

People who were familiar with the army hospitals in Virginia during the war will remember "Mother Bickerdyke," one of the most zealous and efficient of these patriotic women whose works of mercy followed our troops. After the war it appears she undertook some building operations in Kansas for the benefit of soldiers' orphans, and thereby became involved in pecuniary difficulties, which, it is feared, have impaired her reason. At all events she came east in 1870, wrote to her sons from Clinton Springs, New York, on the 20th of September of that year; and though she has since been seen in Brooklyn and in the neighborhood of Boston, her friends have wholly lost sight of her, and are in extreme anxiety as to her safety. At the desire of her sons General Sherman has caused inquiries to be instituted but so far without result. If the press throughout the country will generally direct attention to the matter, it may be the means of returning to home and friends a woman who has just claims upon the patriotic gratitude of the nation.—*North American.*

**Report of the Legislative Committee on the Cassville School Scandal.**

Senator Anderson, chairman of the joint committee on Education, made the following report to the Senate, viz: The joint committee on Education to whom was referred the communication of the Superintendent of Common Schools in relation to the charges against A. L. Guss, late Principal of the orphans' school at Cassville, with directions to inquire into the same, beg leave to report:

That your committee, in the discharge of this duty, examined a large number of witnesses, visited the school and gave the accused and accusers all the time required, and the utmost latitude in the examination of witnesses to enable the committee to arrive at the truth, and to lay all the facts before your honorable body, so that no injustice may be done the accused, the orphan children of the department.

Much of the testimony taken is grossly indecent and unfit for publication. Your committee, therefore, recommends it to be not published in any shape or manner, but filed among the records of the Legislature, where it may be read by members and those only interested therein. As the jurisdiction of the Legislature only extends to the removal of the school, the question of Mr. Guss' guilt or innocence has not necessarily to be passed upon. If the continuance of this school is unwise or inexpedient, especially if its usefulness is destroyed and its continuance is injuring the system, it should be promptly removed. The superintendent of soldiers' orphans testified before the committee, if the rumors concerning Prof. Guss were generally current in the school and in the community, and were believed, even if untrue, the effect would be to destroy the school and the system.

Your committee find the rumors are generally current in the school and throughout the county, and that they are believed by many. The children in the school are familiar with these scandalous stories and make them the subject of daily conversation. The effect of this is to corrupt their minds, and so long as they remain there they will be subjected to this influence. If the rumors are all false the effect is the same. The fact that Mr. Guss owns the property, is publisher of a newspaper, is a politician, and has bitter and unrelenting enemies, is sufficient reason to believe that so long as the school remains there these scandalous rumors will be kept afloat. When Prof. Guss became a candidate for political honors, he should have relinquished his control of the school, or it should have been removed.

This is a correct principle in all cases, especially so in the case of a man who has been in office in a county split into factions and demoralized by strife and hate. It was this that gave such currency to these reports and their spread over the State has done incalculable injury to the schools and to public morals. Your committee are of opinion the school should have been removed long ago, and that would have avoided the necessity of an examination, which should never have taken place. The inspectors of the Orphans' School Department, in the judgment of your committee, failed in the discharge of their duty. Going to inspect schools of this character when such visits were expected, and as the guests of the principal, is not a proper discharge of duty. Had the inspectors discharged their duties properly, the Superintendent would doubtless have since have removed the school, there being strong reasons for its removal, independent of the guilt or innocence of Mr. Guss. While much of the testimony was contradictory, enough remained undisputed to justify the committee in believing that the conduct of A. L. Guss, principal, was of an improper character. But as the reputation of Prof. Guss is not only involved, but also the reputation of scores of soldiers' orphans, the question of his guilt or innocence is remitted to the courts for investigation.

The evidence is so contradictory that it would require repetition; and your committee have before stated that it is important for public morals that it should be concealed rather than exposed in a public report.

Your committee, therefore, recommends that the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans be directed to remove the school, at Cassville, at once, and place the children in other schools throughout the State, as far removed from the rumors and influence that surround them as possible.

GEO. H. ANDERSON,  
JAMES S. RUTAN,  
FRANK D. COLLINS,  
THOMAS BALFANT,  
Senate Committee.  
M. W. OLIVER,  
A. B. YOUNG,  
H. M. JONES,  
House Committee.

Mr. Warfield presented the minority report as follows:

The undersigned, one of the joint committee to whom was referred the communication of the Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans Schools relative to the school at Cassville, would respectfully submit the following report:

That your committee in the discharge of their duty gave all parties in interest the utmost latitude in the subducing and examination of witnesses, and did all in their power to arrive at a just and proper conclusion in relation to the matter. Much of the testimony taken is of such a character that its general publication would do no good and might work injury. He therefore joins in the recommendation that it be not printed, but filed among the records of the Legislature where all who are properly interested can have an opportunity of examining it.

As the undersigned is of the opinion that the committee were only called upon to consider the propriety of the continuance or removal of the school, he therefore declines to express any opinion upon matter which could only be properly determined in a court of justice.

The Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools stated before the committee that if the rumors and scandals concerning Cassville school were current in the community, whether true or false, the effect would be to greatly damage the efficiency of that school, and also injure the system. In this opinion the undersigned fully concurs, and as allegations of the grossest and most scandalous immorality were current in the school and throughout the county, and were the subject of general and familiar conversation and newspaper controversy, the effect could not be otherwise than degrading to all who became familiar with the recital. The further fact that these vile stories have been and are still widely associated with the religious partnership will, in all probability, keep them before the public, and thus largely add to their demoralizing influence.

For these reasons the undersigned joins in the recommendation that the soldiers' orphans be removed from Cassville, and placed in schools free from the corrupting influence which now surrounds that locality.

JOHN B. WARFIELD.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, offered the following, which was read:

Resolved, That the majority and minority reports be referred to the Superintendent of soldiers' orphans schools for his official action in accordance with existing laws.

Mr. White moved to postpone for the present, and Mr. Anderson moved to postpone indefinitely. The motion to postpone indefinitely was withdrawn, and White's motion defeated, and the resolution agreed to.

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**Fun Flirtation.**

When a lady uses her fan in an outward movement, that is, away from her into space, it means that she is married and you must not hope. The contrary movement, inward, from space to the body, means that she is free. If, however, this inner movement is made by fanning in a downward direction, it means she is a widow; if in an upward direction, that she has never been married. A closed fan, held upright, means "do as you like." An open fan, resting on the breast, means "silence." A closed fan, presented to you horizontally, means "an invitation," presented by the small end, "indifference." With one leaf open, "friendship," two open leaves, "sympathy," three, "love and passion." A "walking fan" should be composed of seven leaves, to correspond with the seven days of the week. The hour you are expected at a rendezvous is intimated by so many rays being made on the leaf, which represents the day. A closed fan placed on the lips means "don't tell." A circular movement of the fan means "we are watched."

The following story of a young man who until recently lived in Lawrence, Mass., is told by the *American of that city*: "He was engaged to be married to a young lady of Lawrence, and in the order of his affection made a number of presents. Two or three weeks since the young lady died, after a few days' illness, and the grief of the sadly stricken suitor was very sad and contemplative. Everything that belonged to her was very dear to him, rendered doubly so by her untimely taking off. He prized the few trinkets he had given her to such a degree that he couldn't think for a moment of leaving them with her family. He came with a box before the funeral occurred, collected them very carefully, nailed them up, and forwarded them by express to his home. The sister of the deceased expressed a desire that she might be allowed to retain some small souvenirs, and the disconsolate lover suggested that perhaps she would like a muff. If so, he was ready to sell it. He wouldn't be mean; it cost him \$15, and being it was her, she might have it for \$10. She produced the money, took the muff, and the lover after the funeral ceremony departed—doubtless to bestow the presents he had regained."

The Phillipsburg Journal gives the following sad case: On Monday a little daughter of Richard Miller, of Sandy Ridge, fell from the loft of a stable receiving fatal injury, and when the news of her sudden death was conveyed to an elder sister, a married lady by the name of Tipple, she was so shocked and affected with grief that she swooned and expired in a short time.

**SHORT ITEMS.**

Maine just put 5,000,000 cans of corn a year.

York county boasts of a sheep weighing four hundred pounds.

The smallest circular saws are those used in raking gold pens.

The Dunkards talk of establishing a seminary, either at Martinsburg or Berlin.

The Pythians of Richmond have resolved to build a Pythian temple, to cost \$50,000.

"The battle against the bottle" is the way a western exchange styles the crusade.

A sewing school is soon to be opened in Scranton under the patronage of the Y. M. C. A.

A five year old boy in Pittsfield got hold of the family bottle of whisky unobserved, and drank so much that he died.

The small-pox is on the increase in Montreal, Canada, deaths being reported daily. It is estimated there are over 200 cases at present.

A very touchy husband told his wife that he could not agree, and must drive the house. "Very well," said she, "you can take the outside."

Rev. Moll, a Catholic priest of Crestline, Ohio, has renounced Catholicism, and declared his intention of uniting with the Presbyterian Church.

The Iowa Senate, by a majority of one vote, has refused to prohibit the sale of wine and beer in that State. Stronger drinks are already prohibited by law.

On Thursday a week, near Beech Creek, a panther sprang from a tree toward a man named Kert, but miscalculated the distance, and Kert, barring the fright, was none the worse for it.

The insane game was played on Frank Dodge, of Erie, by his wife. He claims to be as sane as anybody, and says he has been incarcerated on account of jealousy. The jailer says he is not crazy.

An English genius has invented a fuse to be used as a fire-alarm in private houses. A New Yorker, experimenting the other day with this protective fuse, burned his house up.

Chignons are really of service to the wearers in Virginia. It was only the other day that an eagle pounced down upon a young lady there and fixed his talons in her head. All the noble bird got was hair.

