

THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

Star

R. W. Weaver, Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

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THE STAR OF THE NORTH

IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING BY R. W. WEAVER, OFFICE—Up stairs, in the new brick building, on the south side of Main Street, third square below Market.

Choice Poetry.

SUNDAY. One more week of care and labor His lazily crept away; To the weary wind, rest and quiet Are sent down from Heaven to-day.

ABSURDITIES OF SPEECH.

Insincerity and extravagant adulation often betray people into uttering the most ridiculous absurdities quite unintentionally. A great man addressing the House of Lords, said, "It is my most painful duty to inform your lordships that it has pleased the Almighty God to release the king from his sufferings."

The Philosophy and Beauty of Manners.

Manners are the garments of the spirit—the eternal clothing of the being, in which character ultimately itself. If the character be simple and sincere, the manners will be at one with it—will be the natural outbirth of its traits and peculiarities.

COMMON SCHOOL MATTERS.

From the Penn'a School Journal for September. Monthly Decisions and Instructions of the State Superintendent. DEDUCTIONS.—Deduction for prompt payment of tax.—Directors have no authority to allow a deduction of five per cent, or any other amount, for prompt payment of school tax.

TO DIRECTORS.

Secretary of the Board.—The Secretary, whether appointed District Superintendent or not, is the chief executive officer of the board, and as such, he should make it his business to see that all needed preparations are duly made for the opening of the fall and winter schools.

PHILOSOPHY IN COURT.

No objection that a price is offered this year for a turbine wheel. Mr. Boyden, a civil engineer of Boston. This gentleman was concerned in a suit last year, brought by him in the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, against the Atlantic Cotton Mills of Lawrence, which was of a very interesting character, but has never so far as we are aware, come before the public.

A FEW WORDS ON DOGS.

At this season of the year much fear is entertained for dogs becoming rabid or mad from the supposed effects of hot weather.—Statistics of rabies go to show that, contrary to popular prejudice, it occurs most frequently in cold countries, and during autumn, winter and spring.

BACK BETWEEN WAR STEAMERS.—On returning to England, after the failure to lay the telegraph cable, a trial of speed took place between her Britannic Majesty's ship Agamemnon and the United States steam frigates Niagara and Susquehanna. They started at nine o'clock in the morning, and by five o'clock in the evening the Agamemnon was so far behind that her smoke only could be seen, the Susquehanna was about seven or eight miles behind.

THE MISSOURI ELECTION.—The official report shows that Col. Stewart, the Democratic candidate for Governor of Missouri, is elected by 324 majority. The official vote stands, For Stewart, 47,973; for Rollins, 47,641.

Here is a gem from Dombey that will never grow dim: "She died," said Polly, "and was never seen again, for she was buried in the ground, where the trees grow."

A happy comment on the annihilation of time and space by locomotive agency is as follows: "A little child who rode fifty miles in a railroad train took a coach to her uncle's house, some five miles further, was asked on her arrival if she came by the cars. 'We came a little ways in the cars,' she replied, 'and then all the rest of the way in a carriage.'"

An intelligent lady, whose little boy was beginning to swear, anxious to express to the child her horror of profanity, hit upon the novel process of washing out his mouth with soap suds whenever he swore. It was an effectual cure. The boy understood his mother's sense of the corruption of an oath, which, with the taste of the suds, produced the desired result.

A Nebraska editor announced his plans for celebrating the 4th of July: "We shall luxuriate over our dinner until about 4 o'clock, when we shall go and swim for half an hour, 'tete' for another half hour, and then pitch pennies until dark. In the evening we shall go to a counting."

Spots on the Sun.—According to observations made by M. Rudolphe Wolf, Director of the Observatory of Berne, it appears that the number of spots on the sun have their maximum and minimum at the same time as the variations of the needle. It follows from this, that the causes of these two changes on the sun and on the earth must be the same, and consequently, from this discovery, it will be possible to solve several important problems, in connection with these well-known phenomena, the solution of which has hitherto never been attempted.

The bar-rooms in New York are closing on Sundays. No cock-tails, bitters, or eye-openers! Even the German lager-beer dealers have to succumb. One fellow put over his shop—"No admittance on Holy Sabbath, except on Private Matters," and in German, "Hantere Thuer Offen for Meine Boarders."

