THE STAR AND BANNER.

BY D. A. & C. H. BUEHLER

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

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Light of the Aged.

An old man sat in the sun set gold
By the door of the cottage low;
His soft white hair, his reverent air,
His holy smile, all told
His work was finished below.

Children played at the old man's feet,
Three gentle blue-eyed girls;
Their mothers had played in the cottage shade,
With footsteps light and fleet,
And waving golden curls.

His heart was warm to that little band,
Bright in the setting sun,
And he said, "Oh, Lord! I trust in thy word,
I see the promised land,
And I know that my work is done.

I thank thee for the pleasant ways
In which my feet have trod;
I bless for all, both great and small,
But most for these I praise
Thy goodness, oh! my God."

Then a matron stepped from the cottage door,
A matron fair to see;
Her hand she laid on the old man's head,
"Father, I thank God o'er and o'er,
But bless him most for thee.

He never told a Lie.

Once there was a little boy,
With curly head and pleasant eye,
A boy who always spoke the truth,
And never, never told a lie.

And when he trotted off to school,
The children all about would cry,
"There goes the curly-headed boy,
The boy who never tells a lie."

And every body loved him so,
Because he always told the truth,
That every day as he grew up,
'Twas said, "There goes the honest youth."

And when the people that stood near,
Would turn to ask the reason why,
The answer would be always this—
"Because he never tells a lie."

Be Gentle at Home.

There are few families, we imagine, anywhere, in which love is not abused as furnishing license for impoliteness. A husband, father, brother will speak harsh words to those whom he loves best, and those who love him the best, simply because the security of love and family pride keeps him from getting his head broken. It is a shame that a man will speak more impolitely, at times, to wife or sister, than he would dare to any other female, except a low and vicious one.—It is thus that the holiest affections of man's nature prove to be a weaker protection to woman in the family circle than the restraints of society, and that a woman usually is indebted for the kindest politeness of life to those not belonging to her own household. Things ought not to be so. The man who, because it will not be resented, inflicts his spleen and bad temper upon those of his hearth-stone, is a small coward and a very mean man.—Kind words are a circulating medium between true gentlemen and true ladies at home, and no polish exhibited in society can atone for the harsh language and disrespectful treatment between those bound together by God's own ties of blood, and the still more sacred bands of conjugal love.

A Touching Incident.

A little girl, in a family of my acquaintance, a lovely and precious child, lost her mother at an age too early to fix the loved features in her remembrance. She was as frail as beautiful, and as the bud of her heart unfolded, it seemed it won by that mother's prayers to turn instinctively heavenward. The sweet, conscientious, prayer loving child was the idol of the bereaved family. She would lie upon the lap of her friend who took a mother's care of her, and, winding one wasted arm about her neck, would say. "Now tell me about my mamma!" And when the oft old tale had been repeated would softly ask, "Take me into the parlor, I want to see my mamma." The request was never refused; and the affectionate child would lie for hours, contentedly gazing on her mother's potrait. But

"Pale and wan she grew, and weakly—
Bearing all her pain so meekly,
That to them she still grew dearer,
As the trial hour drew nearer."

That hour came at last, and the weeping neighbors assembled to see the little one die. The dew of death was already on the flower as its life-sun was going down. The little chest heaved faintly—spasmodically.

"Do you know me, darling?" sobbed close in her ear the voice that was dearest; but it awoke no answer.

All at once a brightness, as if it were from the upper world, burst over the child's colorless countenance. The eylids flushed open, the lips parted, the wan, cuddling hands flew up, in the little one's last impulsive effort, as she looked piercingly into the far above.

"Mother," she cried, with suprise and transport in her tone—and passed with that breath into her mother's bosom.

Said a distinguished divine, who stood by that bed of joyous death:

"If I had ever believed in the ministration of our departed ones before, I could not doubt it now!"

