

ed the mortal wound, he did not instantly die, and the defendant would be acquitted.

To the 3d, 4th, and 5th points, we answer in the negative.

Mr. Purviance requested the Court to instruct the jury on the following points:

1st, That the jury must be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the defendant, before they are justified in rendering a verdict of guilty; and that if a reasonable doubt exists in the minds of the jury, it is their duty to render a verdict of not guilty.

To the first point we answer:—We affirm the law to be as stated therein.

2d, That in a case of circumstantial evidence, every material circumstance relied on by the Commonwealth, and the law requires that each circumstance shall be established clearly and beyond a reasonable doubt. The circumstances should, to a moral certainty, exclude every hypothesis but the one proposed to be proved by the Commonwealth.

To the 2d point we answer: That every material circumstance relied on by the Commonwealth to make out the charge must be clearly established, beyond a reasonable doubt, and that, in order to a conviction of the prisoner, it is necessary not only that the circumstances all concur to show that he committed the crime, but that they be inconsistent with any other rational conclusion.

3d, If the mortal wound were inflicted—by whomsoever done—under the belief that it was necessary to save the life of a friend, it would be homicide in self defense.

To the 3d point, we answer: That this point is so general and indefinite, and not applicable, as we comprehend its language, to this case, that we are compelled to decline to answer it.

4th, That the possession of a knife by the defendant before the commission of the homicide, was received for the purpose of showing the defendant as those found on the bodies of deceased, but not as a fact from which it might be inferred that the defendant would have a tendency to commit the deed.

To the 4th point, we answer in the affirmative.

5th, That the possession of a knife is not competent to be shown for the purpose of prejudicing the character of the defendant, or from which the jury might infer that the defendant probably did the act.

To the 5th point, we answer: We affirm this point so far as to say to you that proof of possession of the knife by defendant, was not received for the purpose of effecting the character of the defendant—but another purpose, to wit: to prove that he had in his possession a knife which, in connection with the other evidence in the case, might tend to establish the charge against the defendant.

Mr. McCandless, for the defendant, wished the Court to instruct the jury on the following points:

1st, If the jury believe from all the facts and evidence in the case, that the homicide was committed by the defendant (or any one else) after Oliver was lying prostrate on the floor near the north room door, having been knocked down by Cunningham, who is proved to be a man of great strength, and while Cunningham had a clear drawn to strike Oliver; and the defendant believed, and had reason to believe from all the facts surrounding him, that Cunningham was about to kill Oliver; then the defendant, or any one else, inflicting the blow, it would be excusable homicide, and the defendant is not to be convicted.

To the first point, we answer: As we comprehend this point, we will answer it in the negative.

2nd, If the jury believe the defendant committed the homicide at any time during the conflict—in the heat of passion—upon this sudden quarrel, it is manslaughter.

To the 2d point, we answer: The facts set out in this point are not sufficiently definite to enable us to answer it definitely and properly; but if it is intended that at the time Oliver was knocked down by the deceased, and the defendant being at the time a party to the conflict, and he then in a heat of passion inflicted the fatal blow, then we say if he had received a legal provocation sufficient to produce passion, and the evidence shows the absence of malice, and death ensued, it would be manslaughter.

3d, If the homicide was committed by the defendant while the fight was progressing between Oliver and Cunningham, or in any other combat then going on in the room; if defendant interfered, from hot blood alone, occasioned by seeing a friend attacked by a stranger, it is manslaughter.

To the 3d point, we answer: We refuse to affirm this point.

4th, That the jury are the judges both of the law and the facts.

To the 4th point, we answer: We cannot affirm this point. For it is well settled "when a case is on trial, the great weight of authority now is that the jury are to receive, as binding on their consciences, the law laid down by the Court to them in their charge."