Flowers have bloomed in our prairies and passed away, from age to age; unseen by man, and multitudes of virtues have been sown out in obscure places, without notice or admiration. The sweetness of both has gone up to heaven!

Who is a Gentleman? A gentleman is not merely a person acquainted with certain forms and conventionalities of life, easy and self-possessed in the world without awkwardness, and free from habits which are vulgar and in bad taste. A gentleman is something much beyond this.

Counterfeit Liquors. The London Times notices, in a list of joint stock companies in Paris, formally sanctioned by the perfect of police, the name of the "General Company of Fictitious or Counterfeit Wines." The company holds title to no grape juice or alcohol is used, but do not specify the ingredients. The article is sold at four to eight sous per quart, and the company has a capital of six million francs.

Good Taste in Dress. It was an observation of Lavater, says a writer in the Boston Post, that persons habitually attentive to dress display the same regularity in their domestic affairs. "Young women," says he, "who neglect their toilet, and manifest little concern about their apparel, indicate in this very particular a disregard of order; a mind but little adapted to the details of housekeeping; a deficiency of taste and of the qualities that inspire love. The girl of eighteen who desires not to please, will be a shrew and a slut at twenty-five."

of the permanent certificate has been prepared, considerably modified in style and appearance, and will be mailed to Superintendents about the time this notice reaches them. They will deliver the new style of certificate, without a re-examination, to all such holders of the old style as they are satisfied, from what they know of their qualifications, are fairly entitled to it. In all other instances they are instructed to require a re-examination, and grant such certificates as the result may justify.

Temporary Certificate.—A new edition of the temporary certificate, slightly modified, will be printed and mailed at the same time, and can be substituted for the old form as circumstances will permit.

Elementary Branches.—There is a prevalent disposition amongst holders of the temporary certificate to extend their studies to branches not named in it, including even modern languages and the classics, and have them inscribed by the Superintendent, while the figures in the elementary branches are not higher than medium; under the impression, apparently, that this addition to their accomplishments would look more respectable and increase their chances for profitable employment. This impression is erroneous, and the practice is not to be commended, because,

1st. The great want of the time is a practical education.

2d. The great defect in education, at the present day, is want of thoroughness.

3d. Wherever else "smatters" may be tolerated, they cannot be afforded in our common schools—where, above all other places, the instruction imparted, whether in the elementary or higher branches, should bear the impress of genuine merit.

4th. Such enlarged certificates, if intended for private schools, are of no official value; and if intended for the public schools, would fall of their object, as the higher class of schools is not sufficiently numerous to afford employment to a tithe of the applicants who would thus present themselves. And if it were otherwise, such certificates would carry with them their own condemnation, and defeat their intended purpose.

County Institutes.—Wherever Superintendents have had no experience in conducting Institutes, they should secure the best assistance that their influence or resources can command. After the job is once broken, they can rely upon themselves and their principal teachers to a good purpose. But a great deal depends upon a right start; and the discipline and assistance of experienced instructors would be an unphilosophical and impolitic as for the unledged teacher to work his own way in the school room, without such assistance.

without such assistance, and the different branches taught to the best advantage.—Without proper classification, the efforts of the teacher can accomplish but little practical good for the school; and the school term results in little better than a loss of time and money for all parties. Text-books are now published in almost countless thousands, and book agents are to be found everywhere, seeking to introduce them; so that directors cannot justly complain that ample facilities are not furnished to their hand, for the discharge of this important branch of their official duty. They should make the best selection that may be practicable, and then firmly adhere to it until fully introduced. But this done, frequent changes are to be avoided, and the annual meeting required by the law, only used to correct palpable mistakes that may have been made in former selections. But directors should resist importunities to introduce the works of one author or publisher merely to displace those of another when the difference between the two is practically immaterial. Frequent changes of this nature defeat the object of the law, create great dissatisfaction on the part of the parents, and prejudice the public against the school system; and are therefore greatly to be deprecated. The greater portion of text-books now issued from the press are so nearly equal in substantial merit, that the particular series selected is of much less importance than the uniformity of such as are used.—The great dependence of the school, under all circumstances, must be upon the Teacher, not upon the text-book. A good teacher can be very successful with an inferior set of text-books, if he but have enough of the same kind to enable him to arrange his pupils in classes; while a poor teacher will fail, no matter what the character and assortment of books.