"Peace I leave with you," said the wisest Spirit that ever passed from earth to heaven. "Let us be at peace, amid the spirit mysteries and questionings on which His eye alone shed the light of eternity.—*National Era.*

SIDNEY SMITH says: "It seems necessary that a great people should die with some great and notable saying. Mr. Pitt said something not intelligible in his last moments. G. Ross made it out to be, Save my country, Heaven! The nurse, on being interrogated, said that he asked for *barley water!*"

A grocer's wife having in a passion thrown an inkstand at her husband, and spattered him all over with the black liquid, some atrocious wretch declared that she had been engaged at the battle of Inkherman.

A noble heart, like the sun, shows its brightest countenance in its lowest estate.

Neither wealth nor birth, but mind only, should be the aristocracy of a free people.

IRISH HEARTS.

AN INTERESTING AND TRUTHFUL SKETCH.

The following sketch from an Irish character our readers will recognize as an old story; but it is so thrillingly interesting, and so true to nature, that we republish it. The narrator prefaces the incident by stating that he found an Irish family—a husband, wife, and several children, on one of our late steamers. They were in great destitution; and the beauty of the children was observed and admired by the passengers. At the request of a lady passenger who, having no children of her own, was desirous of adopting one of the little Irishers, the narrator addressed himself to the head of the family:

Although I had considerable doubts as to the result, I offered my services as negotiator, and proceeded immediately upon my delicate diplomacy. Finding my friend on deck I thus opened the affair:

"You are very poor!"

His answer was characteristic—

"Poor, sir," said he; "aye, if there's a poorer man than me troublin' the world, God pity both of us, for we'd be about aiqual."

"Then how do you manage to support your children?"

"Is it support them, sir? Why, I don't support them any way; they get supported some way or other. It'll be time enough for me to complain when they do"

"Would it be a relief to you to part with one of them?"

It was too sudden; he turned sharply around.

"A what, sir," he cried, "a relief to part from me child! Would it be a relief to have the hands chopped from the body, or the heart torn out of my breast? A relief indeed! God be good to us, what do you mane?"

"You don't understand me," I replied; "if now it were in one's power to provide comfortably for one of your children would you stand in the way of its interests?"

"No, sir," said he; "the heavens knows that I would willingly cut the sunshine away from myself, that they might get all the warm of it, but do tell us wha' your'e drivin' at?"

I then told him a lady had taken a fancy to one of his children; and, if he would consent to it, it should be educated and finally settled comfortably in life.

This threw him in a fit of gratulation. He scratched his head, and looked the very picture of bewilderment. The struggle between a father's love and a child's interest was evident and touching; at length he said—

"O, murther, would'nt it be a great thing for the baby? But I must go and talk with Mary—that's the mother of them; an' it would'nt be right to be giving away her children afore her face, and she to know nothing at all about it."

"Away with you then," said I, "and bring me an answer back as soon as possible."

In about half an hour he returned, leading two of his children. His eyes were red and swollen, and his face pale from excitement and agitation.

"Well," I inquired, "what success?"

"Be dad, it was a hard struggle, sir," said he. "But I've been talkin' to Mary, an' she says, as it's for the child's good, maybe the heavens above will give us strength to bear it."

"Very well, and which of them is it to be?"

"Faix and I don't know, sir," and he ran his eye dubiously over both. "Here's little Norah—she's the oldest, and won't need her mother so much—but then—O! fear an' aigers—it's myself that can't tell which i'd rather part with least; so take the first one that comes wid a blessin'.—There sir," and he handed over little Norah—turning back he snatched her up in his arms, and gave her one long, hearty father's kiss, saying through his tears:

"May God be good him that's good to you, an' them that offers you hurt or harm, may their souls never see St. Pether."

Then taking his other child by the hand, he walked away, leaving Norah with me.

I took her down in the cabin, and we thought the matter settled. It must be confessed, to my great indignation, however, in about an hour's time I saw my friend Pat at the window. As soon as he caught my eye he commenced making signs for me to come out. I did so—and found that he had the other child in his arms.

"What's the matter now?" asked I.

