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THE CHAMPION SCHOOL TEACHER.

In a neighboring county there have been recently some complaints about the inefficiency of a teacher in a public school, named Weaver, and a short time ago the directors, having collected some facts concerning his method of instruction, summoned him before them, and the president examined Weaver in reference to the matter. He said:

"Mr. Weaver, the board is not satisfied entirely with your way of imparting instruction to the youthful mind, and we called you before us today to ascertain what the general drift of your purpose was on certain occasions that have come under our notice, when you have been giving the boys what you seem to have considered useful information upon a variety of topics. For instance, Mr. Weaver, in teaching the history class, we feel compelled to take exceptions to your views, when you assert that Benjamin Franklin was shot at the battle of Agincourt, and that Nebuchadnezzar was King of Italy, and played the fiddle while Quebec was burning. You may possibly have later information upon these topics than has reached the rest of us, but the community is prejudiced against these views, and they make you unpopular."

"I don't recollect saying that," said Weaver, "but just as likely as not I may have said Agincourt instead of Waterloo and got Nebuchadnezzar mixed up with William the Conqueror. I was sick that day and my mind didn't work right, somehow."

"And besides, Mr. Weaver, we feel as if we ought to direct your attention to the fact that you were wrong when you instructed the class in grammar that Martin Van Buren is an adverb and that the word 'hungry' is a personal pronoun. These mistakes are serious enough, but when you flogged a scholar because he insisted that 'bacon' was not an intransitive preposition and that it did not represent a species of stomach ache, it seems to the board that you went a little far."

"It wasn't for that I whipped him," said Mr. Weaver; "it was because he put a pin in my chair. I was only in fun about those things. I knew well enough that Martin Van Buren was an adjective."

"Well, sir, that may or may not be a satisfactory explanation. But the board would be glad to know your authority for the statement that Garibaldi was a Saracen who fought against the Crusaders; and that he received his name from the fact that he was bald-headed? You see the parents of the children complain about this kind of thing. They don't like it. They say it poisons the minds of the little ones, and it makes parents mad."

"I'm sorry," replied Weaver, "but I hold those views conscientiously, and I'm going to stick to them."

"But such a theory will hardly avail to explain why you asserted to the class in arithmetic that vulgar fractions are so called because only blackguards used them, and why you made Mr. Coyle's boy go out to the foot for saying there was only two halves to an apple. The community is indignant at these things, sir, and when they learn that you taught those little innocents to spell 'dog,' d-a-w-g, I am seriously afraid that public sentiment will be strongly in favor of having recourse to violent measures. Now you certainly know that there is no respectable authority for spelling the name of that useful animal d-a-w-g. It is preposterous. It shows a want of a proper sense of the fitness of things, now don't it?"

"Well, maybe it does. But I'll tell you. Everybody spells dog the other way, d-a-u-g, and it struck me that it'd be a good idea for my scholars to start on a fresh, original basis; to get up something new and startling and refreshing in the dog line, and so I threw d-a-w-g out as a kind of an idea—a mere suggestion, you understand, without intending to insist upon it. But I don't mind coming down on that, I will give it to them the old way if you insist upon it."

"Very well. But while we are going over the matter permit me to say that you could have had no respectable authority for telling the school that Omaha is the capital of Mexico and that the revolutionary war began in 1812; and still less is there any warrant for your assertion to the pupils in history, that the middle name of General Washington was McGrath—George McGrath Washington. This sort of education of the infant mind attracts attention and excites remark. It brings ridicule upon the sacred name of the Father of his country, and leads the children astray, respecting the geographical location of Omaha. Its wrong is all wrong; and the board can't put up with it."

"Well, the way I come to do that, I suppose," said Weaver, "was that I used to know a man by the name of George Washington McGrath, and I must have confused him with the other one. And as for Omaha, I'll bet you it's in Mexico, or Siam, or Siberia, or some of them places; now isn't it?"

They are looking for a new pedagogue now, who is sounder on the commonly received theories about things.

Pacific County—The Willapa Valley.

"How long have you resided in this valley?" Seattle Herald reporter asked of a sturdy representative of the Willapa river on a recent visit to that section.

"Nigh on to twenty years—twenty years coming Christmas."

"How is the soil in your vicinity?" "Can't be beat. Moved here from Kentucky, and I reckon I have seen as good soil as they grow potatoes and other vegetables?"

"Well, if you call 600 to 700 bushels to the acre, it does; and onions, carrots, cabbage and the like are the finest I ever saw."

"How does it compare as a dairy country with other sections you have seen?" "Now you are getting where we live. Grass of fine quality in great quantities is raised in this valley, and often as high as two crops are raised in one year. Cows do excellently, and if a person understands the making of butter it can be made in this county to greater advantage than in any country I was ever in. Here is James Malis, living just above Woodard's Landing; he is doing quite a butter business. He finds a ready market for it at good prices. There are a few others engaged in the same business, but it is not necessary to mention them."

"Can you tell me why there is not more produce exported from this section?" "Simply because our local consumption is so great. Take into consideration that five logging camps are running on this river, besides the sawmill at South Bend, and the comparatively small acreage under cultivation, and you will see why it is we are not able to ship any more produce. On the other hand we are compelled to import feed and sometimes hay for local consumption. But from all indications we are in hopes to have a large increase over our present population on the river by another season. People are becoming cognizant of our resources, and are finding their way hither with a rapidity that is surprising to us old stagers."

"Well, much obliged for your information. Guess we'll go over and see friend Smith."

"Don't be in a hurry, young man. Perhaps I can tell you something more. Come and take a ride up the valley with me."

"This place we are passing now is the Giesey farm. The place takes in that prairie in the rear, and contains 320 acres. It is conceded to be the finest in the valley. This section was settled some twenty years ago by a German colony, and I think the Giesey is the only one remaining. It was mostly woods and wilderness when they settled here, but with their usual energy and perseverance they succeeded in obtaining some as fine farms as you will see in the states. Fruit of every variety is raised in abundance. The valley is very rich in productiveness, and when once cleared will make the garden spot of Washington Territory. The settlements only reach Fern Prairie at the present time. James Fowler started in there a year or so ago with a logging camp, and now there are several families living in that neighborhood. The land is susceptible of being converted into farms. A good wagon road the entire distance is the outlet to Woodward's Landing, and from there to South Bend, Oysterville and other points on the bay."

"About what is the number of acres in the valley that could be put under cultivation during the coming season and also the number of acres you would have should the land be cleared of standing timber?" "Approximately, I should say that we have not over 2,000 acres that could be utilized to good advantage. If the land was all cleared there would be fully 12,000 acres that could be put under cultivation."

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