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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.

VOL. V.

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TEACHER'S COLUMN.

Has a Schoolmaster the Right to Punish a Child?

In the Court of Quarter Sessions in Philadelphia, on Thursday, a case of some interest, not only to parents and guardians, but to the teachers in public schools, was on trial. From a report of the cases in the Ledger, we quote as follows:

"The case was one in which a teacher had sued a lady for assault and battery, which, it was alleged, was committed in the school-house, Germantown road and Phenix street. The defendant was charged with having entered the room, and seizing the teacher by the hair of the head, dragged her to the floor and otherwise maltreating her. This treatment created quite an excitement among the scholars many of whom ran out of the room terror-stricken. The defence was that the teacher had severely punished a child of the defendant. This child is about nine years of age, and has lost the use of her right side; and it alleged, that for talking in school she was struck on the hand with a piece of ratan, which drew blood. This coming to the knowledge of the mother, she immediately called at the school, and committed the assault, though, in answer to a question from the judge, she stated that she did not go for that purpose, but was exasperated by the teacher telling her that she had whipped her daughter, and would do so again."

"All the evidence in relation to the treatment of the child was ruled out, as no justification for the assault, and the defendant then pleaded guilty. Judge Ludlow, in passing the sentence of the court, said: 'This case comes before the court under peculiar circumstances, as it is intimately connected with the good discipline of our public schools. The rule is no doubt correct, as the law is, that when a parent places a child within the walls of a school, it is to be under the care and control of the teacher. This must be the case in any and every school. When the child is thus placed, the first thing to be inculcated in its mind is obedience to the rules and regulations of the school, and if it disobey them, it must receive the punishment due to the offence. If it should once become understood that a mother can go into a school-room and interfere with the teachers, imperiling the lives of the scholars by creating a panic, there would be an end to all order among the pupils. If there is any wrong done by the teacher, the parent has a remedy: first, by an application to the directors of the school, and, second, by a resort to the law.'"

Is the Moon Inhabited.

"It has long been known that the moon revolves on its axis in the same time in which it revolves round the earth, and that it consequently always presents nearly the same side towards the earth, while the opposite side is never seen from our globe. No bodies of water nor clouds can be seen on the moon by the aid of the most powerful telescope, nor is the apparent direction of stars close to its edge changed by refraction, as would be the case if an atmosphere enveloped the moon. Hence it has been inferred by Whewell, the reputed author of a late work entitled, 'Of Plurality of Worlds,' that the moon has no atmosphere or water, and, consequently, no inhabitants."

This inference is shown to be inconclusive by a recent discovery by the astronomer Hensel, whose study of the moon's motion, continued for many years, has established the fact that the centre of the gravity of the moon, instead of being like that of the earth, at the centre, of the figure, is beyond that centre, and farther from the side next to the earth than it is from the other side by seventy-four miles. The nearer side of the moon, therefore, is a vast extended protuberance or mountain seventy miles high; and any fluid, whether air or water, would flow downwards from the nearer to the farther side of the moon, where, for aught we know, intelligent living beings may exist. The nearest side of the moon, cannot be inhabited, at least by beings to whose existence air and water is essential, as is the case with all terrestrial animals."

The late celebrated mathematician, Gauss, proposed as a means of settling the question whether the moon is inhabited, that a high monument should be erected on the steppes of Siberia, as a signal to the inhabitants of the moon in the hope that they might be induced to erect a similar signal to apprise us of their existence. The discovery of Hensel shows that the experiment could be attended with no success, inasmuch as the inhabitants of the moon, if there are any, being on the farther side, could never see a monument on the earth. It may not be uninteresting to add, that it has been discovered, within a few years by means of long continued, hourly observations with the barometer, that the moon exerts an appreciable influence on the pressure of the atmosphere; and also by means of long continued magnetic observations, that it exerts an influence on the declination of the magnetic needle."

TO E. M.

I'm gazing on the moon to-night, Full many a mile away From where I've stood with thee, dear friend, To watch its glimmering ray.

The Lost Child.

Many years ago, there occurred in Obion county, Tennessee, one of the most thrilling domestic tragedies which move to tears by the paths of their mournful details. A farmer named Riley, who lived near the alluvial bottom which borders the Obion river, had an only child, a daughter, some six or seven years old. Little Ella was the darling of her parents, and a favorite with all who knew her. To great beauty of person and sprightliness of manner, she added an uncommon share of the winsome graces of childhood. Her merry prattle and ringing laughter were like the cadences of a sweet song echoing through the home and the hearts of her parents.

Another Hat Full, Joel.

A short yarn was spun to us last evening, of and concerning the experiments in milling of a couple of friends of ours, now or lately sojourning for health and pleasure at the Talladega Springs. It is unnecessary to give the names of these gentlemen, but for convenience will call them, respectively, John and Joel. They, it may be remarked, have great similarity of tastes, and among other pursuits, are very fond of fishing; and everybody knows that the vicinity of the Talladega Springs offers fine opportunity to the skillful knight of the fly.

Col. Forney and President Buchanan.

Col. John W. Forney, editor of the Philadelphia Press, attended an anti-Administration political meeting which was held at Tarrytown, New York, on the 2d instant, by the friends of John B. Haskin, Esq., anti-Leocompton, for the purpose of securing his re-nomination to Congress. At this assemblage, Colonel Forney made a long speech, which we find fully reported in the New York papers and in his own journal. It is known that Col. Forney was one of Mr. Buchanan's strongest political and warmest personal friends. But we must let the Colonel speak for himself, in the following extract from his speech—thus:

When the cup was presented to my lips, I refused it. [Bravo and cheers.] Administrations might change, Presidents might change; but I had been too fully and too personally committed on this subject to go back to Pennsylvania, and to turn my back to pledges which I had both spoken and written to thousands of men. I did not believe, however, for a moment, that the Administration was resolved to make the betrayal of the principles of the party which put in power a test; and so, when I went to Washington, I called on my old friend, and said to him: 'Well, Mr. Buchanan, for the first time in our lives we are at variance; I find myself standing by one principle, and, having followed your lead, you have deserted it.' 'Well,' said he, 'cannot you change too? [Laughter.] 'If I can afford to change, why cannot you afford to change? If you and Douglas and Walker will unite in support of my policy, you will not hear a whisper of this thing. It will pass by as the summer breeze.' I told him it was very well for him to say so; that an Administration surrounded by office holders and expectants, living all the time in an atmosphere of flattery, might be led into such ideas. I said that there were thousands of expectants who could come to him and say, 'Mr. Buchanan, you are right. Mr. Buchanan we are down on our knees. Please to walk over us. Please to trample on us, and we will be rendered happy.' I said to him, 'You may believe your policy is right; but I tell you, sir, that there is a still small voice in the people which instinctively rejects and abhors fraud, and this is dishonour.'

BEAUTY AND WIT.

Handsome features alone are incapable of expressing real beauty as speech alone is incapable of expressing real wit.

Habit is everything.

It either makes or breaks a man. If they are good, he goes starwards; if bad mudwards.

A fellow in Iowa jumped so high,

the other day that he saw the dogstar wag his tail.