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THE AGITATOR.

Devoted to the Extension of the Area of Freedom and the Spread of Healthy Reform.

WHILE THERE SHALL BE A WRONG UNRIGHTED, AND UNTIL "MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN" SHALL CEASE, AGITATION MUST CONTINUE.

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THE DAYS OF YORE.

BY JOHN LL. WILLIAMS.

Old friends, old friends, the dear old friends, Whom time has swept away, Ah, what can make the heart amend?

Little Sunbeam.

"Christmas is coming, isn't it, grandpa?" "I suppose it is, one of these days; what of that, Sunbeam?"

The Father of Waters.

The vastness of the great Mississippi river, is thus given by a newspaper correspondent who writes from Maiden Rock, Wisconsin:

From Dr. Beecher's Life Thoughts.

There are many professing Christians who are secretly vexed on account of the charity they have to bestow, and the self-denial they have to use.

I never knew my mother. She died when I was three years old, that she might be an angel to me all my life.

A babe is a mother's anchor. She cannot swing far from her moorings. And yet a true mother never lives so little in the present as when by the side of the cradle.

God designed men to grow as trees grow in open pasture, full boughed all around; but men in society grow like trees in a forest.

It is with the singing of a congregation as with the sighing of the wind in the forest, where the notes of the million rustling leaves, and the boughs striking upon each other,

You might as well go to the catacombs of Egypt, and scrape up the dust of mummies, and knead it into forms, and bake them in an oven, and call such things men, and present them as citizens and teachers,

How do you do, Mrs. Towse? Have you heard the story about Mrs. Gad?

Not parties, but principles. Let us be of no party but God's party, and use all other agencies as we use railroad cars—traveling upon one train as far as it will take us in the right direction, and then leaving it for another.

Now you won't say anything about it, will you?

Well, if you'll believe it, Mrs. Lunda told me last night, that Mrs. Trot told her that her sister's husband was told by a person that dreamed it, that Mr. Trouble's oldest daughter told Mrs. Nichols, that her grand-mother heard by a letter which she got from her sister's second husband's oldest brother's step daughter, that it was reported by the captain of a clam boat, just arrived from the Fejes Island, that the mermaids about that section wear crinoline made out of shark skins!

A gentleman of Virginia, had a fine negro, to whom he gave the privilege of hiring himself out, and keeping one-half the wages.

But you see massa, said Sam. I've had a cough some time, and specs I'm gwine in to dismption. I don't spec I shall last more'n two or three years, and I'd like to take dat man in!

A young physician asking permission of a lady to kiss her she replied:

The strongest minded woman-shrinks from being caught in her night cap.

The Game of Checkers.

"Aunt Molly," said Fanny Osborne, one evening, "did you ever hear any one pop the question?"

"Why, certainly, my child, I heard your uncle Charlie pop it, as you call it."

"Oh yes, of course," said Fanny, but one doesn't often tell their own experience. I mean did you ever hear any one else?"

"Well, yes," replied Aunt Molly, slowly "I did happen to once."

"O please tell me all about it," cried Fanny, "I would so like to be a little mouse in the wall on such an occasion."

"Very well," said Aunt Molly, "get your work, then, for I don't like to talk to an idle listener."

Fanny established herself, and Aunt Molly began: "It was about ten years after I was married, and house-keeping, that cousin Will Morris, uncle Benjamin's son, came to live with us; that is he was a partner in your uncle Charlie's store, and boarded with us. You never saw Will, did you?"

"He was a whole souled, straight forward substantial young man, not lacking in polish, either; but very bashful, so much so that I used really to pity him sometimes, when we had young company. Annie Evans was an old school-mate of mine, and just after I went to house-keeping, her parents moved to Oxford, and lived only a short distance from us. Annie used frequently to bring her work, and spend the evening with me, and uncle Charlie would go home with her. Those were rare times, Fanny, and we enjoyed them fully. Annie was a real woman; none of your nonsensical, love sick girls, whose heads are full of beaux that they won't hold anything else."

Fanny blushed as Aunt Molly said this, but Aunt looking very demure, and continued: "And knowing her as I did, I felt particularly anxious that she should be well settled in life."

"That means, with a good husband," replied Fanny, roguishly,

"Certainly," said Aunt Molly; "and after Will, came, and I became acquainted with him, I took it into my head that he and Annie would make a capital match. But somehow, after he came, Annie did not come so often, and Will, who was very entertaining in his conversation when we were alone, in her presence, was silent and awkward in his manner, as if under restraint; and Annie took but little notice of him, only as far as politeness required, and requested me privately to arrange it, that uncle Charlie should still go home with her, that is, if he had no objections. So the young people's acquaintance progressed slowly. Time and habit arrange these things beautifully, and gradually they came to be more familiar, so as even to call each other by their christian names. I helped it about though, for I could not bear the formality of Mr. Morris and Miss Evans. Just as I expected—Will became very much interested in Annie; for that matter he had admired her from the first, but he was modest in his pretensions, and seemed to regard her as beyond his reach. At any rate he could not summons courage to speak on the subject nearest his heart."