This case has been stated in the argument to be one of circumstantial evidence, because no one was seen inflicting the wound upon the body of the deceased; and much has been said upon the reliability of the evidence, and that it would not justify the jury in convicting the defendant. How is this, gentlemen? Does the evidence so surround the defendant, and point to him so certainly as having done the deed beyond all reasonable doubt, as to induce you to believe he was the person who caused the death of Sidney B. Cunningham? The time was brief within which it must have been inflicted; and the place, we presume, you will conclude, was in the sitting room or hall. Was the defendant in possession of a knife at the time? What was its character? And does the knife, compare with the description of the wounds found upon the body of the deceased? And was the defendant sufficiently near, so that, if he had desired so to do, he could have struck the blow?

and could they have been so struck at any time during that period without the witnesses, who were there, having seen him strike?

These inquiries are for you, and you alone. Nothing we should say—if we were to take up, in detail, the facts which have been proven to you—we do not believe would aid you in coming to a result. It is after the length and able arguments of eight counsel, for the last two days, elaborating the facts and pressing their conclusions upon you—you will trust assist you in discovering the truth in this case, any remarks from the Court would, in our judgment, be entirely unavailing; and, therefore, we shall leave the facts entirely with you. And as the character and reliability of circumstantial evidence has been so fully discussed, in the argument of the cause, it may be proper—as well as profitable—to address you on that question. We will, therefore, read to you the opinions of some of the most profound and eminent Judges of this country upon the important question of circumstantial evidence:

"The distinction, then," says Chief Justice Shaw in the Welster case, "between direct and circumstantial evidence is this: Direct or positive evidence is where a witness can be called to testify to the precise fact which is the subject of the charge in the trial; that is the homicide that the party accused did cause the death of the deceased. Whatever may be the kind, or force of evidence, this is the fact to be proved. But suppose no person present on the occasion of the death, and of course no one can be called to testify to it, it is wholly unassailable of legal proof? Experience does show that circumstantial evidence may be offered in such cases, that it is the body of facts, quite as strong and certain as that on which disreputable men are accustomed to rely in relation to their most important interests. It would be injurious to the best interests of society, if such proof did not avail in judicial proceedings. If it were necessary always to have positive evidence, how many criminal acts committed in the community, destructive of its peace and subversive of its order and security, would go wholly undetected and unpunished? The necessity, therefore, of resorting to circumstantial evidence—if it be a safe and reliable proceeding—is obvious and absolute. Crimes are secret. Most men conscious of criminal purposes, and about the execution of criminal acts, seek security of secrecy and darkness. It is, therefore, necessary to use all other modes of evidence beside that of direct testimony, provided, such proofs may be relied on as leading to safe and satisfactory conclusions—and, thanks to a beneficent Providence—the laws of nature, and the relations of things to each other, and so linked and combined together that a medium of proof is often furnished, leading to inferences and conclusions as strong as those arising from direct testimony."

Chief Justice Whitmore said, in charging a jury in a case of great interest, "Circumstantial evidence is stronger, often, and more satisfactory than direct, because it is not liable to elation or fraud."

"The eye of Omniscience," said Mr. Justice Parker, "can alone see the truth in all cases—circumstantial evidence is there out of all question—but close as we are with the infirmities of human nature, how are we to get at the truth without a concatenation of circumstances? Though in human judgment, imperfect as it must be, it sometimes happens, perhaps, in the course of one hundred years, that a few solitary instances, owing to the minute and curious circumstances which sometimes envelope human transactions, error has been committed from reliance on circumstantial evidence; yet this species of evidence, in the opinion of those who are most conversant with the administration of justice, and most skilled in judicial proceedings, is much more satisfactory than the testimony of a single individual who swears that he has seen a fact committed."

And the late distinguished Chief Justice Gilson, said, (Com. vs. Horton, 4, Bar 269) "Circumstantial evidence in a capital case is, in the abstract, nearly, though perhaps not altogether, as strong as positive evidence; in the concrete it may be infinitely stronger. A fact positively sworn to is not so satisfactorily proved, as a fact which is the necessary consequence of a chain of other facts sworn to by many of doubtful credibility. Indeed, I scarcely know whether there is any such thing as evidence positive. The only difference between positive and circumstantial evidence is that the former is more immediate, and has fewer links in the chain of connection between the premises and the conclusion. All evidence is more or less circumstantial, the difference being only in the degree; and it is sufficient for the purpose when it excludes disbelief—that is, actual and not technical disbelief; for he who is to pass upon the question, is not at liberty to disbelieve as a juror while he believes as a man. It is enough that his conscience is clear."