"Well, sir," said he, "I ax your pardon for troubling you about so foolish a thing as a child or two, but we are thinkin' that may be it'd make no difference—you see, sir, I've been talking to Mary, an' she says she can't part with Norah, because the creature has a look ov me; but here's little Bibby, she's purtyer far, an' av you please, sir, will you swap?"

"Certainly," said I, "whenever you like."

So he snapped up little Norah, as though it were some recovered treasure, and darted away from her, leaving little Bibby, who remained with us all night; but lo! the moment when we entered the cabin in the morning, there was Pat making his mysterious signs again at the window, and this time he had the youngest, and a baby, in his arms.

"What's wrong now?" I enquired.

"Be the hokey fly, sir, an' it's myself that's almost ashamed to tell you. You see iv'e been talking to Mary, and she did'nt like to part with Norah, because she had a look ov me, and be my soul, I can't part with Bibby, because she's the model of her mother, but there's little Paudieen, sir. There's a lump of Christian for you, two years old, and not a day more—he'll never be any trouble to any one, for av he takes after his mother, he'll have the brightest eye, and av he takes after his father he'll have a fine broad pair of shoulders to push his way through the world. Will you swap again, sir?"

"With all my heart," said I, "it's all the same to me;" and so little Paudieen was left with me.

"Ah, hah," said I to myself, as I looked into his big laughing eyes, "the affair is settled at last."

But it wasn't, for ten minutes had scarce elapsed, when Pat rushed into the cabin without sign or ceremony, and snatching up the baby in his arms cried out—

"It's no use, I've been talkin' to Mary, an' we can't do it. Look at him, sir, he's the youngest and the best of the batch.—You would'nt keep him from us. You see, sir, Norah has a look ov me, an' Bibby has a look of Mary: but, be me soul, laittle Paudieen has the mother's an' my nose, an'a laittle ov both of uz all over! No, sir, no; we can bear hard fortune, starvation, and misery, but we can't bear to part from our children, unless it be the will of Heaven to take them from uz."

Deal gently with the Erring.

That man possesses an extremely low and grovelling mind, who rejoices at the downfall of another. A noble heart, instead of denouncing as a consummate scoundrel, one who has erred, will throw around him the mantle of charity and the arms of love, and labor to bring him back to duty and to God. We are not our own keepers. Who knows when we shall so far forgot ourselves as to put forth a right hand and sin. Heaven keeps us in the narrow path. But, if we should fall, where would be the end of our course, if in every face we saw a frown, and on every brow we read vengeance; deeper and deeper would we descend into the path of infamy; when if a different spirit were manifested towards us, we might have stayed our career of ruin and died an upright and honest man. Deal gently with those who go astray. Draw them back by love and persuasion, a kind word is more valuable to the lost than a mine of gold. Think of this and be on your guard, ye who would chase to the confines of the grave, an erring and unfortunate brother.

We all have some frailty—
We all are unwise—
And the grace which redeems us,
Must come from the skies.

Benefits of Newspapers in a Family.

Henry Ward Beecher says: "In no other way can so much, so varied, so useful information be imparted, and under circumstances so favorable for educating the child's mind as through a judicious, well-conducted newspaper.

"To live in a village was once to be shut up and contracted. But now a man may be a hermit and yet a cosmopolite.—He may live in the forest, walking miles to a post-office, having a mail but once a week, and yet he shall be found as familiar with the living world as the busiest actor in it; for a newspaper is a spy-glass by which he brings near the most distant things; microscope by which he leisurely examines the most minute; an ear-trumpet, by which he collects and brings within his hearing all that is said and done all over the earth; a museum full of curiosities; a picture-gallery full of living pictures from real life, drawn not on canvass but with printer's ink on paper.

"The newspaper is a great collector; a great traveler, a great lecturer. It is the common people's encyclopedia; the lyceum, the college!"

The influence of a good paper upon the minds of a family of children can hardly estimated: certainly not compared with the cost of the paper itself. It is a universal fact asserted by teachers, and others who have made observations on this subject, that children who have access to useful newspapers, at home, are better spellers, better readers, and understand what they read better; they obtain a practical knowledge of geography and history more readily, make better grammarians, and write better compositions, and, in short, are more intelligent, and learn faster than children brought up in a family without the enjoyment of such reading.

