in the queer little hooded pagoda, are playing, in only a whisper of melody, "Nearer My God, to Thee," and swiftly, marvelously from the tower, wonderful as "Crossed the city and then, at last, from splendid dome and fast-stretching pergola, adown the Esplanade, across the Court of the Lilies and over the Bridge of Triumph, flash forth the points of flame which give to the strange and marvelous of unearthly splendor. It is like nothing else dreamed of in our philosophy; like no other vision in the inmost soul, and suddenly across the consciousness flits, like a wreath of electricity, the thought: "It is a myth, we children of men, in this drawing from infinite space the forces of the Almighty, the veiled mysteries of the Beyond; nay, perhaps the very spirit of the ether." What if some day in our tenacity we grasp with too close a touch the lightning of the Eternal?

But, farther and farther shine forth the lights of the modern age, about the throat of beauty, and their lustre falls into the fair lakes and transfigures the spray uprising, touches with a golden glow the grand canal and the bright robes of the Oriental fountain sets them in a triple crown above the Temple of Music and sheds an unearthly glory upon the exquisite flying figure over the Court of the Fountains, and speculations are drowned in the tide of beauty's flood the senses from every side.

If only this surpassingly magnificent display were all, it were well worth a wearisome journey, but it is not all, and the people who can get enough of the exhibition and the attractions near Buffalo in three days are superior to the average run of mankind. These nights are not enough to hear the lovely music and see the many interesting exhibits.

But, remember one thing. You want your overcoat and your seal-skin saccos. The chill comes down like a wolf on the fold in Buffalo at night, and it goes to your very marrow, like the dagger of despair. All the glow of the electrical display will be powerless to warm you after the first few moments of exhilaration at the wonderful spectacle, unless you are fortified with blankets and furs.

Buffalo skies always frown in the morning. You arise and look out of the window and see "the dawn come up like thunder," not out of "China over the bay, such as Kipling saw on the road to Mandalay, but out of Lake Erie and the Niagara river. You put on your oldest gown, your most disreputable shoes and most unbecoming hat. Then you gallop forth and the sun comes out gloriously, and you look like a tramp. Then you say anathemas.

Among the visitors from Scranton are Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hallstead, Colonel and Mrs. M. H. Hallstead, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McClave, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Seibecker, Miss Cornelia Mattes, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Weston and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hinds. They were here on an automobile trip. "Tomorrow I'll tell you all about how cheaply you can see the exposition—and oh, a whole lot of things."

H. C. P.

place to be filled there were ten or fifteen applicants, many of them telling the most piteous hard luck stories. A large percentage of the men applying for work are strikers, he says, who have begun to feel the effects of the long drawn out struggle between capital and labor.

THIS AND THAT.

There is a movement on foot among several prominent members of the board of control to have incorporated in the new rules and regulations now being compiled a provision providing for a new system covering the appointment of teachers to positions in the city schools.

The members who are behind the movement contend that the young women who graduated from the training school one, two or three years ago should be given the preference when appointments are being made, he says, and the individual controllers the right to select any candidate whom they may desire, even though the candidate should have just graduated from the training school.

The plan proposed is to create an eligible list in which could be placed the names of all the graduates from the training school in the order of their graduation. When the need arises it is proposed to give the controller of the school in which the vacancy occurs the right, as in the past, to name the teacher, with the provision that only those whose names are first on the list, year by year.

Thus, if a vacancy should occur in a certain school, the controller would have the list of candidates who had graduated in 1897, the controller would have his choice of naming any one of these three to fill the vacancy.

It is contended that there have been instances in the past year or so where young women who graduated from the training school have been given positions as teachers for one year, only to be put out at the expiration of the year and their places filled by young women who had just graduated. In other words, it is alleged that they were obliged to step aside for other young women who during the year that they were teaching, were not in school. Those who are behind the movement above referred to maintain that this is unfair and unjust and should be stopped.

Among the Scranton boys who have distinguished themselves by scholarly prowess at college are the year class of Edward R. Hughes, of West Scranton, and Thomas Archie Morgan, who graduated from the School of the Lackawanna last year. The list of prize winners was announced Wednesday at Lafayette and Lehigh universities and both young men were found to be among the honored students. Hughes won the Charlemagne Tower prize in French history at Lafayette and Morgan took a first prize of \$30 at Lehigh, offered the members of the freshman class for excellence in declamation.

Rev. W. H. Williams, of Scranton, Pa., is to lecture at the Christy Methodist Episcopal church tomorrow evening, having for his subject, "The Last Days of the Tiger." Mr. Williams is lecturing under the auspices of the Anti-Saloon league. He is an old Cincinnati boy and his mother still resides on Woodward street. Before entering the lecture he will be elected to the position of the most brilliant at the Cleveland campment.

A boom for Thomas J. Stewart, adjutant general of Pennsylvania, has been started by Grand Army men for commander-in-chief of the grand Army of the Republic. Prominent Grand Army men are petitioning that he will be elected to this position on the next ballot at the Cleveland campment.

The bill allowing Luzerne county an additional law judge passed the house at Harrisburg Wednesday night and now goes to the senate.

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Who Wants an Education \$1,000 Scholarships.

For the Work of a Few Weeks. The Scranton Tribune offers an exceptional opportunity to the young people of Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania to its second great

EDUCATIONAL CONTEST

- The Special Rewards:
- Scholarship in Lafayette College.....\$1,000
 - Scholarship in Swarthmore College..... 1,000
 - Scholarship in Stroudsburg Normal School 675
 - Three Scholarships in Scranton Business College, \$60 Each..... 180
 - Two Scholarships in Scranton Conservatory of Music, \$75 Each..... 150

Each contestant failing to secure one of these special rewards will be given ten (10) per cent. of all the money he or she turns in.

Here is an opportunity for some ambitious young people to earn the best college education without a great amount of effort, and it is an opportunity that may never be repeated. The Tribune may find the returns much less than the expense and would then be unable to again make such generous offers. Such a condition will be the Tribune's loss and the contestants' gain.

There are many young men, and young women, too, who would be glad of an opportunity to "work their way through college," in fact, the presidents of these institutions are deluged with applications for chances of this kind. Here the work for an entire course of four years can all be accomplished in three small months, and an education that would cost in cash \$1,000 is assured without further outlay. Parents should urge their boys and girls to enter the contest and work for one of the special rewards. One of the eight is within the reach of everyone who really tries.

Send a letter to The Tribune for full particulars, including handsomely illustrated booklet. Address,

Editor Educational Contest, Tribune, Scranton, Pa.

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