

The Potter Journal.

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Devoted to the Principles of True Democracy, and the Dissemination of Morality, Literature and News.

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Poet's Corner.

From the Atlantic Monthly, for Jan.
AT SEA.

The night is made for cooling shade,
For silence and for sleep;
And when I was a child, I laid
My hands upon my breast, and prayed,
And sunk to slumbers deep;
Childlike as then, I lie to-night,
And watch my lonely cabin light.
Each movement of the swaying lamp
Shows how the vessel reels:
As o'er her deck the billows tramp,
And all her timbers strain and creak
With every shock she feels.
It starts and shudders, while it burns,
And in its hinged socket turns.
Now swinging slow, and slanting low,
It almost level lies:
And yet I know, while to and fro
I watch the seeming pendule go,
With restless fall and rise,
The steady shaft is still upright,
Poising its little globe of light.
O hand of God! O lamp of peace!
O promise of my soul!
Though weak and tossed, and ill at ease,
Amid the roar of sniting seas,
The ship's convulsive roll,
I own with love and tender awe,
Your perfect type of faith and law!
A heavenly trust my spirit calms,
My soul is filled with light:
The ocean stars his solemn psalms,
The wild winds chant: I cross my palms,
Happy as if to-night,
Under the cottage-roof, again
I heard the soothing summer rain.

Choice Reading.

From the New England Farmer.

What is Modesty?

If you look in your Webster's Dictionary, you will find it thus defined: "Modesty—that holy temper which accompanies a moderate estimate of one's own worth and importance."

My young friends have doubtless often watched in the early spring time, for the appearance of the bright-eyed violet, and when they have caught the first sight of its sweet face, half hidden beneath the fallen leaves, or the spring grass, how have they clapt their hands for joy, and welcomed the little corner with a cry of delight. That little violet, dear children, is an emblem of modesty. Nestling in its sweet and loved retirement, it seems like the quiet, loving spirit of a pure child. The thoughtless and vain may pass the modest flower carelessly by; the heedless pleasure-seekers may even crush its beauty beneath their feet; but the thoughtful and pure are won by its modest loveliness, and they prize it all the more because it seeks not to attract their notice.

In almost every company of children, we see just such human flowers. Beautiful as God, the lover of beauty, can make them, and sparkling as the purest diamonds, they seem all unconscious of their superior attractions. How unselfish they are! Watch them, and see how earnestly they endeavor to make those around them happy, and when they have succeeded, how delightful they themselves appear! Such children are the violets that grow in the waste places of this ruined world. Like that precious flower, they have a smile for every passer-by; and the deep sympathy of their kind, loving hearts, is ever ready to rush forth at the first sight of sorrow and suffering. Such gentle spirits are like the bright sunshine, cheering the cottage and the palace, and welcome alike to the rich and the poor; for where is the being with heart so hard, as not to love a beautiful, modest child?

The mother of this precious virtue is Humility. She has also two lovely sisters, Meekness and Simplicity, who are always found in her company, entering when she enters, and retiring with her whenever she is driven from the heart by Pride and Self-love. These three lovely sisters dwell in the hearts of all my youthful readers, unless they have been driven out by evil passions.

And yet we must not forget that true modesty does not consist so much in what we do, and how we appear, as in what we do not. A person may appear humble, and still actually be very proud. A girl may be retiring in her manners, and apparently meek in her deportment and conversation, and yet have no higher object in all this, than simply to attract attention and win approval. This is not modesty, but pride. It does not spring from pure and kindly feelings, but from a love of self. It is not the gentle loving spirit of the violet, but the selfish one of the daffodil.

Emma Wyman was a girl of excellent capabilities. She stood high in her class, and was considered one of the best scholars of her age in the school, which she attended. But, unfortunately, she was exceedingly pert. She claimed consideration as her right, as due to her superior powers and charms. Hence she was proud and imperious. Her school-mates did not like her. They did not wish to be compared to grant attentions and bestow their love; although had Emma been less presuming, and more modest and retiring, they would have delighted to honor her.

Sarah White was a girl in the same school. She was the very opposite of Emma. Equally talented and beautiful, she seemed altogether unconscious of the fact that she was more attractive than others. Her whole aim seemed to be to make her associates happy, and to bestow upon them her love and kindness. It puzzled her to tell why she should be a favorite with every one. She was sure Emma was far more deserving of attention than herself, and she wondered that others did not think so.

Thus, while Emma was liked by a few, and perhaps loved by none, Sarah was a general favorite. Every one who saw her, was attracted towards her. When she looked up to you with her pleasant, loving smile, you could not help smiling in return; and though she was very beautiful in person, she seemed to think her little friends were far more lovely than herself.