Children are interested in newspapers, because they read about many things with which they are familiar. Often, too, they will read a paper, because it comes new to them, every week, or every month, when they would not open a book. We candidly beleive that a *good* newspaper is worth a quarter's schooling to every child.

An unfortunate Habit.

Some persons are in the habit of dwelling upon and greatly magnifying every little injury they receive at the hands of others. They thus render themselves very disagreeable to those into whose ears they are continually pouring their complaints; and at the same time greatly injure themselves in the estimation of such, whilst they are contributing very much to their own personal misery. How much better would it be were such persons to bury their little troubles, or at least to keep them entirely out of sight! It is to be presumed that they do not sufficiently reflect upon the true nature of their conduct, else they would certainly be more careful to avoid it than they are. Jamieson forcibly exposes the great folly of such conduct by the following illustration:

"A man strikes me with a sword and inflicts a wound. Suppose, instead of binding up the wound, I am showing it to everybody, and after it has been bound up I am taking off the bandage continually and examining the depth of the wound, and make it fester till my limb becomes greatly inflamed and my general health is materially affected; is there a person in the world who would not call me a fool? Now such a fool is he who, by dwelling upon little injuries, or insults, or provocations, causes them to agitate or inflame his mind. How much better were it to put a bandage over the wound and never look at it again.—*German Reformed Messenger.*

A parent who strikes a child in anger, is like the man who strikes the water; the consequences of the blow are sure to fly up in his own face.

"I'll take your part," as the dog said to the cat when he robbed her of her dinner.

"The Image of his Father."

On the birthday of the seventh child, all the women came rushing to see the *dear infant*, and to congratulate the happy parents upon the event. Our friend anticipated the visit, and instead of having the child prepared for it, made the servant bring in a sucking pig, and dress it up in swadling clothes, and covering up its face, he laid it in the place the real child should have occupied. The ladies were introduced into the apartment, and gently approached the bed; the coverings were turned down, and a portion of the face of the little *grunter* was exposed.

"Bless my soul!" said one of the ladies, "what a remarkable child."

"So very interesting," said a second.

"And so good natured!" observed the third, as she commenced toying with it.

"And how very like his father," remarked the fourth.

They were all immediately struck with the observation, and exclaimed:

"The very image of his father!"

The flattered parent rushed out of the room, convulsed with laughter, leaving the old woman to discover their mistake.

UNDER THE ROSE.—There has arisen much petty controversy about the common expression "under the rose," and two different origins have been assigned.—Some persons assert that it ought to be spelt "under the *rows*," for that in former days almost all towns were built with the second story projecting over the lower one—a sort of piazza, or *row*, as the y termed it, and which may still be seen at Chester, and some other old English towns; and that, whilst the elders of the family were sitting at their windows enjoying the air, their sons and daughters were making love where they could not see them, "under the rows." The other is much more elegant, Cupid, it is said, gave a rose to Harpocrates, the God of Silence; and from this legend originated the practice that prevailed among northern nations of suspending a rose from the ceiling over the upper end of the table, when the conversation was intended to be kept secret; and that it was, according to others, which gave rise to the phrase, "under the rose."—*Notes and Queries.*

EXTRAVAGANCES OF DRESS: IMITATION.—In our zeal to imitate the vices and follies and extravagances of foreigners, it would be well for us to imitate some of their virtues also. The following extract from an exchange paper affords one instance really worthy of imitation:

"The Hon. Miss Murray, sister of a Scotch Duke, and maid of honor to Queen Victoria, has been visiting the seaport city in New York. Miss Murray is a lady of fine person, robust health, and uncommon energy of character—about thirty-five years of age. Her frank and cordial manners, her intelligence and great kindness of heart, secured her many friends.—She appears, however, to be struck with amazement at the extravagant expenditure, the helplessness, and the ill-health of that unfortunate class of beings, the fashionable women of our cities. Miss Murray, like the fashionable women of Europe, dresses so plainly that it probably costs her less to dress a whole year than many a New York lady expends for a half dozen handkerchiefs. It is a settled thing in Europe, that extravagance in dress is the very extreme of vulgarity, and is never indulged in except by those whose only claim to gentility is the length of their purse."