As the facts and circumstances in each particular case, in some respects necessarily are peculiar, and different from all others, it is difficult to lay down general rules for the guide of jurors in each case. There is one rule ought never to be departed from, it is said, and that is no one should be convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence, unless the body of the person supposed to have been murdered is found. Here there is no ground for that rule, as you have the deceased, Sidney B. Cunningham, proved to you to have been slain in the house of John Oliver, in this county, on the 24th of December last.

Again, each circumstance should be satisfactorily established by the evidence, and it should not be presumed by an assumption of the fact that the defendant is guilty. And the jury should give as much weight to each circumstance which makes in favor of the defendant as they do to circumstances of the same importance against him. If any fact material, the existence of which is not established beyond a reasonable doubt, you are to give the defendant the benefit of that doubt. "Every man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty," and the presumptions of the law are always probable on that which is a maxim of its own creation. In civil cases the jury

are to decide upon the weight of all the evidence; but in criminal cases the jury must find upon all the evidence—being satisfied of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Such doubt, however, does not mean a fanciful, or an imaginary, or a speculative doubt, or a more possible doubt, but something actual and substantial. It is said, by some of our eminent writers, "to be that state of the mind when the jurors cannot say they have an abiding conviction to a moral certainty of the charge."

And now, gentlemen, we have done, and will submit this case to you. We have endeavored to discharge our duty, feeling the responsibility which has rested on us under the solemn obligation of our office. We have no reproach to lay upon ourselves, knowing that throughout this case we have acted conscientiously, and endeavored to administer the law according to the best of our judgment; and whatever may be the verdict to the prisoner at the bar, or to the public, we shall feel acquitted in our conscience for a part we have acted in this important trial.

The case is with you—and its final decision is for you.

The jury retired at half-past six o'clock P. M., when the Court adjourned to meet on morning of the 11th.

At 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> P. M.,—just three hours—the Court convened, and the jury returned verdict against John B. Adlington, of guilty in manner and form as he stood indicted, of murder in the first degree.

The defendant's counsel filed a general exception to the charge of the judge, before the verdict of the jury was received.

FRIDAY MORNING, March 22, 1867.

The counsel, on behalf of defendant, John B. Adlington, moved for a new trial for the following reasons:

I. The jury erred in finding the defendant guilty, as the evidence was insufficient to remove all reasonable doubt.

II. The defendant's counsel also urge additional reasons, which they allege were errors of the Court, as follows:

1st. In refusing to quash the array of Petit Jurors.

2d. In refusing to quash the indictment; and

III. In error in the several bills of exceptions, sealed by the Court, at the instance of Defendant's counsel, during the trial on the exception of evidence; which several exceptions are hereby begged to be made part of these reasons as fully as it is repeated and incorporated herein.

J. N. PURVIANCE,  
C. McCANDLESS,  
J. C. M'ARTINEY,  
THOMPSON & LYON,  
Attorneys for Defendant.

Gen. J. N. Purviance made a few remarks urging the Court to entertain the motion. Said that not the slightest respect, either to Court or jury, was reflected by the motion; but they thought duty to their client demanded the effort at their hands. He made a very feeling appeal on behalf of the prisoner.

The Court, after consultation, said because of the magnitude of the consequences involved to the prisoner at the bar, (whose right of being present at the making of this motion had been waived by his counsel, and marked of record) they would entertain the motion, and fix an early Adjourned Court for the hearing.

Thus ended the trial at this time.

—Favors easily repaid beget affection—favors beyond return engender hatred.

—Moral truths are prophecies of ends, but not of the forms and successions of events.