"How did you know, Aunt Molly?" inquired Fanny.

"Oh, from observation," replied Aunt Molly, "and Annie did not help the matter any, for though she was quite friendly and social in his company, yet there was nothing in her manner that betrayed the slightest interest in him. Well, one evening, Annie had been spending the afternoon with me, and were about talked out, when Will came home from the store, and I proposed their playing a game of checkers. Uncle Charlie had gone to a political meeting. I sat some distance off, sewing, and with one eye watching the game. They were both good players, and for a long time moved silently, and apparently intent on the game. At length as if conscious that her case was hopeless, Annie remarked, identifying herself with the man she was moving, 'I see you are after me Will.'"

"If I catch you," spoke Will with sudden energy, "will you leave me undisputed possession?"

Annie looked up, startled by his manner, and seeing in his eager face the meaning he had placed upon her words, paused, blushed deeply, hesitated and presently replied

Will rose hastily, dropped the board—the checkers ran all over the floor, and taking Annie by the hand, led her to me, saying:—"Cousin Mary do you think I deserve this happiness?"

THE PRESENT DUTY.

Ah, why against thyself sad warfare wage— Writing such bitter things on memory's page? And why does all the future seem to thee So clad in hues of dark dependency?

Be wise, then, and improve the fleeting Now; No more this palying grief and fear allow; The past, with all its vanity, is gone, The present, with its hope, is all that's down;

AN ESSAY, Read before the Tioga Co. Teacher's Institute, May 1858; BY H. N. WILLIAMS.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen; The subject I have chosen for your consideration, and a few remarks, is Primary Education—a subject that should engage the attention of every teacher in the public schools of Tioga County—a subject that embraces matters of vital and vast importance; vital, because it is the starting point of the young voyager o'er life's dark sea; vast, because it is the foundation of all education, good or bad, judicious or deficient. Every man whose name has graced history's page, who has been an ornament to his country and a blessing to humanity, points with great pleasure to the primary school, as the place where he received his first deep-fraught impressions of duty, and acquired the energy requisite to nobly accomplish his purpose. Also, the greatest criminals bemoan their early education, erroneous and deficient, as the cause, why they have been so much the curse of mankind. Again, I repeat, the subject is richly and deeply laden with great and essential importances. There is no time better than in childhood to lay the foundations of an education that shall exalt, ennoble and beautify the possessor. With the youth, the philanthropist most hopes to succeed in great reforms. All eyes are turned toward the young, as the staff and hope of the future.

The true statesman for men that shall push forward to the acquirement of more liberal institutions than has been man's lot to enjoy heretofore; the christian and moralist, for men of deeper piety and more sterling integrity, to do battle against a sinful world. The present living, love to dwell on pictures of the imagination, highly wrought and fancifully colored, portraying the mighty deeds and wonderful achievements of their children and their children's children; and neglect great and imperative duties for no other cause. Such conduct is extremely reprehensible, and must be accounted for to the smallest minutiae. Man has no right to dream through life, and as it were, rust away, thoughtless and inert. Verily, it is our duty to place the young in as advantageous positions as possible, and not to leave them bound in error and superstition. From earliest time to the present, the animals have changed as little as the herbage on which they feed, or the trees beneath which they find shelter. Not so with man; although in infancy the most helpless of all living creatures, and if left to himself, growing up in many respects inferior to the nobler brutes, he is endowed with faculties capable of infinite expansion, and will continue to progress till he assumes his God-ordained position—a little lower than the angels. The simile is not inelegant, to liken man, anterior to moral and intellectual culture, to a diamond in the rough—a giant in slumber. Polish that diamond aright; arouse that giant to correct and judicious action, and oh, how brilliant, how transcendently glorious, the perfect, the free man! Oh, that diamond of the soul! the immortal soul! how precious, how priceless, beyond the value of rubies, and how far exceeds it Golconda's boasted jewels! The strength of the intellect no earthly power can withstand. The infant mind is a mystery; it has longings and wants that none but the master hand can feed and supply. The infant heart has recesses of immeasurable depth and richness, and few parents or teachers can reach the bottom and bring forth its glorious wealth; it has fountains that should pour forth waters of living purity; and strings that should ever harmonize with nature and nature's God! But all, all depends on education. And what is education? The word is derived from *Edo*, out, and *duco*, to lead; hence education means to lead out the mind, to strengthen and enlarge the moral and intellectual faculties. Education and instruction are often confounded, and used for one and the same thing. Instruction means the pouring into the mind—storing it with facts and truths.—Instruction is a necessary concomitant of education, but without education, instruction is as useless as jewels at the bottom of old ocean's deep, or beneath the mountain's base. Education is divided into three heads, physical, intellectual and moral, and these are so closely interwoven, that the promotion of one is the promotion of the other. Physical education, for some reason, has been sadly neglected. Parents and teachers have shown a culpable indifference on the subject. Most surely the body as much needs development as the faculties of the mind, in order to bring forth the full and perfect man. So mysterious is the union of mind and matter, that an intellectual giant and a physical dwarf are incompatible. Anatomy, physiology and hygiene are intensely interesting subjects, and have a high moral tendency. No person can become familiar with the human organism without admiring the manner of its creation, so fearful, so wonderful, so majestic, nor with-

out being led instinctively, up to the great Creator, God. There is no better time than in youth to instill the principles of health and long life, and make them useful ere disease has fastened its destroying fangs upon the constitution.