Emma Wyman despised the disposition that made her school-mate so attractive. She called it tame and devoid of spirit. She was an ambitious girl, and determined to attract notice, and secure praise. This was the one object with her in all her studies. She never felt happier than when she stood at the head of her class upon examination day, with the gilded prize hung around her neck, and the eyes of the gathered crowd fixed upon her. But when Emma saw how much Sarah's gentle disposition attracted the notice and won the love of her teachers and associates, she began to despise it less, and even seriously to consider whether it were not, after all, the surest way to secure that attention of which she was so inordinately fond. She did not love this gentle spirit any better than before, but she thirsted for the flattery and praise which she daily lavished upon it. To secure these results, she resolved to change her deportment and imitate, as closely as possible, Sarah White.

About this time, Emma's parents removed to another town. The teachers and scholars in the school which she would now attend, were all strangers to her. This was a good opportunity to commence her plan. She therefore carefully considered all that she had observed in Sarah, and resolved to do and appear just as nearly like her as possible. All this did very well for a time, and she began to secure that attention which she so much desired. But she was too impatient. There were others in the school who were as talented and beautiful as herself. They had been *possessed*, and their mates knew that they were just as good as they seemed to be; and they prized and loved them accordingly. This vexed the selfish spirit of Emma. She could not bear a rival; and in her vexation, she forgot the part she was acting, and giving way to impatience was soon quite angry. Her school-mates were astonished, and grieved that they had been so deceived; for they were beginning to love the stranger scholar, and had talked much among themselves of what an addition such a talented and lovely girl would be to their number. Poor Emma never regained their confidence.

Were here something of the difference between true and false modesty. One springs from a love of others, the other springs from the love of self. True modesty lives only in the heart that is full of kindness; false modesty dwells in the heart of selfishness. Humility is the mother of the former. Pride is the latter. Had Emma Wyman been truly modest, and really what she seemed, she would have rejoiced in the prosperity of another; and instead of being offended because her school-mates chose to love and praise those whom they had found to be worthy of their love, she would have delighted in joining them in their kind offices, and been made happy herself in giving happiness to others. But she was acting the part of a deceiver, and hence the virtue she assumed was no more like the real virtue that dwelt in the heart of Sarah, than the tinted wax-flower is like the beautiful, fragrant rose. It may have the form and color, but it lacks the fragrance and the life of the natural flower.

Unaffected modesty, says one, "is the sweetest charm of female excellence, the richest gem in the diadem of her honor." But to be thus valuable, it must be pure. It must spring truly from the heart. Here it must grow, and patiently wait, like the little violet, until its hiding place is discovered. Fear not, that none will find it. It will attract kindred spirits. Its smile will gleam out, like a bright ray of light, into the darkness, and those whose friendship is worthy of being prized, will come and bend down to gaze upon its sweet fragrance.

Why, my young friends do you pass by many a gaudier flower, to seek the modest violet, or the bright-eyed daisy? Why do you bend down and gaze so lovingly upon it, and address to it such joyous exclamations? It is because its smile has found its way into your heart. It comes not forth to meet you, it would not be so presuming. Though clothed with beauty, it does not seem to be ever dwelling upon its own charms, but peeping out from be-

neath the nesting leaves or springing grass, it seems to be looking for some one to smile upon and love. Yes, girls, and that gentle beaming smile wins your heart. You love the sweet darling flower, because you cannot help it.

Happy indeed will you be if the same shall be said of you—if the gentle spirit which dwells within your heart shall so attract the heart of our friends, that they shall say, "That little girl is so modest and good, I cannot help loving her." Remember, then, that modesty is a gem of beauty, and if you wish to be truly beautiful, you must wear this beautiful gem upon your heart. H. P. A.

Educational.

Teachers' Association.

Mr. Entwort—For some time past I have looked in the JOURNAL as it made its weekly appearance, for the proceedings of "The Teachers' Association," which was held in Coudersport in November last; but I have looked in vain, and on inquiry, I have ascertained that the Secretary of that meeting has failed to prepare an account of its doings for the press. Now, being a member of that body, and desiring that our citizens should know what we are doing to advance the cause of education, I have prepared the following report for publication:

Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met in the Court House in Coudersport, at nine o'clock A. M., Nov. 15th, 1858. The President and Secretary being absent, the Superintendent called the members to order, when Mr. M. O. Crosby was elected President, and Mr. Wm. Gilliland Secretary, *pro tem*.

Rev. J. Hendrick, Chairman of the Committee of arrangements, made a partial report, to the effect that the morning and a part of the afternoon were devoted to teachers' drills, and the remainder of the afternoon was taken up in discussing such subjects as the members saw fit to propose; the evening session to be occupied in reading Essays, and in discussion. The Co. Superintendent then proposed the following order for the "drills": viz: Morning Session—1st, Written Arithmetic; 2nd, Intellectual Arithmetic; 3rd, Reading; 4th, Orthography.—Afternoon Session—1st, Geography; 2nd, English Grammar.