—The reason that many persons want their desires, is because their desires want reason.

—We may accept from others sacrifices to save us from martyrdom, but never to purchase a joy.

—True joy is a serene and sober motion, and they are miserably out who take laughing for rejoicing.

—The highest luxury of which the human mind is sensible is to call smiles upon the face of misery.

—The true end of freedom is to develop manhood and womanhood, not to make authors, mechanics or statesmen.

—THERE is an efficacy in calmness of which we are unaware. The element of serenity is one which we peculiarly need.

A WISE man prevaileth in power, for he secureth his balancing engine; but a fool tikeeth headlong, and his adversary is aware.

—The Maryland Legislature has repealed the distinction of the state codes between black and white offenders. This prevents Judge Magruder from selling more negroes into slavery, but it ought not to shield him from the penalty of violating the Civil Rights Act.

—The official journal published in Rome intimates that in case of any popular movement against the pope, all the barracks are to have picket of twenty men constantly ready. If barricades are raised, the troops will be divided into companies of a hundred and twenty men, and will move on the obstruction and carry it. But suppose the obstruction carries them instead. Such things have happened before now.

KNOWLEDGE.—Young men, improve your idle moments! Don't sit doing nothing, and wish you had something to do. Take a book and read, that your mind may be improved. You do society a great wrong to grow up in ignorance, a reproach to yourself and a discredit to your country. Come, take a book this instant; and effort may be irksome at first but you will find pleasure and profit and honor in it, in the long run.

## The American Citizen.

The Largest Circulation of any Paper in the County.

O. E. ANDERSON, Editor.

BUTLER PA.

WEDNESDAY, APR. 17, 1867.

### Union Republican Primary Elections and County Convention.

At a meeting of the Union Republican County Committee, held in Butler, on Monday, the 15th inst., it was Resolved, That the Union Republican voters of Butler county, are hereby requested to meet in their respective election districts throughout the county, on Saturday, the first of June, next, between the hours of one and seven o'clock, p. m., of said day, and vote by ballots for candidates for nomination for the different offices to be filled at the fall election, to wit:

One person for Assembly.  
One person for county Commissioner.  
One person for Treasurer.  
One person for county Auditor.  
One person for jury Commissioners.

And further, to select one of their number, in each district, as delegate to convey said vote, and meet similar delegates on the following Monday, at one o'clock, p. m., in the Court House, for the purpose of casting up said votes, declaring the nominees, etc.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That the local boards, at the primary elections, are instructed to receive the vote of no person not known to be a Republican, and that the local boards shall each return to the county Convention, a certified list of all persons who have voted at such elections.

C. E. ANDERSON, Ch'n.  
JOHN C. MOORE, Sec'y.

Announcements.

But few names have as yet been handed in as candidates for the different offices.—They will appear in our next week's issue.

Livery.

J. & A. Mitchell have purchased the Livery establishment of Alex. Lowry, and are prepared to accommodate all who may call upon them for horses, carriages and buggies, on short notice, and at reasonable rates.—John and "Alek" are clever fellows. Give them a call.

Hardware.

The attention of our readers is asked to the advertisement of Mr. A. J. Pentecost, 148 Federal street, Allegheny city, which will be found in our paper, for the first time, to-day. Mr. P. has a large stock of goods, which he offers for sale low; and our readers will consult their interest by calling on him, when they go to the city.

Carrriages, Buggies, &c.

Persons wishing to purchase Carriages, Buggies, Sulkies, or wagons, would do well to call at the well known establishment of G. C. Roeding, on Cunningham street. He has now been engaged in the business for six years. His work has been tried, and has given general satisfaction. He can sell as cheap as the same style and quality of work can be purchased elsewhere. Give him a call.

The Buckeye

The great Manufacturing House of C. Aultman & Co. has attained a world-wide celebrity—a reputation, based upon the substantial excellence and unparalleled success of the Buckeye Reaping and Mowing Machine. We have seen it stated that the number of Buckeyes in use by the farmers of the United States is greater than that of any other machine. At the great National tournaments of the Reaper family the Buckeye has won the brightest laurels. These triumphs speak volumes. The reader will find other interesting facts concerning the Buckeye in an advertisement in this paper.

