

# Bedford Inquirer and Chronicle.

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BY DAVID OVER.

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## County Superintendent of Common Schools.

In our last, we presented a few remarks on the importance of the office of County Superintendent of Common Schools. We contemplate presenting some views of a plan, which, if faithfully carried out, will, we think, very much tend to give a fresh impulse, to the cause of common schools in our county.

The object of the office was intended to elevate the standard of common school education, by having better teachers, and awakening more interest on the part of education. Where the duties of the office have been efficiently prosecuted, we have seen such results as to inspire the friends of education to value and appreciate it. Teachers have been stimulated to improve themselves and infuse more life into the schools. Directors and parents, notwithstanding their prejudices, have been brought to a better state of things in the schools, and who would be sorry to have the office abolished. We advert now, to those counties, where such a state of things have been realized. The late report of the State Superintendent will show a decided improvement over the last year's effort. It has worked well thus far, and he indulges the hope of realizing the desired improvement and result as was originally intended in the creation of the office. Much will doubtless be realized, although it meets with a strong tide of opposition in certain directions.

As the time of the triennial convention of School Directors is near at hand, to elect a new superintendent of Common Schools, we will now present our views of a plan, which if efficiently carried out by the individual who may be elected, will tend very much to awaken up new interest in our county, on the part of directors, parents and teachers. Our plan will not be a new one, but new in so far as our county is concerned.

The duties of the office call for the examination of teachers, visiting the schools, and gathering of materials on educational topics, &c. New, much can be done, in the examination of teachers, in the presence of the school directors, to awaken an interest. It is not enough to ascertain whether the teacher can read, write and cipher, but the point in question should be, whether the principles involved in these primary branches are well understood, and, tacitly, sufficiently well manifested to communicate these principles to those under his care. There is not sufficient interest manifested to communicate these principles to those under his care. There is not sufficient interest manifested in the *modus operandi* of primary teaching, by a philosophical manner, teachers should be convened in the different townships for at least several days, to attend to the lectures of the Superintendent, and more time should be spent in this, than is usually allowed to it. But we are apt to misconceive as well as misinterpret the principles involved in primary teaching, and often profess more than we really know. A non-importance is attached to it, and hence not considered necessary in teaching the elements. It is owing to this fact, and which is notorious, that our schools are still in a backward condition, and teachers are generally deficient in this very essential department of common school education. Many are still unacquainted with the elementary sounds of the letters, and much has been lost on this account. The importance of this fact to stimulate teachers to more attention in this direction, should be carefully impressed upon the minds of all who undertake to instruct children and youth.

In connection with primary teaching, the Superintendent's lectures should also embrace the subject of Arithmetic, Geography, English Grammar, and other kindred subjects on education. All the information that can be given to arouse the teachers' energies to a more thorough acquaintance of these subjects, in order to bring more life into the school room, should afford pleasure and interest, while lectures are given for this purpose. The Superintendent, to carry out this plan efficiently, should supply himself with maps, charts, globes, and other apparatus, in order to illustrate the subjects selected for lecture. Information can be disseminated in this way, which will exert a happy influence, and tend very much to free the mind from prejudice. In this way, will the way be opened for a profitable examination, and the teacher and director will view matters in a different light, and a different state of things will soon be visible in our common schools.

From these brief remarks, we will learn the importance and the necessity of having a Normal School somewhere in our county.

## THE INDIAN CHIEF, OR THE TEST OF A MOTHER'S CONFIDENCE.

One of the first settlers in Western New York, was Judge W., who established himself at Whitestown, about four miles from Utica. He brought his family with him, among whom was a widowed daughter with an only child—a fine boy about four years old. You will recollect, the country around was an unbroken forest, and this was the domain of the savage tribes. Judge W. saw the necessity of keeping on good terms with the Indians, for, as he was nearly alone, he was completely at their mercy. Accordingly he took every opportunity to assure them of his kindly feelings, and to secure their good will in return. Several of the chiefs came to see him, and all appeared pacific. But there was one thing that troubled him; an aged chief of the Onondaga tribe, and one of great influence, who resided at a distance of a dozen miles, had not yet been to see him, nor could he ascertain the views and feelings of the sachem in respect to his settlement in that region. At last he sent him a message, and the answer was that the chief would visit him on the morrow.