Throughout the meeting the Co. Superintendent took charge of the "drills" in which he was occasionally assisted by other members of the Association.

After the "drills" were through for the day, Mr. S. S. Greenman offered the following resolution, viz: "Resolved, that whispering in school, should be suppressed, under all circumstances." After a short discussion, it was laid upon the table; when the Association adjourned till seven o'clock P. M.

Evening—Met at the appointed hour. Prayer, by Rev. D. Styles; music by the choir. The Co. Superintendent then addressed the Association upon the duties of Teachers. An Essay was then read by Miss Caroline Hawley; subject, "The Propriety of giving Rewards." Adjourned.

TUESDAY, 16th.

Met at nine o'clock A. M. Prayer by Rev. J. Hendrick; music by the choir. The Written Arithmetic drill was conducted by Miss A. J. Spafford, who brought out some "points" that every teacher would do well to remember; especially the one about spelling out the numbers in Addition, as, two and three are five and seven are twelve, etc. She strongly recommended the plan of reading them off, as, two, five, twelve, etc.

In the drill in Geography, several teachers gave their method of conducting the first recitation in that branch. The most approved plan seemed to be to commence with the pupils own neighborhood, and then lead him forward to Town, County, State and more extended divisions.—One old and experienced teacher said that she commenced with the yard around the school house, and the stumps in the adjoining fields.

After the drills were through, the resolution relating to whispering was called up. After some discussion, the Co. Superintendent offered to amend, by striking off the words "under all circumstances," but his amendment was voted down. The vote being put on the original resolution it was lost. Adjourned till seven o'clock P. M.

Evening—Met at the appointed hour. Music by the choir.

The Co. Superintendent proposed that the teachers have a "familiar talk" about the best method of securing punctuality in the morning. One thought that much might be accomplished by keeping a "ready record" thereby showing each one the amount of time they lose in a given period. Another thought that parents were more to blame in this respect than pupils, and that much could not be done to rem-

edy the evil until they were convinced of the importance of having their children at school by time, in the morning. A third thought that if the opening exercises were made attractive, the pupils would make an effort to be there to enjoy them. She thought, that as children love music, if school were opened by singing, it would have a tendency to make them punctual.

Essays were then read by Mr. S. S. Greenman, Miss Jennie Lyman and Miss N. Ensign. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 17th.

Met at nine o'clock A. M. Prayer by Rev. J. Hendrick. Music by the choir. The drills to-day were conducted in a spirited manner, and were well calculated to improve those who participated in them. After they were through Miss N. Ensign offered the following resolution: "Resolved, That female teachers should receive the same, or as good compensation for their services, as males holding the same grade of certificate."

A short discussion followed, which seemed to be pretty much all on the side of the ladies. The Co. Superintendent then offered to amend by striking out all after the word "Resolved," and inserting the following in its place, viz: "That all teachers should receive wages in proportion to the grade of their certificates."

The amendment was carried, when the resolution as amended, was passed. Adjourned till seven o'clock P. M.

Evening—Met at the appointed hour. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Clafflin. Music by the choir.

Rev. J. Hendrick, who was appointed in May last, to prepare a review of Brown's Grammar, stated, that from a press of other business he had been unable to prepare a written review; but if the Association would accept of it, he would present a verbal one. This they consented to do, when the review was delivered.

Miss Caroline Hawley, who was appointed at the same time to prepare a review of Kenyon's Grammar, stated, that from various reasons, she could only present her review in the same manner as the previous one. To this the Association consented, when she presented a verbal review of the work she had under consideration. Both of the reviewers seemed to be warmly attached to their respective authors. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, 18th.

To-day the drills partook of the same general character which distinguished them on previous days; but as there were two or three old teachers in who had not been there before, they were more animated.

The Geography exercise could not have been otherwise than interesting and instructive. On the subject of physical Geography, the Gulf Stream and the Trade Wind formed valuable topics of discussion for a short time. Although our opinions may not be supposed to accelerate the onward flow of that "mighty ocean stream," nor retard "the winds in their circuit," yet our knowledge or ignorance of the facts connected with them, and of the most generally received theories in explanation of those facts, may retard or accelerate, as the case may be, our success in teaching. A few questions about the State and National Government, their manner of proceeding, and the way of electing the various officers which compose them, showed an ignorance in this direction not in the least flattering. Were some persons unable to tell how United States Senators are elected, it might provoke a smile; but such ignorance in those claiming to be school teachers, and especially males, every year exercising the functions of citizenship, becomes too serious for worth; it is simply disgraceful, and an imposition upon their patrons.