Classical and Normal School.

Messrs Tittel & Roth, both practical teachers, are about opening a school in the pleasant village of Prospect. Professor Tittel is a ripe scholar and a thorough educator. He was principal of a public school in Pittsburg for a number of years, and the founder of the Cunningham Academy.

Young men and women desirous of preparing themselves for the profession of teaching are now offered a rare opportunity to thoroughly qualify themselves for the responsible position to which they aspire.

For terms, etc., see advertisement.

Burned.

On Saturday night, 12th instant, the stable of John Strutt, in Zelienople, this county, was entirely consumed by fire, supposed to be the work of an incendiary. When the stable was fired there were two good horses, a cow and calf, and a top buggy therein. One horse and the calf were, after being badly burned, rescued. The other horse and the cow were burned to death.

This is a severe and heavy loss to Mr. Strutt, who is said to be a poor man who had, only a few days previously, bought the horses for the purpose of teaming, and thus making an honest livelihood for himself and family. Total loss about \$1000; insurance \$200, in Zelienople Co.

Also, on Sabbath night, 13th instant, the large, new frame barn, belonging to the "Orphans Home," at Zelienople, was totally consumed by fire. At the time the fire was discovered the horses, cows and sheep, belonging to the Home School Farm, were all in the stables connected with the barn, but were rescued without receiving much injury. Barn a total loss, not being covered by insurance. Also the work of an incendiary.

Novelty in Medicine.

The great reason the medical has not increased *pari passu* with the other difficult and learned sciences, is that every new remedy, new mode of cure, or new plan of treatment always meets with such a cry of opposition by the regular profession, as few men are able or willing to withstand. This should not be so. In true science, every thing ought to be made available that is useful; and the investigation of disease and its amelioration is surely one of the noblest pursuits of mankind; and which, if prosecuted with honest aims, should evoke the gratulations of all who have at heart the comfort and well-being of the human race.

We have been led to these remarks by the perusal of a work on Urino-Pathology, by Dr. L. OLDSHAW, who, for twenty years, has been investigating the subject of Urinary Deposits and Secretions—not out of curiosity merely, but with the more laudable view of making the application of this knowledge useful in ameliorating the sufferings of mankind.

The Doctor has been successful. And why should he not? He has thoroughly systematized the course of study of Urino-Pathology and made the science acceptable in medical schools, and the practice of it respectable at home in Pittsburgh and the surrounding country as far as he is known.

It is a subject worthy the attention of all those who regard scientific investigation of disease as paramount to that unwieldy sensibility which precludes it on account of its novelty.

For the benefit of those who feel disposed to avail themselves of the advantages of such investigations, we would further state that we have visited him at his office—Grant street, also, and found him prepared with all the apparatus necessary to a chemical as well as microscopic examination of the most complicated cases. His office was one continued throng of patients, from nearly all parts of the country, who spoke in unqualified terms in praise of his success.

Persons living at a distance by sending a vial of urine for examination, may have the necessary medicine sent. His office and residence is at No. 322, Grant street, Pittsburgh.

Public Holidays.

HARRISBURG, March 28, 1867.

Sir:—It has been repeatedly decided by the Superintendents of Schools that Thanksgiving day, Christmas, Washington's birth day, and July 4th, are public holidays; and as such, should be allowed to teachers when they come in a school term, but if teachers continue their schools on those days, or either of them, they will not, by so doing, gain the time to deduct it from the whole number of days in the term. These decisions are concurred in by the present head of the School department.

When a holiday occurs in the school term and the school is not kept open on that day, the teacher should enter the name of the day as "Thanksgiving," or "Christmas," &c. in the column under the proper date in the monthly report book; and Directors should consider such days as days taught.

Yours respectfully,  
J. P. WICKENBURG,  
Sup. Com. Sch. Div.