True to his appointment, the sachem came; Judge W. received him with marks of respect, and introduced his wife, his daughter, and little boy. The interview that followed was interesting. Upon its result the judge was convinced his security might depend, and he was therefore exceedingly anxious to make a favorable impression upon the distinguished chief. He expressed his desire to settle in the country, to live on terms of amity and good fellowship with the Indians, and to be useful to them by introducing among them the arts of civilization.

The chief heard him out, and then said, "Brother, you ask much and you promise much. What pledge can you give of your faith? The white man's word may be good to the white man, but it is not so to the Indian." "I have put my life in your hands," said the judge; "is not that an evidence of my good intentions; I have placed confidence in the Indian, and will not abuse or betray the trust that is thus reposed." "So much is well," replied the chief, "the Indian will repay confidence with confidence; if you will trust him. Let this boy go with me to my wigwam—I will bring him back in three days with my answer."

If an arrow had pierced the bosom of the mother, she could not have felt a deeper pang than went to her heart as the Indian made this proposal. She sprang forward, and running to the boy, who stood at the side of the sachem, looking into his face with pleased wonder and admiration, she encircled him in her arms, and pressing him to her bosom, was about to fly from the room. A gloomy and ominous frown came over the sachem's brow, but he did not speak.

But not so with Judge W. He knew that the success of their enterprise—the lives of his family—depended on the decision of a moment. "Stay, stay my daughter," he said, "bring back the boy I beseech you. He is not more dear to you than to me. I would not risk a hair of his head. God will watch over him. He will be as safe in the sachem's wigwam, as beneath our own roof."

The agonized mother hesitated for a moment; she then slowly returned, placed the boy on the knee of the chief, and kneeling at his feet, burst into a flood of tears. He arose and departed. We shall not attempt to describe the agony of the mother for the ensuing days. She was agitated by contending hopes and fears. In the night she awoke from sleep seeming to hear the screams of the child calling on its mother for help. But the time wore slowly away, and the third day came. How slowly did the hours pass! The morning waned away; noon arrived; yet the sachem came not. There was a gleam over the whole household. The mother was pale and silent. Judge W. paced the floor to and fro, going every few minutes to the door, and looking through the opening in the forest towards the sachem's abode.

At last, as the rays of the setting sun were thrown upon the tree-tops around, the eagle feathers of the chief were seen dancing above the bushes in the distance. He advanced rapidly, and the little boy was at his side. He was gaily attired as a young chief, his feet being dressed in moccasins, a fine beaver skin was on his shoulders, and eagle feathers were stuck in his hair. He was in excellent spirits, and so proud was he of his honors that he seemed two inches taller than he was before. He was soon in his mother's arms, and that brief minute he seemed to pass from death to life. It

## THE DEW-DROP.

It was a very happy meeting—too happy for us to describe. "The white man has conquered," said the sachem; "hereafter let us be friends. You have trusted an Indian; he will repay you with confidence and friendship." He was as good as his word, and Judge W. lived for many years in peace with the Indian tribes, and succeeded in laying the foundation of a flourishing and prosperous community.

The sun had gone down on the other side of the western hills to warm and to bless some other land. The stars looked out from the windows of the sky and smiled lovingly at the earth beneath. The evening wind stole by on her silent wing, and her breath was fragrant with the perfume of a thousand flowers. The quiet dew-drops, like a great family of brothers and sisters, crept over the darkening earth, but no man heard the sound of their noiseless step. Only one might see the starlight as it fell upon their uplifted eyes, or feel the cool touch of some dew-drop finger.

Then all the plants and the flowers gave a ready welcome to those brothers and sisters that came noiseless and voiceless over the earth. Then, the willing vine grew fresh again, and the wearied rose was strengthened, the honey-suckle sent out its sweet odor, and the humble violet was glad. But one little dew-drop stood alone and forlorn; his face was sad, and a big tear stood in his eye. Then the voice of the evening-wind stole by, and she whispered in the dew-drop's ear—

"Say, wherefore dost thou weep alone? why goest thou not with thy brothers in their work?" And the little drop answered, in a trembling voice, "I am naught but a feeble hand can do."

"Nay, for the smallest may do something," said the evening breeze; and she pointed where a fainting lily was hanging down its delicate head. "Dost thou not see that withering flower? Thy soft touch may cause her to revive and look up again; and, so saying, the breeze passed softly away.

But the dew drop smiled with a joyous lip at her words, and the tear in his eye grew bright with happiness. Then he laid his head against the lily's head, and the tear fell down on the lily's cheek. And lo! the flower lifted up her meek brow toward the sky, and her sweet breath was full of grateful thanks.