A RAY OF ASTRONOMY.—"Cæsar," said a negro to a colored friend of his, "which do you tink is de muse useful of de comets—de sun or de moon?"

"Well, Clem, I don't think I shall be able to answer dat question, sein' as how I neber had much book larnin."

"Well, Cæsar, I speck de moon ortar take de fust rank in dat particular."

"Why so, nigger?"

"Because de moon shines in de night when we need de light, and de sun shines in day time when de light am ob no consequence."

"Well, Clem, you is the most learned darkey I eber seed; I gess you used to sweep out a school-house for a libin."

NATURALIZED VOTERS.—According to the statistics prepared in the New York Census Department, the total native population of Albany city is 4,060, and the naturalized vote is 4,426. In the whole county of Albany the result is quite different, the number of native voters being 12,431, and of naturalized voters 6,049 or less than half.

PHONOGRAPHIC.—A man wrote Dr. Francis the following: "Dear Doctor—I caught cold yesterday, and have got a little *horse*. Please write what I shall do for them."

The following was the answer; "Dear P., for the cold take a pound of butter candy. For the little horse, buy a saddle and bridle, and ride him the first time we have fair weather."

Mathew Lansberg used to say, "If you wished to have a shoe made of durable material, you should make the upper leather of the mouth of an old toper, for that never lets in water."

"Is that a lightning-bug in the street?" asked a short-sighted old lady. "No, grandma," said a pert little miss, "it's a *big-bug* with a sigar."

A bachelor the other morning remarked that wives who use the needle are like the enemy spoken of in the parable—they *sew tares* while the husbandmen sleep.

The Olney Republican says there is a man in that town so dirty that the assessor puts him down as real estate.

A teetotaller, on being told the temperance men were a set of robbers, said: "Yes they have robbed the poor house and the State prison of their victims!"

To see a man with his hat off at midnight, explaining to a lamp-post the political principles of his party, is no proof of temperance.

[BY REQUEST.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE "ADAMS COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION," BY

WM. C. STEM, M. D.

GENTLEMEN:—In conformity with your request, through your honorable Secretary, have I been summoned into your presence, and with no other design than that of lending my little assistance in promoting the good of my fellow man. As the subject is one which embodies within itself a source of interest and importance appertaining to the health and longevity of mankind, your department cannot be too highly commended as Teachers for inclining your deliberations upon a subject of so great importance to yourselves as well as the rising generation entrusted to your care. And the little I may know or possess will be offered unto you this afternoon in the way of a few remarks upon that important subject—"*The Heating and Ventilating of School Rooms and their Relation to Health, &c.*" In considering this subject, in the first place I deem it necessary to inform you of what common or atmospheric air is composed. Secondly, the combination of causes which render it unfit for respiration or injurious to health. Now the air which we breathe was for many ages considered a simple homogeneous fluid and it was not until the last century that it was found to be a compound body. This fact has long since been ascertained by the discoveries of modern chemists, particularly those of Black, Priestly, Fourcroy, Lavoisier, Scheele and Cavendish. Common or atmospheric air is chiefly composed of two gasses, oxygen and nitrogen, the former containing about twenty-four parts by weight, and the latter seventy-six, or about twenty-two parts of the former to seventy-eight of the latter by bulk. These proportions are the same wherever atmospheric air is found; and in addition to this atmospheric air may be said to contain a small proportion of carbonic acid gas, with some watery vapor. In neither of these elements could we exist; for by inhaling oxygen alone we would become so exhilarated as quickly to exhaust our vital powers, and by breathing nitrogen we would instantly die—or, in other words, it would cause asphyxia and death. But Providence has so wisely proportioned them together in their proper capacity that they are fitly adapted to our respiration and at the same time conducive to our health. But whenever the above proportion of oxygen is in any manner altered, or its due supply withheld, the lungs must suffer, together with the heart and circulation. Various causes may allegedly operate to injure the purity of the air we breathe. In a tight room candles, when burning, may consume so much of the oxygen as to render it less fit for respiration, and even death has followed in such instances from respiring too much nitrogen. Sometimes more or less of carbonic acid gas becomes mingled with it and renders it even incapable of supporting life. This often occurs by the air becoming vitiated in quality by being too frequently respired by persons in a heated or crowded room, as the air undergoes an important change during the process of respiration. Nothing, indeed, is lost respecting weight, but the oxygen combining with the carbon of the blood forms carbonic acid gas, and in that form is the air found as it issues from the air cells of the lungs at each respiration. Hence the great injury received from the depression of the vital organs of the body, (when the oxygen becomes partly exhausted,) by respiring even for a short time that contaminated air, which, if continued, would be incapable of supporting life.