County Superintendent's Postage.—The postage on all official letters and documents to and from the School Department is paid by the Department. But each district should defray the expense of its own local correspondence out of its own treasury. County Superintendents are not provided with funds to pay postage on their home official business, which, though made up of small items, amounts to a large sum in the course of a year, and becomes oppressive. Teachers, directors, and others, who have occasion to write to the County Superintendent on official business, should always enclose a three cent stamp to pay the return postage. The postage paid by directors should be duly retorted to them out of the district treasury.

Suggestions.—Some of the suggestions to Superintendents this month will interest Teachers; and their co-operation in the views of the Department, and the movements of Superintendents, is respectfully invited. The success of the school system, and the dignity and prosperity of the profession, depend upon the impartial fidelity of the Superintendents, and the voluntary efforts of Teachers.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN INSURER.—The following suggestions to housekeepers, merchants, and those erecting new buildings, may not be valueless: Keep matches in metal boxes, and out of the reach of children. Wax matches are particularly dangerous and should be kept out of the way of rats and mice. Fill fluid or camphene lamps only by daylight, and never near a fire or light. Far better dispose of them altogether. Do not deposit coal or wood ashes in wooden vessels, and be sure burning cinders are extinguished before deposited. Never take a light or ash-tray under a stair case. Never take a light to examine a gas meter. Be careful never to place gas or other lights near curtains.—Never take a light into a closet. Do not read in bed by candle or lamp light. Place glass shades over gas lights in show windows, and do not crowd goods near them. No smoking should be permitted in warehouses or barns. Where furnaces are used, the principal register should always be fastened open. Build all chimneys from the earth. Stove pipes should be at least four inches from woodwork, guarded by tin, and enter substantial brick chimneys horizontally.

A young man, desirous of marrying a daughter of a well known merchant, after many attempts to broach the subject to the old gentleman, in a very stammering manner commenced—"Mr. O—, are you willing to let me have your daughter Jane?" "Of course I am," gruffly replied the old man; "and I wish you would get some other likely fellows to marry the rest of them!"

The price asked for Mount Vernon and the Tomb of Washington is \$200,000.—It has been proposed in Virginia that the Freemasons make up the money necessary to purchase it by the subscription of one dollar or less from each individual.

How to EDUCATE CHILDREN.—Hall's Journal of Health contains the following suggestive paragraph, which ought to be remembered and acted upon by every parent and guardian in the land. The writer says: "Had I the choice of only four things to be taught my children, they should be: To sing well, to read well, to write well, and to sketch well. Proficiency in these will earn their possessor a maintenance in any country, and will enable him to amuse himself or entertain a company, whether it be under a rock in the desert or upon a crag in the sea."

Brougham on the Press. In the course of a discussion in the British House of Lords, on an article in the London Examiner, alleged to be a libel on Lord Plunkett, Bishop of Tuam, Lord Brougham remarked that, with regard to the article which he had read, it was, no doubt, strictly speaking, a breach of the privileges of their Lordships' House; but of what use would it be to contend with the press in such cases as these? He remembered, on one occasion his friend, Mr. Marriott, was represented in a newspaper as having said, at a public meeting in the city, that he would not go in procession to that "d—d old church," meaning some particular church in the city of London. He felt much annoyed at the circumstance, and wrote a letter to the editor, in which he stated that his actual words were, that he would not go to that "damp old church." [A laugh.] The next day there appeared in the newspaper a statement to this effect:—"We have given a place in our columns to the contradiction which Mr. Marriott has made; but at the same time, we think it right to say that we have referred the matter to our reporter who is certain that he used the words 'd—d old church'; and to add that we had the most perfect confidence in the accuracy of our reporter." [Great laughter.] The gentleman complained to him of that treatment, and he (Lord Brougham) recommended him in future not to be too hasty in contradicting any statement that might appear in a newspaper.

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The Masonic Order of the United States numbers three hundred thousand persons, and includes a large portion of all the distinguished civil, military and professional men.

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