Then was the heart of the dew-drop glad, and as the evening wind passed by once more, she heard him, as he softly whispered, "Now will I regret that my life is so short, nor be sorry when the sun beckons me up to himself in the returning day, for I, too, have done some good."

Like the dew-drop to the lily are thy kind glance and thy loving word young friend, to thy parents' heart. Ad when thou sayest, "I am too small and too weak to comfort another," remember the weeping dew-drop and the rejoicing lily—and know that thou, too, mayest do some good.—*Præyerian*.

RESPECT OLD AGE. There, give him all the path tread slowly and reverently in his present. Hush that rude laughter, check that ill jest. See you not upon his temples the now of many winters? See you not the sunken eye, the bowed form, the thin hand up whose surface the blue veins stand out like cords. Gone are the beauty and strength of manhood; and in that faded eye but life light is left, save that of love and kindness.—That voice has lost its music, save the soft undertone of affection.

Sit down young friend, and let that story of the olden time; and if, looking backwards into the mists of the past, he sometimes forgets, sometimes of mends dates and incidents, or tells the me old tale for the twentieth time, think or what a vast field his memory waters.—Think, over what a checkered web events, thought takes her beaten track, on into the depth of years. Oh, the joys and sorrows, the hopes and disappointments, the anxieties and dreams, and suffrage he rouses from their dreary beds, as 'twere life's battles over again.

And scenes long lost, of joy again, come wandering o'er his aged brow. Standing upon the boundary line between life and the untired future, his head would turn backwards into the past of the next. One moment he longs fast—the next come back the mocking wiles of departed joys. The thorns have dropped silently away amidst the leaves the roses

## BORN TO GOOD LUCK.

The St. Louis Leader tells the following story: Not over a dozen years ago, a merchant of this city, well known and highly respected, failed in business, and after settling up his business, gave to his principal creditor a deed of trust on certain real estate, to secure the payment of \$12,000. At the time the property was barely valued at that, so far as he was concerned, the matter ended. The merchant, broken down, disappointed, poor, but yet enterprising, went South, visited California, Mexico and South America, and lost them again. A year since he returned to the city, sick, travel worn, needy and disheartened. By chance he met his old lawyer, a gentleman high in his profession, and who is deservedly respected. After the first greeting the lawyer remarked, "I am glad to see you back, and as you seem to be in want of funds, the sale will be just in time."

The merchant looked hard at his friend and finally said, "Sale! what sale? I've got nothing to sell."

"Nonsense my dear fellow, you are richer than you imagine. Don't you remember the deed of trust I drew up for you some twelve years ago?" "I do, what of it?" "Well, at that time the property would not have realized that sum, so it was let lie, but it is now in the market, and I expect to close a contract for its sale this week."

"You amaze me; what price do you expect to get?" "I've asked \$88,000, and shall get it too. Your old debt and interest will amount to \$21,000 or thereabouts, so you will have \$65,000 to go upon."

The sensations of the party may be more easily imagined than described, as the penny-a-liners have it, but one thing is certain, Mr. A. went home a happier man than he had been for ten years at least.

Reader, what we have here related is simple fact, and more, the occurrence is not yet a week old.

NATIONAL DISGRACE. The passage below occurred in the course of the proceedings of the investigating committee in Congress. It is a painful commentary upon the character of the highest legislative body in the nation:

E. P. C. Triplett, being sworn, said he had never approached any member, upon any subject with an improper proposition. By Mr. Orr—Have you been brought in contact with any member in that connection. Witness—I have. I suppose there is no body who knows the organization of Congress who expects to carry anything through it merely from the love of Justice.

By Mr. Orr—Is that the general reputation of Congress? Witness—That is the general reputation of Congress.

THE WORLD.—We must neither leave the world, nor love it. The world promises comforts, and pays sorrows. Riches and prosperity will either kill with care, or surfeit with delight. Be not proud of riches, but afraid of them, lest they be as silver bars to cross the way to heaven.

We put a price upon riches, but riches cannot put a price upon us. 'Tis a sad thing when a man can have no comfort but in diversions, no joy but in forgetting himself.

## Love the men of the world but not the things of the world.

We should endeavor to pass through this world with a cheerful indifference. It is our business in this world to secure an interest in the next.