As all of you are well aware of the manner in which school rooms are heated, &c., any further comment by me upon the materials used for that purpose would be unnecessary, as I verily believe the elements by which we are surrounded, (with some exceptions in various localities and at certain seasons of the year,) if properly used, were intended for our comfort and good, and that it was never designed by Providence for us to be housed up in heated apartments, respiring contaminated air. Under such oppressing circumstances humanity groans and man may be truly said to be the author of misery to himself. There is an account given of some English prisoners at Calcutta who were crowded into an apartment eighteen feet square and partly under ground, and having only one small opening for the light and air to enter; and out of one hundred and forty-six persons who were crowded into that small apartment at 8 o'clock at night but twenty-three were living at 6 o'clock the next morning. In this case, the body of men collectively produced a heat, and as the oxygen became exhausted by respiration, there was more or less fever occasioned by breathing the admixture of the gasses united by the electricity contained in the apartment, which occasioned the number of deaths just stated. Again, you will also perceive here that the greater part of the oxygen was converted into carbonic acid gas by respiration, (as I have stated heretofore,) and its due supply withheld, for the want of fresh air to dilute those gasses, which show the plausibility of death. I might enumerate numbers of similar instances, but deem it unnecessary, as the above illustration will suffice to support the views I am urging upon your attention. But the injurious influence is only exerted in a partial way upon individuals enclosed within a school room, as they are not confined sufficiently long at any one time to prove fatal to them. Yet it has a very blighting tendency upon the blooming appearances of youth. For children everything unnecessarily tending to close confinement and impure air, which tends towards the derangement of the vital organs of the body, or acting as barriers to their proper growth or development, should be avoided. But inadvertent of all this, my friends, you will find many places, where children are closely confined in the retired abodes of misery and suffering from the actual want of being supplied with fresh and wholesome air. Under such circumstances, when they are not confined sufficiently long to prove fatal, you will generally observe them to become pallid in features, puny, sickly, delicate and diseased, and their constitutional powers, with the vital stamina of life, (which is the blood,) poisoned at their fountain heads. This may have been witnessed under your own observation, for many there are whose powers of life have been weakened irrecoverably, and from no other cause than that of being housed up in heated and unventilated apartments. As this prejudicial influence is very insidious in its nature, on account of its gradually stealing upon the vital powers of life, I would admonish you, as teachers, and for the common good of mankind, to be careful how you heat your apartments or school rooms during school hours. If the grade of heat becomes in any way superabundant, or the school room crowded, or both, have access, if possible, to ventilation; for by so doing you will avoid evil tendencies and derangement of health, and at the same time secure comfort to all within. When a crowded school room is heated without ventilation, there is more or less electricity contained in it, and I wish you to remember that that agent has a very great influence in uniting instantaneously the gasses contained therein and rendering them noxious, even unto death; for the oxygen in a manner would be partly consumed and converted into carbonic acid gas by respiration. Therefore, fresh air would be necessary to supply the deficiency of oxygen in the room. Without this you could not long exist if confined in such a place.