To J. H. Cratty.

Sabbath School Institute and Convention.

The undersigned pastors of churches and superintendents of Sabbath schools in Butler, having been appointed a committee for that purpose by a meeting of the friends of Sabbath schools, hereby call a Convention and Institute, to meet in Butler, in the United Presbyterian church, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 7th and 8th of May.

All the pastors, superintendents and teachers in the county are invited to attend. It is expected that Mr. Pardee will conduct the meetings, and that other distinguished laborers will be present.

We propose to print and send programmes in due time to every pastor and superintendent in the county. We desire also to obtain, as accurately as possible, the religious geography of the county. To these ends we want information; and ask, therefore, that every pastor, and every superintendent of a school that is outside of a church, (we include all that acted as superintendents last summer), will send, as soon as possible to any member of the committee, a letter giving us the following facts:

1. His name and address.
2. The name of his Church or Sabbath school, and the township in which it is located.
3. The number of teachers and scholars (not including Bible classes) and the average attendance of each.
4. The number in Bible classes.
5. The number of volumes in library.
6. The number of convocations during the past year.
7. Whether the school is kept up during the winter.
8. The number of children within two miles of the school who do not habitually attend the Sabbath school.
9. The name of any locality, in your township, where you think a new Sabbath school is needed, and the probable number of children to attend it.
10. And the name and address of any individual living in or convenient to such a neighborhood, who would be likely to take an interest in the work of a S. school.

We trust that, whether you can be present at the Convention on 1<sup>st</sup> Institute or not, you will not allow either apply or carelessness to hinder you from sending us an answer to the above points without delay.

The committee extend to you a hearty greeting and invitation to be present.

Exercises will commence on Tuesday, at 1 o'clock p. m.

J. D. LEGGIE, Chairman, M. E. CH. LOVELL YOUNG, O. P. Presbyterialian.  
JOHN GAITHER, U. S.  
WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Superintendent.  
J. C. REDDICK,  
THOS. HUSTON,  
Committee.

Politics.

The proceedings of the Republican county Convention, will be found in another column. Saturday, the 1st day of June has been named as the day for holding the Primary Elections.

## Communications.

School Exhibitions.

The Fairview school held an exhibition on the evening of the 23th ultimo, in the U. P. Church of that place. Between five and six hundred were in attendance; completely filling the house. The performance of the evening was of the usual order of selection, declamation, essays and dialogues; and they occupied the time of the large and intelligent audience until a late hour. The rendering of the programme was such as to reflect credit upon teacher and scholar; and, with the exception of indistinct articulation in some cases, the exercises of the evening passed off well. The pieces, original and selected, were interspersed with music by the Millerstown string band. Prof. Geo. H. GRAMM, the principal of the school, carries with him the well wishes of Fairview and vicinity.

Nullo Bono.

Mr. Editor:—Having waited for some able pen than mine to refute the shallow arguments of Mr. Rockwell, for his meaningless word-memory method of teaching, I am induced by the absence of such refutation, to examine a little closer this machine method of instruction, by which the pupil's mind may be crammed full of naked and undefined words; and then, by some peculiar mechanical process (known to no one except Mr. Rockwell), ideas may be elicited, and truths and principles elicited, and the faculties of the youthful mind developed, informed and guided by the operator through mere "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal."

Hear, O ye people, from "Dan uno Beersheba," that certain educator of your country has, at last, discovered a process by which the universal law of progress may be circumvented; the mind aroused to an internal activity; mental discipline and mental improvement secured; the apprehension quickened; the memory strengthened; a rapid and discriminating judgment formed; accuracy of perception acquired; and a vastness and variety of conception attained, by the simple process of verbal memory.

You, who desire to enroll your names among the greatest of the great, cease to burn the midnight oil for the purpose of developing that rough capacity by which you expect to prepare your mental pinions for those intellectual heights necessary to the attainment and world-governing positions of knowledge and fame. Avail yourselves of this invention and save many years of day and night toil in the development of your faculties by old fogy systems of scholastic culture.