NOT BAD.—A lady walking on one of the wharves in New York, asked a sailor why a ship was called 'she.' 'Because,' said the sailor, 'the rigging costs more than the hull.'

From the Harrisburg Telegraph. STATE CONVENTION. At 12 o'clock, M., the Convention was called to order by Gen. Thomas J. Power, of Beaver county, who nominated S. B. Chase, of Susquehanna county, as Chairman of the Convention; which was agreed to.

Mr. Chase took the chair, and thanked the Convention in a brief address, for the honor conferred upon him. He referred to the peculiar circumstances under which the Convention assembled, the importance of the great principles upon which the Convention would be called upon to deliberate, and trusted they would be kept in mind in the course of their proceedings. If this was done, the result of their deliberations would be harmonious, and would carry the party on to certain triumph and victory.

On motion of Mr. Small, of York, Richard Coulter, of Westmoreland, and A. L. Hendershot, of Berks, were appointed Secretaries; who took their seats. By direction of the Chairman, the Republican and Union calls were read. The Secretary then read a list of Delegates which had been previously prepared, as follows:

- SENATORIAL.
1. City of Philadelphia—Charles Gilpin, Geo. A. Coffey, Stillwell S. Bishop, Daniel B. Beiler.
  2. County of Philadelphia—Geo. Reed, Wm. Moran, Charles Wistar.
  3. Montgomery—William Mintz.
  4. York—John C. Wright.
  5. Berks—John S. Richards.
  6. Bucks—Geo. Warner.
  7. Lancaster and Lebanon, Nathaniel Ellmshaker, Simeon Gulford.
  8. Dauphin and Northumberland, John B. Rutherford.
  9. Northampton and Lehigh, John L. Hoffman.
  10. Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne, T. L. Foster.
  11. Adams and Franklin, Washington Crooks, Jno. R. Hersch.
  12. York, Thos. E. Cochran, Samuel Herrman.
  13. Cumberland and Perry, M. B. Holman, Joseph Speck.
  14. Centre, Lycoming, Sullivan and Clinton, B. Rush Petriken.
  15. Blair, Cambria and Huntingdon, John M. Gibbons, John McCollough.
  16. Luzerne, Montour and Columbia, F. Stewart.
  17. Bradford, Susquehanna and Wyoming, Ezra Patrick.
  18. Tioga, Potter, &c., John F. Donaldson.
  19. Mercer, Venango, &c., Wm. F. Clark.
  20. Erie and Crawford, James Skinner.
  21. Butler, Beaver, &c. Thos. J. Power.
  22. Allegheny, Robert McKnight, O. H. Rippey.
  23. Washington and Green, J. S. Vanvorhis.
  24. Bedford, Fulton and Somerset, Jonas Augustine.
  25. Armstrong, Indiana and Clarion, T. J. Coffey.
  26. Juniata, Mifflin, Union and Snyder, Geo. N. Stroup.
  27. Westmoreland and Fayette, Jacob B. Miller.
  28. Schuylkill, Henry Huhn.

REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES.

Adams—John C. Ellis, Wm. King. Allegheny—Russel Errett, John H. Hampton, David E. Bayard, James A. Ekin, C. Barnes.

Armstrong, Jefferson and Clarion—George Means, E. Boffington, James E. Brown, D. Gillespie, B. Lucas.

Beaver, Butler and Lawrence—Geo. P. Shaw, Wm. Henry, A. W. Crawford.

Bedford, Fulton, and Cambria—Alex King, Geo. S. King.

Berks—A. L. Hendershot, Jacob Hoffman, J. C. Myers, J. C. Rightmeyer.

Blair and Huntingdon—Jno. C. Watson, David Blair, Jno. P. Jones.

Bradford—Allen McKean, Jno. Passmore.

Bucks—Jno. W. Cowell, Henry T. Darlington, A. S. Cadwallader.

Carbon and Lehigh—Chas. Albright, W. W. Hamersly.

Centre—W. W. Brown, Samuel Lion.

Chester—John S. Bowen, Chas. Jacobs, Wm. R. Downing.

Clearfield, McKean and Elk—W. A. Williams.

## Clinton, Lycoming and Potter—Isaac Benson, D. S. Douthan.

Columbia and Montour—William Jennison. Crawford—Geo. Merriman, Lewis L. Lord. Cumberland—Jas. R. Smith, B. F. Lee, Wm. M. Watts, John Grayson. Dauphin—James Fox, Martin Weaver. Delaware—Joshua P. Eyre. Erie—M. B. Lowry, Wareham Warner. Fayette and Westmoreland; W. A. Cook, Lafayette Markie, Richard Coulter, A. C. Moorhead.