My friends, to you as teachers, I hold up to view these simple truths to mark that treacherous quicksand upon which the health and happiness of hundreds, yes, thousands, have been wrecked. And there are numbers of the fairest portions of mankind who might have been in the enjoyment of life this day, whose remains are now mouldering into dust, had not the very vital stamina of life been poisoned at its fountain head by being too closely confined in sultry, heated and unventilated apartments. And the very countenances of thousands yet living bear incontrovertible testimony that from similar causes the marks of ruin and decay are visibly stamped upon their features. But such being the fate of humanity and the sufferings of the greater portion of mankind, we cannot help but sympathize with them for undergoing such a slow species of mortality, whilst many of them may be entirely ignorant of the cause. This may be seen to a very alarming extent in our larger towns and cities. Many there are drying under the influence of [illegible] the world, suffer from the want of fresh and wholesome air.

But, my friends, as everything in nature is subject to decomposition and decay I must tell you, without deviating from the subject, that the atmospheric air which we breathe is oftentimes so polluted with the admixture of vapours arising from the decaying vegetable matter of the Earth as to become as fatal in various localities as any confined within heated and unventilated school rooms. This pestilential vapour is styled in Medical language "Malaria," and is found to exist in various localities all over the Earth, particularly in the warmer seasons of the year. This malaria, as I have said, arises as the exhalations from the putrid decaying vegetable matter of the Earth, and mingling with atmospheric air, vitiates and renders it consequently unfit for respiration. Therefore upon ventilating School rooms and apartments in various localities where this malaria is present, you would not better your condition a great deal; yet you might secure to yourself somewhat cooler air, but not devoid of pestilential properties. The Earth in order to produce this must be moistened with occasional showers of rain—the weather sultry and hot, and sometimes cool, and under such circumstances you will find in various localities that this malaria is very poisonous even unto death.

Now, in order to convince you, I will cite a few instances to show you that such is the case. We are informed by the testimonies of Solinus and Dionysius, of Halicarnassus, that the first settlers of Rome were obliged to abandon the Palatine mounts on account of the pernicious exhalations of the Velabrum. And we are informed by Columella that the very vapours of the land cultivated by Attilius Regulus were pestilential. Plutarch, in his writings, speaks of noted periods of sickness and death which occurred in the time of Romulus and Numa. Cato mentions places where it is impossible to live on account of the impurity of the air, and Livy and Varro bear testimony to the same. Historians gives us some fearful accounts of the destruction of armies encamped within the confines of this malaria. Dr. McCulloch speaks of it in this manner—"If the sword has slain its thousands, malaria has slain its tens of thousands. It is disease, not the field of action, which digs the grave of armies. It is malaria, by which the burning spirit, fitted for better things, is quenched and in the coward's bed of death. This is the destroying angel, the real pestilence, which walks at noonday and to which all other causes of mortality are but as feeble auxiliaries in the work of destruction." The French army upon the shores of Italy in 1528 lost in a very short space of time twenty four thousand, and the English army at Walcheren lost in the short space of nearly five weeks ten thousand men, all from the effects of this injurious malaria. The sacred writings are not devoid of truths to convince you of some of the Plagues that were visited upon mankind in this way.

But the most fearful account of mortality which I remember reading is given by Boccaccio, in his introductory translations to his Decamerone. He says people dropped down dead at their usual labor, and in the city of Florence, in the northern part of Italy, in the Levant, from April to July, one hundred thousand souls died, which city, previous to that pestilence, was not considered to contain so many inhabitants. The opinion of Dr. McCulloch, and other eminent Physicians of Italy is, that one single inspiration even may be quite sufficient to cause a disease, let alone being exposed to it for a time. But the visitation of these pestilences occur in various localities all over the world, more particularly in the warm climates, and our own country in numerous places can bear testimony to the same. Infinite is the mortality occasioned in this way, and during such pestilential seasons great attention should be paid to the cleanliness of places, the draining of marshes, the use of disinfected agents, &c.* In marshy districts where there is a great deal of stagnant water, or along the extended estuaries of rivers, these vapours are generally more fatal, as this water is subject to putrefaction on account of being impregnated the more or less by dead animal or vegeto protescent matter, from the water being drained off the Earth into these channels. Consequently, when undergoing putrefaction under the burning rays of a vertical sun, the vapours are more profuse and fatal to all the inhabitants within its influence. Pure water (Hydrogen and Oxygen) is not subject to putrefaction.