The subject of discussion this afternoon, was a resolution laid on the table at the meeting held in Oswayo, in May last, viz: "Resolved, That the practice of awarding prizes to pupils, is calculated to work an injury on their minds, and should be discontinued."

During this discussion, the prize system was severely handled; one speaker in particular, an old and experienced teacher, showed up its dark side in all its helpfulness. She thought it had a direct tendency to develop the vice of avarice, already so fearfully large in the American character. The resolution was passed; when the Association adjourned till seven o'clock P. M.

Evening—Met at the appointed hour. Music by the choir.

First exercise, an essay by Mr. M. O. Crosby; subject, "Pleasures and Rewards of Thinking." Next listened to a poem read by Mr. M. O. Crosby and Miss Eliza Lyman.

Mr. Sylvester Greenman then offered the following resolution, to wit: "Resolved, that the County Superintendent is the right arm of the school system, and should be supported by every friend of education." This called out some remarks in favor of the Superintendent. The resolution was finally laid upon the table. Adjourned.

FRIDAY 19th.

There were one or two regular drills to-day; after which several of the teachers gave their method of teaching the alphabet, and of conducting the first exercises in reading. After several others had given an interesting account of her manner of operating. She used the "word system." While in the midst of her explanation, an intelligent director present exclaimed, "You can have our school!" Here the County Superintendent wished to know how many present used the "word system." On taking an expression, a few answered in the affirmative. After these exercises, the Chair in obedience to a motion to appoint a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, appointed Messrs. J. W. Bird, G. W. Grigsby and D. H. Chesbro, and Misses Jane Hydon and Clara Ensign, said committee. They reported the following persons, to wit: for Pres. Sylvester Greenman; for Vice Pres. O. J. Spafford; for Secy. J. W. Bird; for Treasurer, J. Hendrick.

in favor of the Superintendent. The resolution was finally laid upon the table. Adjourned.

On motion, the clause in the constitution requiring the officers to be elected by ballot was suspended, when the above named persons were elected by acclamation.

The President then took his seat and made the following appointments for the next meeting of the Association, to wit: Messrs. O. J. Spafford, D. Whipple, Jr., and H. P. Bird, and Misses Augusta J. Spafford and Jane Hydon as Essayists. Mr. C. H. Allen to write a review of "Weid's New Grammar." J. W. Bird to write a review of "McNally's Complete School Geography." Miss M. Hopkiss to write a review of "Colton & Pithers' Geography," and Miss Clara Ensign to write a review of "Smith's Quarto Geography." Also Messrs. R. Z. Roberts and D. H. Judd to declaim.

J. W. Bird then offered the following resolution for consideration at our next meeting, to wit: "Resolved, that the 'word method' is the best method of teaching pupils to read. The resolution was accepted."

The Co. Supt. then read his appointments for the examination of teachers. In the course of his remarks he said that if it should be his fortune to meet any whose moral character he knew to be bad, no matter what their qualifications in other respects, he should not grant them certificates.

Mr. O. J. Spafford, Mr. J. W. Bird, and Miss Jane Hydon were appointed a committee of arrangements for the next meeting.

After Prayer, by Rev. J. Hendrick, the Association adjourned to meet at the Red School House in Roulet, on the last Thursday in January, eighteen hundred and fifty nine.

Although to a careless looker on many of our exercises might have seemed dull and uninteresting, yet they were no more so than is the preparatory drilling for any other calling. And I think I am safe in saying that no teacher left without being better prepared for the duties of his profession than when he came. But yet many did not see fit to meet with us, and give us the benefit of their experience. This should not be. I am well aware that our Association is not absolutely the best means of preparing teachers for their profession; but the best cannot always be commanded by the many. And such is the case with the Potter County school teachers. But few of them can leave the county to attend Normal Schools and other institutions where they can obtain a thorough training in the duties of their calling. And consequently the best they can do is to avail themselves of the advantages offered at home by the Association. Yet strange as it may seem, some who aspire to teach, appear unwilling to do it. Those who have received no professional training must certainly ought to avail themselves of every means of improvement within their power, that they may not go wholly blind-folded to work in one of the most difficult avocations of life; and those who have, certainly ought to be willing to give others who are not so highly favored the benefit of their skill and experience. In doing this they will find their knowledge brightened and their minds growing sharper.

They let every teacher within the limits of Potter County place their names upon the roll book of her Teachers' Association, and become working members in that body as well as out of it. Come from every hill and valley, from every mountain, glen, and forest nook; come from the rippling waters of the Allegheny, and from the clear fountains of the Susquehanna; come one, come all, to every meeting of the Association, and let us counsel together for the advancement of education, and then go our way again better prepared for our important duties and stronger in our united strength. HEBRON.

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