X. B.—A patent will be applied for and no infringement of said patent will be allowed. The patentee expects, not only to immortalize himself as a benefactor of the race, but also to grow rich from the proceeds.

But, let us in all seriousness consider this article of Mr. Rockwell, in which the "I," so exclusively predominates. Words are the signs of ideas, and instruments for the expression of mental conception. They are merely names, and not substances; and they only become tangible to the memory and useful to the mind when associated with the objects and ideas they are intended to represent and convey. The child memorizes the word "bayonet," but what has been gained, except a certain number of sounds? But, inform the mind of the child of the form, size, shape, use, composition and history of the object represented by this word, and you increase the child's stock of information as well as its capacity. What should we think of the carpenter who should employ all the time of his apprentice in learning the names of the tools, instead of their use? And would the names not be more easily learned and more readily retained by acquiring them in connection with their uses? The mind has a natural avidity for that knowledge which is objective and real, and which is susceptible of use and application. Do we not impress arithmetical facts and principles upon the memory by a practical application of them in the solution of problems calling into exercise and use these same principles? Do we not doubly engrave our knowledge upon our memory when it is of a kind that it may be communicated and utilized?

Things first, and the application of the terms used to designate them afterwards. If, then, instruction consists in defining the laws, attributes and properties of mind and matter, then why not, at least teach the definitions of words in order to an intelligent use of them? Systematic and rational development of mind must be in proportion to the development of thought and the expression of ideas. Words being the representative and conductors of ideas, it is plain that unless we are acquainted with their meaning, we can neither acquire ideas, nor make an intelligent application of them to their proper uses. Therefore, the storing of the mind with words, undefined and uncomprehended, is incompatible with its proper, rational development. And this is the true secret of so much had reading in our schools. The majority of pupils perform the mechanism of reading tolerably well; that is, words are pronounced correctly, because they have been taught to regard the forms of words alone, but the ideas and germs of thought are not understood and appreciated, the exercise of reading being a mere wading through a mass of strange words which, to the pupil, are just so many forms and sounds lacking significance and sense. To have scholars commit to memory columns of strange, difficult, unintelligible and dry words, is not only useless, but also injurious, as having a tendency to dull and deaden the intellect. Much like the old "Pen-Knife Plan" of the twenty-six forms of the alphabet, without any association of sensible objects. And he who should thus teach the alphabet to the present generation, would be considered a fit subject for a committee of lunacy.

But, says Mr. Rockwell, "ideas without words to express them, are of little consequence." And here I must say that Mr. R.'s article is exceedingly faulty both as to grammar and logic, yet logical errors bear

the palm. The trouble is, this teacher of youth has employed the golden moments of youth in memorizing the words, the signs and sounds of the language to the neglect of their meaning, substantial use and logical construction. Complete thoughts will clothe themselves in proper language. The language must be antecedent to the conception and expression, and a supposition that words are wanting to a proper expression of thought, is saying that the idea is partial and imperfect, and the difficulty really consists in not being able to dress a shadow or skeleton, instead of a perfect and symmetrical body. But, to Mr. Rockwell's other pretenses, for it would be undignifying language to call them reasons or arguments. He claims that memorizing words is an essential method of acquiring their pronunciation preparatory to their use in reading. Let us see. A pupil opens his spelling book and proceeds to memorize the words in consecutive order. He memorizes with the correct pronunciation of the words before he is able to commit to memory? If so, then why is he required to memorize them, in order to obtain that which he has already—viz: pronunciation? Surely, the advocate of such a method will admit that to be a waste of "golden moments." But the implication of the claim is, that he is not acquainted with their proper pronunciation, for he is required to learn the word by rote, in order to acquire its correct utterance. And how can he learn unless some one shall teach him? Were it not better to teach the child the correct pronunciation of the words before they are committed to memory, and by so doing prevent their incorrectness from being stamped upon the memory? But, is it possible to secure the correct sound or utterance of a word by a mere exercise of memory on the pupil? No, but the words will be memorized according to the method of the advocate of their pronunciation, which is very likely to be incorrect, and thus a false impression is made upon the memory which will be more difficult to erase on account of its long-continued application of the mind in memorizing such uselessness, so imprinting it upon the mind as to make this capability a part and parcel of the mind itself. There is no legitimate utility in compelling the mind to receive false impressions, for "the seeds of first instruction are sown in the deep furrows," and who, with but the ordinary amount of common sense, does not know that it is easier and better to sow the good seed first, than to sow tares which must be eradicated in order that the pure wheat may be sown. Away, then, with such shallow and superficial methods of teaching. Let the mind be rationally developed through the teaching of things; facts and principles, and the recollection of truthful ideas, rather than the insipidity of mere words. Let thought-power be developed by teaching their history, derivation, uses, meanings, and spell-catchers. Let us produce thinkers, and not mere machines. But there are sharp points in Mr. R.'s article, as also his grammar, etc., which must be reserved for another number.