Therefore, you will perceive from what I have said the necessity of having School houses erected in healthy localities; and as I have pointed out to you the prominent features of the impurities of the air we breathe in various localities, and the evil tendencies upon health, I will omit for the present to speak of the manner in which the electrical state of the atmosphere purges itself of its impurities. But returning to the original part of my discourse, you will perceive there is nothing of greater importance and of greater consideration on your part in view of your profession than the enjoyment of health, and as long as those sanatary influences which I have spoken of are unobserved and the hygienic condition of pupils are not ameliorated, so long will those evils prejudicial to health remain unabated. But to remedy those evils is a duty devolving upon yourselves, and I indulge no fears but that you will use your best exertions in your deliberations here, in this convention, for their removal, and so far as you are concerned seek to secure comfort to yourselves and to those entrusted to your care. And as the arts and sciences are annually making progress and rapid strides from one generation to another, I think the time is not far distant when you will be called upon by legislative authority to teach in our Common Schools the principles of human physiology and chemistry, which will make you more familiar with your organization and the properties of the perishable material of Earth. And it is a duty incumbent upon you to keep pace with the sciences and become acquainted with those branches of [illegible] of science your profession, and which many of you probably possess, as you will be the better prepared to admonish and provide for the wants of your pupils respecting health during School hours. In different places you will doubtless find many persons averse to all innovation in the way of teaching, as the introduction of any thing into school otherwise than that of the simplest Education is considered useless and even dangerous. To such, my friends, the world owes no debt of gratitude. But I am happy to say that a large part of mankind are awakened to a lively sense of the utility of our free literary institutions as the principal support in maintaining the pillars of liberty, and as you are the agents for the diffusion of knowledge you can turn the rivulets of learning by every poor man's door in the commonwealth. Pennsylvania, agreeably to the mandate of her constitution, some twenty five years ago provided for this by legislation, and the Free School System, although weak and deficient in many points yet is strengthened annually by legislation even down to the present time. This diffusion of knowledge among the masses is one of the noblest efforts that can command our attention and I feel assured that there is not one present to day but would harmonize with me in the sentiment prompted by the occasion as to our duty in seeking to perfect the system and remedy the defects. The ancient Grecians and Romans were not neglectful of this matter, as the Physical Education of their children was a matter of peculiar importance. But to you, my friends, after speaking of one or two more particulars, I shall leave the subject, hoping that the Parents generally of the rising generations may feel a deeper interest with yourselves in having the health of their children better cared for, by seeing that means are adopted for proper ventilation in every School house in the commonwealth. The construction of School Houses at present is not adapted for proper ventilation, yet you can ventilate your school rooms by elevating or depressing the windows to answer the purposes desired until a better mode is established. But I do not think the legislative authority of our State could confer a greater favor upon mankind than that of passing a law providing for the proper ventilation of all the School houses and literary Institutions in the commonwealth. For it is no offence against the law at present, so far as my knowledge extends, to poison the health of the fairest portion of mankind with unwholsome air in sultry, heated and unventilated School rooms. Yet the health of children, so largely committed to your care, deserves your serious consideration, and I hope your mutual labors here may have a tendency to effect much good in the way of removing the many evils attendant upon health and close confinement during school hours. I trust that these suggestions I have urged upon the present subject may be profitably received by you, and be of service to those entrusted to your care. Thanking you for your kind attention I have only in conclusion to express the hope that your present meeting will be profitable and harmonious and that your deliberations may be fraught with much good in advancing that system of human progression, which, when properly understood, binds together the fraternity of all men.

* Chlorinated lime, by being sprinkled around in places and renewed occasionally (both in and out of doors) is an excellent agent for preventing and arresting animal and vegetable putrefaction and destroying pestilential and infectious miasms.