Twenty-one years ago, Horsa Fletcher, of Milford, Mass., left town with a yoke of oxen, and had not been heard of until last week, when he was kind enough to write from Kansas, and inquire about his family.

A mother and three children were burned to death at West Haven, N. Y., on Tuesday night a week, in a fire which destroyed two tenement houses. The father escaped with two children by jumping on an adjoining roof.

A Yale student writes a twelve-verse poem which is entitled, "We Kissed each other by the sea." "Well, what of it?" asks a western journalist; "the sea is no better for such practices than any other locality."

The special election in Wayne county, to fill the place of Wm. H. Dinwiddie, Democrat, who resigned his seat as a member of the Legislature, has resulted in the election of Thomas T. Boyd, Republican. The district has been Democratic for many years.

Mrs. A. Hawkins, Reilly and Two-and-a-half cents, Harrisburg, fell dead in the arms of her daughter on Thursday evening week, while in the performance of her household duties. A few years ago her husband met with death suddenly.

On Friday morning a week, while Wm. Hartman, of Franklin township, York county, was delivering a prayer, during the exercises of the family worship, he was suddenly taken ill and almost immediately expired. He was in the 52nd year of his age.

A sewing circle was quickly broken up at Gardner, Me., the other day, by the momentary remark of a lady present: "I always had a great desire to know how a case of small-pox looked, so I called on a sick lady this afternoon just before coming to the circle."

An Englishman suggests that the ocean telegraph cables should be provided with branches at intervals, the end of each branch being brought to the surface and held there by a buoy. By means of these floating stations ships in distress near the line of the cable could communicate with the shore.

The Raleigh (N. C.) Daily News has received the following despatch from its reporter at Marion, dated March 27th: "News has just reached here that the shocks on Stone Mountain were more violent last night than at any time since the commencement of the volcanic disturbances."

A Maryland lady, who has established a reputation as a contractor for "villains" and "cuties," has filled several contracts in Pennsylvania. She has been awarded a \$100,000 job on the Western Maryland Railroad, and now takes the work of excavating a tract in Baltimore for building sites.

One day last week a man by the name of Brown, living at Salineville, Ohio, in a drunken fit, cut, with a razor, pieces of flesh out of the arm of his sick son, a boy aged about fifteen years. The lad had been sick for some time, and some care on his back from being confined to his bed. The father said he would cut the proud flesh, and cut he did.

Dr. Reid, the celebrated medical writer, was requested by a lady of literary eminence to call at her house. "Be sure you recollect the address," said she, as she quitted the room—"No. 1 Chesterfield street." "Madam," said the doctor, "I am too great an admirer of politeness not to remember Chesterfield, and I fear, too selfish ever to forget number one."

The Boston *American* gives the most notable feature in the March elections is the election of women to places on school committees in a large number of towns in central and western Massachusetts. The recent discussion in Boston excited a very general interest, and many towns have taken this method of showing their opinion on the subject.

Woman's rights has made two forward steps. The word "male" has been stricken out of the elective franchise article in the new Michigan constitution, and President Grant has appointed and the Senate confirmed Miss Ada C. Sweet, of Chicago, as pension agent, vice Blakey, resigned. Miss Sweet is said to be entirely capable for her position.

A spined named Carly B. the regular mail carrier between a settlement called Lake or Two Woods, Dakota, and the Minnesota line two miles away. Letters and papers are placed in a sack and tied about the dog's neck; he is told to go, and never fails to reach his destination. Arriving, the mail is overhauled, the faithful servant is treated to a good dinner, and started on his return trip.

**Grand Army Reunion.**

The following is the programme arranged by the Executive Committee for the meeting of the different army societies on the 11th, 12th and 13th of May in Harrisburg, Pa.

Monday, May 11—Reunion of the 9th Army Corps at 3 p. m. Reunion of Hartran's division at 5 p. m. Banquet (9th corps), at 9 p. m.

Tuesday, May 12—Reunion of 6th Army Corps at 9 a. m. Reunion of Cavalry Corps at 10 a. m. Reunion of Military Order of Loyal Legion at 10 a. m. Reunion of the Society of the Army of the Potomac at 11 a. m. Governor's reception at 8 p. m. Banquet (Society of the Army of the Potomac), at 10 p. m.

Wednesday, May 13—Meeting of Council of Administration, O. A. R., at 9 a. m. Meeting of National Encampment, G. A. R., at 11 a. m. Banquet (Grand Army of the Republic), at 10 p. m.

Executive Committee—1st Corps, Col. Robert B. Beatie; 2d corps, Col. W. W. Jennings; 3d corps, Col. Clayton Maunichall; 5th corps, Gen. Wm. McCandless; 6th corps, Gen. James W. Latta; 9th corps, Gen. John L. Curtis; 11th corps, Gen. Adolph Busch; 12th corps, Gen. Joseph F. Knipe; Artillery corps, Capt. George W. Darrell; Cavalry corps, Col. H. S. Thomas.

Major A. Wilson Norris, Chairman.

Major Lank S. Hart, Secretary.

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