The teacher who lets his scholars sicken and die through ignorance of the laws of health, is inadequate to the calling, however well he may be informed in other respects. Many are the constitutional bankrupts caused through ignorance of, and inattention to the laws of health. 'Tis no glory to have it said, "the pupil has studied himself to death."

'Tis no honor to have a mind which the body is unable to support. Every teacher should make physiology a study in school. It is the pupil's imperative demand. Next comes the intellectual development of the child—a part of education that should elicit the most arduous care and scrupulous nicety on the part of the teacher. It is here that habits of thought are to be formed; and how necessary that they be correct. Neatness, order and regularity of business depend upon early education. A vast amount of the worthless, superficial education prevalent, is chargeable to teachers. The poor spelling, ridiculous and shameful as it is, is a neglect in the primary school. Can there be too much exactness in these things? Nay, verily! This pushing scholars forward with but a superficial understanding of what they have gone over, and having them conjugate their "amo, amas, amat," when they scarcely know the elemental sounds of the alphabet, is too ridiculous to be tolerated and should be remedied. It is in this branch of education that the child is to be led, step by step, to think, feel and act for himself, and to know and appreciate that he has an independent identity, a self-existence, and is fast approaching the stage of active life and accountability; and these cannot be too forcibly impressed on the child's mind. Lastly comes the moral: No part of education is of so vast importance as this. Without it, what is man? Worse than the brute. Educate him in all else, and he is only the stronger to do injury and carry out his plans of wickedness. It only enables him to be the greater villain, make more complete his own ruin, and more dangerous his pernicious influence. The undying soul, in a probationary state for eternal weal or woe, is too precious to be tampered with by polluted hands. The human heart is so prolific of evil, that unless good seed be sown early, tares and thistles will spring up in luxurious growth. No education is complete without a full development of these faculties of the mind, which make the man bold in the defence of truth and right, and a hater of vice and its inevitable results, and strong to do battle with the baser part of his nature.

Man is emphatically a creature of imitation, made up by the surrounding associations. The infant mind is capable beyond our belief, and ere we think it able to understand the least things, it is watching every motion, every word and look, and treasuring them up, deep in the recesses of the heart. The child looks on the teacher as a pattern, and its greatest ambition is to imitate the paragon. The teacher cannot be too much on his guard; cannot watch every motion or word too closely. For who shall compensate, if the faults of the teacher ruin the child? Who shall enter into a mother's heart and describe her feelings as she finds on the return of her child from school—a child she has taught with arduous care, that he has learned to swear, to lie and deceive. Language is inadequate to the task. None but mothers can feel so deeply. The teacher who puts on a fair exterior, but is inwardly dead and rotten at the heart; who secures the child's confidence, but to lead it in the path of deception and vice, is a thousand times more to be dreaded than the viper that coils itself in the child's pathway, and secretly waits to inject its poisonous venom into life's crimson current. Here, in this branch of education, is a field of labor for the highest intellect, the greatest development of mind, and the teacher who triumphantly succeeds in this department of education, has performed the most difficult of tasks, and is worthy of the greatest praise. In this branch of education all the noble and manly sentiments are called forth; and as the eagle with

Storm-darting plume and sun-gazing eyes, mounts aloft and braves the furious blast to lead forth its young to soar in the deep convective blue, so should the teacher rise above the petty cares, grovelling thoughts and baser nature of man, and, pointing heavenward, instruct the child that it is not all of life to live; that great and imperative duties are to be performed; that an inheritance, glorious and bright, is to be obtained and enjoyed, long after this poor body is laid low in the dust!

An old settler near Bloomington, Illinois, has seen the toughest times of any man we ever heard of. He says the winter of 1830 was remarkable for the scarcity of money; so much so, that one man who was elected Justice of the Peace, couldn't raise money enough to pay an officer for swearing him in; so he stood up before a looking-glass and qualified himself.

There is a divine oil west trying to persuade girls to forego marriage. He might as well try to persuade ducks that they could find a substitute for water, or rosbuds that there is something better for their complexion than sunshine. The only convert he has yet made is a single lady, aged sixty!

The Chinese have a saying that an unholy word dropped from the tongue, cannot be brought back again by a coach and six horses.