A. G. SCHOOT.

Ancient Usage in Praising God.

It is the duty of all the worshippers of God to unite their voices in the celebration of his praise. To the performance of this duty all are alike and solemnly obligated, as they are to read the Scriptures, to pray, to meditate, to examine themselves, to bear the Word, and to sanctify the Sabbath. There is no warrant to praise God by proxy, as is done in these congregations in which the whole duty of praising Him is performed by a choir of trained singers—of en thoughtless, and even irreligious, youths.

"Kings of the earth, all nations, princes, earth's judges, all;

Both young men, yea, and maidens too, and children small;

Let them too, in their praise; for his name alone is excellent.—Ps. cxlviii, 1, 13.

The command is not, "raise him ye choir of well drilled young men and maidens; and let all others—old men and young children—be silent, lest they should mar the melody of the music by their coarse notes;" all ranks and ages are enjoined to raise their voices in songs of praise.

"Behold the Lord, ye the Lord, all ye that his name attend, and attend unto his word, and praise him mightily there."

Your hands, within God's holy place, lift up and praise his name."—Ps. cxxxix, 1, 2.

—This command is of the same import, making the duty imperative on all God's "attendants," or worshippers.

The command so often and solemnly reiterated in the inspired book of Psalms—"Praise ye the Lord"—is addressed to no one class exclusive of others; it embraces all as fully as the precept, "Serve the Lord." When David brought the ark and set it in the midst of the tent he had pitched for it, he delivered a psalm to those who were leaders in song, "And all the people praised the Lord."—1 Chron. xvi, 36.

In reply to all this it is said that though the congregation is silent yet, in their hearts, they may be employed in praising God; as in prayer none utters words but those who lead in the devotions, while all unite in the prayer. It is a great error that has wrought no little evil in the matter of praising God, to consider prayer and praise the same duty, and that whatever is allowed in the one is also in the other. In praise we address God in poetry, and add to it the musical modulations of the voice. All this gives a character of familiarity in approaching him, which belongs to no other duty. God has furnished us with a manual of praise, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, in the Psalms of David, and both authorized and commanded us to use it in our songs of praise. He has not authorized or given the least intimation of his permitting any other. There is no ground on which faith can rest that he will accept any song but those indicated by the Holy Spirit. All this plainly demonstrates that praying from prayer to praise, as if they were the same duty, is utterly inconclusive. Now frivolous must it be when it is directly opposed to those commands of God revealed above, and such calls to duty as the following:

"Come let us sing to the Lord; come, let us make every one a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation."—Ps. xcv, 1.

God calls every one to "sing" and "make a joyful noise" to him in the celebration of his praises. Shall we presume to say, "no"; is it enough to make melody in the heart while the tongue is silent? This is surely presuming too much, and dealing too freely with the solemn commands of Jehovah.

How the New Testament writers understood this matter is abundantly plain from repeated declarations of the Apostles,—"Speaking to yourselves" [or to one another] "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your