

EDUCATION OF YOUTH.

The Virginia *Enterprise*, speaking of the boys of Virginia City, advances some ideas which with certain qualifications are generally applicable to American boys. It says: "They are strong race physically and mentally, and they are bright even to precocity. Disciplined and placed in worthy paths and their lives would be real ornaments, but as they are drifting, when manhood turns on its head of steam there will surely be a wrecking of trains. With the greatest mine on earth under our city's streets, no boys can learn mining even if they have lived all their lives here; with the most magnificent mining machinery on earth, at work upon our mines, no boys can learn to be mechanics, and the same rule attaches to all other occupations."

The problem of technical education is involved in this matter, and if it is to be solved at all it will be brought about by the strenuous efforts now being made in this country and in Europe. There is a greater demand for skilled labor than for unskilled, this may be considered the cardinal point of the question, and it is pretty well demonstrated from the fact that skilled labor is very seldom obliged to go a-begging for employment. In nearly every department of mechanics and mining there exists such a division of labor that apprentice work as it used to be known is at a minimum. We may be mistaken, but we certainly have reason to believe, from every-day experience, that purely physical labor remains chained to the dreary routine of "horse work," without very many opportunities to rise above it. The old system of learning to be a machinist by scraping castings, or the shoemaker's art by sawing wood for several years, is very much modified by the quantity of intelligence and skill employed by the new hand. The lad who has received a good technical education need not now fear to be begin at the lowest rung of the ladder, for his merits will not permit him to remain there long.

If the boys of Virginia City were offered the privilege of a technical and experimental school in the mining business, we believe many of them would rise to be an honor to the community. Some unknown and undeveloped genius would be brought out, which is now being smothered through lack of opportunities. Boys live an artificial life in cities because they are crowded out of avenues of progressive development on the ground of inexperience. It will not do to get rid of them by sending them away, for the evils complained of by the *Enterprise* would be perpetuated, not cured. If the boys are not proficient and are inexperienced, how can they be expected to become proficient or experienced unless they are taught? We have no right to complain of the evil future in store for our boys when we have the shaping of that future, and are in a measure responsible for it by failing to afford them the educational advantages which they have the right to expect from us, and with which it is our moral and legal duty to provide them. If the next generation is worse than the present, it is correct to say that the present is responsible for it. If the boys of Virginia City use such infamous language that even "old roughs" turn away with a shudder, they are only following the instructions of "old roughs," who are permitted to demoralize them. The educational problem is easy of solution, if begun properly.—*Mining and Scientific Press.*

The steamship *Great Eastern* is to be fitted up with new boilers and machinery at a cost of £140,000, to carry cattle between London and Texas. She is capable of holding 2,000 head of cattle and 56,000 head of sheep.

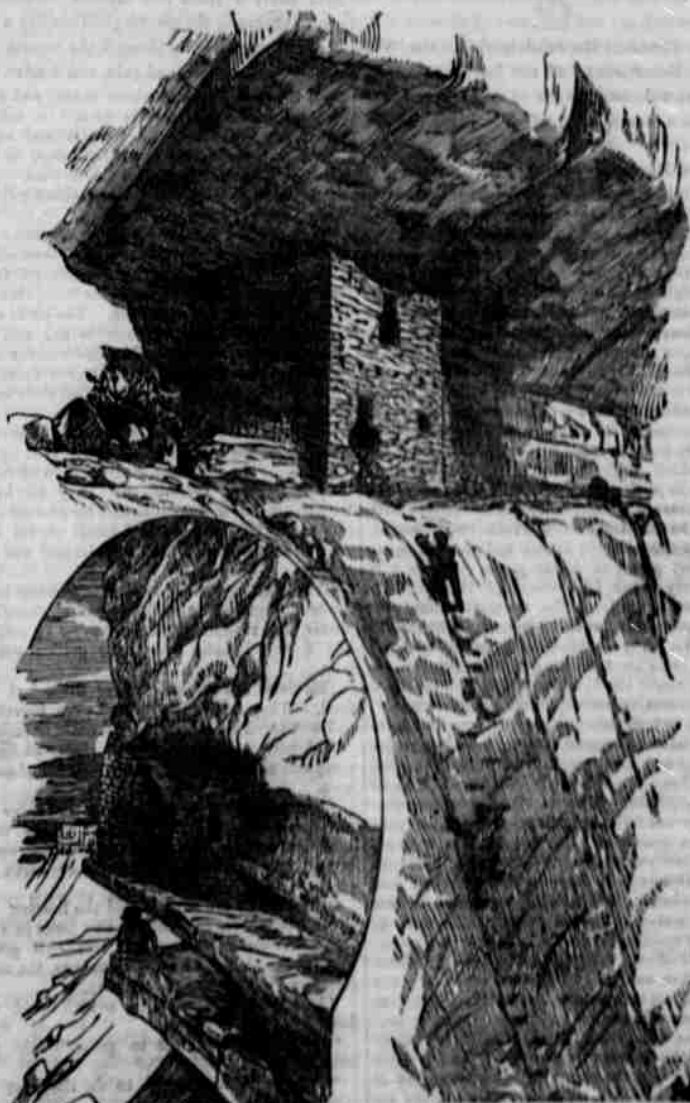
CAVE DWELLERS OF AMERICA

The remarkable discoveries that have been made within the past few years connected with the age and origin of the cave or cliff dwellers of America, have been the continual source of much speculation. Southwestern Colorado has seemed to be the location of the most complete discoveries, particularly along the Rio Las Animas and San Juan. The Valley of the Mancos is filled with mounds which appear to demonstrate the existence of numerous villages, from the San Luis valley in Colorado in a continual chain to Mexico. The ruins of these an-

the rocks. Mr. Elliott says that as no human remains have been found, nor any semblance of graves, it is probable that cremation was practiced.

It is evident from appearances and surroundings that these caves were inhabited during the period when the San Luis valley was an immense lake or sea. The valley is 7,000 feet above the ocean, and the natural inference is that most of the continent at that time was under water, which hypothesis would preclude the idea of their reaching Colorado from Asia.

THE EVILS OF SMOKING IN EARLY YOUTH.—It appears that the German government has seriously taken this matter in hand, as smoking



CLIFF DWELLINGS OF THE COLORADO.

cient people are found in such various stages of perfection, from the small rock-cut chamber to the massive and imposing structures, indicating the work of different ages, as to afford Senor Altamirano proofs that the Aztecs originated in unemerged parts of America, and were as old as the Aztecs themselves, and that Asia may even have been peopled from this country.

Major Powell, however, in another column, sees in these various forms of structures only evidences of the same race building under the different conditions of peace or war. E. T. Elliott discovered and examined in December, 1877, about 12 or 15 of the houses or caves near Del Norte, many of them, especially those along the face of the cliffs, have nearly disappeared from the effects of the disintegration of

a practiced to a great excess by the youth of that country, so that it has been considered to have damaged their constitution, and incapacitated them for the defence of their country. In certain towns in Germany the police have had orders to forbid all lads under sixteen years of age to smoke in the streets, and to punish the offence by fine and imprisonment. Moreover, a Belgian physician has found, during a journey of observation and inquiry, made at the request of the Belgian government, that the too general and excessive use of tobacco is the main cause of color blindness, an affection which is occasioning increasing anxiety, both in Belgium and Germany, from its influence upon railway and other accidents, and also upon military inefficiency.