Franklin—A. K. McClure, A. N. Rankin. Greene; J. H. Wells. Indiana; R. B. Morehead. Lancaster; O. J. Dickey, A. S. Henderson, E. Billingsfelt, A. S. Green, Abraham Eslieman. Lebanon, Henry D. Carmony. Luzerne; C. B. Haskley, Wm. P. Miller.

Mercer, Venango and Warren; J. H. Robinson, Thos. Struthers, S. P. McCalmont. Mifflin; Saul Comfort. Monroe and Pike; Jackson Lantz. Montgomery; David Newport, Lloyd Jones, W. W. Taylor. Northampton; E. H. Rauch, D. G. Jones.

Northumberland, Robt M. Frick. Perry, B. F. Junkin. Schuylkill, Walter Sedgwick, Benjamin Bartholomew. Somerset, J. R. Edie. Susquehanna, Sullivan, and Wyoming, S. P. Chase and A. Hine. Tioga, C. H. Seymour. Union, Juniata and Snyder, M. H. Taggart.

Washington, W. S. Moore and J. C. Sloan. York, David E. Small, Jacob Wirt, H. C. Aitman, C. H. Bressler, J. S. Haldeeman and Chas. A. Klinefelter.

City of Philadelphia—Charles Gibbons, Wm. F. Clark, R. K. M. Lorenz, Wm. Elliott, George T. Thorne, Jacob Dock, Geo. R. Smith, R. K. Smith. County of Philadelphia—Nicholas Thorn, P. R. Schuyler, Jr., Wm. P. Cooper, W. M. Wilson, J. Alexander Simpson, H. Krickbaum, M. Myers, James S. Smith, George H. Moore, Isaac C. Bryant.

Mr. COFFEY, of Indiana, submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the delegation from each Senatorial district, whose seats are not contested, shall each select one person from their respective delegations, and that the person so selected shall be a member of the committee on credentials.

Mr. M'CLURE moved to amend, by substituting the following: Resolved, That all the Delegates present who have been elected to this Convention, whether by the separate action of the American and Republican parties, or by the joint action of those parties, be admitted into this Convention, and that each Delegate be entitled to one vote.

Mr. COOPER moved to amend the amendment as follows: Resolved, That a committee of nine be appointed by the chair to examine the credentials of members, and report the names and the facts to the Convention.

These several propositions were discussed by Messrs. Coffey, of Indiana, M'Clure, of Franklin, Watts, of Cumberland, Cochran, of York, Lowry, of Erie, Dickey, of Lancaster, B. Rush Petriken, of Clifton, Cooper, Kelley, Smith, Simpson, Thorne and Gibbons, of Philadelphia; and Morehead, of Indiana; when the amendment to the amendment, that the Chairman appoint a committee of nine, was agreed to and the resolution as amended was adopted.

Mr. Vanvorhis submitted a resolution, that a committee of one from each Senatorial district be chosen to report officers for the permanent organization of the Convention. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Edie the rules of the House of Representatives were adopted for the government of the Convention. Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Convention met at 3 o'clock, P.M. The committee on credentials was announced by the Chair, as follows: T. J. Coffey, Indiana, Chairman. A. N. Rankin, Franklin. John F. Donaldson, Tioga. B. Rush Petriken, Clinton. Morrow B. Lowry, Erie. John R. Edie, Chester. Alexander King, Bedford. C. B. Haskley, Luzerne. Wm. F. Clark, Mercer. The committee on permanent officers was announced, as follows: J. S. Vanvorhis, Chairman; Wm. Mintz, H. E. Steel, J. Hoffman, Geo. Warner.

## Clinton, Lycoming and Potter—Isaac Benson, D. S. Douthan.

Columbia and Montour—William Jennison. Crawford—Geo. Merriman, Lewis L. Lord. Cumberland—Jas. R. Smith, B. F. Lee, Wm. M. Watts, John Grayson. Dauphin—James Fox, Martin Weaver. Delaware—Joshua P. Eyre. Erie—M. B. Lowry, Wareham Warner. Fayette and Westmoreland; W. A. Cook, Lafayette Markie, Richard Coulter, A. C. Moorhead.

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