DA LLAS, SATURD AY, MAR 22

THESTUDY OF THE LANGUAGES

The custom of devoting years of the most precious period of life to the acquisition of languages, has always seemed to me an error in the popular system of education. The mental training it affords is certainly of value; but could the mind not be directed in other departments of study more pleas ing to the majority of pupils, more in proving to the mental powers, and giving more knowledge of intrinsic utility. The caltivation of the memory, at the expense of the higher facul ties of the mind, is often the consequence, originality of thought by this means prevented. The first object of education being the forming of the character, both mentally and and morally, it should be the care of instruct ors to lead the pupil to pursue study. not as a task, but as a pleasure-to see granduer and beauty comprehended in in the principles of whatever department of study he may be attempting. Natural Science affords such a vast field for thought, reflection, investigation, and for gratitude to God, that I think it cannot be over estimated as a means of ennobling and enlarging the mind, as well as developing the moral faculties of the soul. Who can be familiar with the harmony and granduer of the laws of nature which conotrol this vast universe, from the myraids of orbs moving their mystic eycles in the remote regions of space to the the tiny floweret blooming at our feet, and not feel an awe, a devout reverence and love for that Omnipotent One, who spoke all these objects into being.

The study of the English poets should receive, I think far more attten tion in schools than it usually does. If rightly directed by teachers, this not only strengthens our noblest faculties of mind, but quickens our higher moral feelings, purlfies the imagination and

My own experience in teaching has taught me that girls, of even tender years, can be made to see the farcies of even Milton, as if spred out in panoramic view before the eye. Other poets, less grand in imagery perhaps but more feeling-touching the heart more tenderly and lovingly-can be appreciated with less help from a teacher.

Biography is another subject which it seems to me, should receive more attention in in sohools, particularly with a younger class of pupils. Many of the greatest intellects the world has ever known, have drawn their first in spirations of fame from the lines of poetry they have read and admired in early childhood. I might enumer ate instances, were I not extending "I see no ground for any defense in this article beyond its designed limits.

I cannot but think that many a no ble genius has been extinguished amid the antiquated pages of classical lorelore rich in noble thought and fancy. but burried so deep below the mouldering rubbish of ages that the aspiring young mind and soul faint and famish many times ere it is reached.

obtain from abroad what we have in Court and counsel, returned a verdict the most munificent profusion at our of "not guilty!" very doors, seems so paplable an absurdity, yet I will not presume to raise my Lincoln, turning to his client as he feeble voice, in defiance of the opinions spoke; " these fellows must have misof so many great minds, so far as to understood." express to wholesale condemnation of to give to digging into the graves of hogs! "-Chicago tribnue. antiquity, it may be different.

It was my intention, in writing on this subject, to confine myself to a few thoughts on the praatice of crowding in the few years allotted to girls in school, the Latin, and some two or three modern languages; but I will not dilate on a subject so obvious to their own. Music necessarily requires carry off.

a lrage proportion of time, for one who would become a proficient in that most desirable accomplishment. The knowl edge of the French language is desirable not only the translation, but the ability; yet even this ought not be untaken, to speak it; without ample time to fully accomplish the task.

VIRGINIA NORWOOD.

PORFESSOR AGASSIZ ON OUR COLLEGES.

Professor Agassiz has evidently no very high opinion of our educational institutions, and publishes his adverse with characteristic -freedow. He says our colleges are nothing but high schools, and that even Harvard is far from being a university; while the knowledge imparted is "the traditionary learning of the middle ages," and only the dregs of sheolarship."

In common with all progressive overs of science, Professor Agassiz strongly advocates a freer scope being given to the study of nature. This branch branch of education begin in childhood, and not nominally be taught in norma schools from text books which are often unsuitable. With regard to our system of popular education, he acknowledges that it is better than the European, but declares that the substance is wanting.

It is probable that these ideas, from so eminent an authority, will give new mpetus to the war of science against classics which, for some years past, has been waged in our colleges. That there is a strong and growing popular taste for science is amply evidenced by the interest manifested in the discourses of Professor Tyndall and the writings of other distinguished savants; but that, at the same time, there exists, even among people otherwise well educated, an inexcusable ignorance i. scientific matters, is equally true That the latter is, in a great measure, due to the imperfections of our college courses, we donsider there is little doubt, and we adhere to the belief that. where the classics in our seminaries made subservient to the thorough study of the ordinary principles of science the graduates would leave their books

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The following ancedote has been reproduced to illustrate why the majority in Congress take no action against the corruption exhibited by the Credit Mobilier investigation:

Mr. Lincoln had been retained as counsel for a fellow accused of stealing six fine hogs. The trial came on, and the witnesses for the State proved the theft, beyond all question, and indentified Mr. Lincoln's client as the thief. When the testimony had closed, Mr. Lincoln turned to the thief, and said this case, sir. If the witnesses are to be believed, you are guilty, and I cannot make anything else out of it !"

Never mind my guilt," said the confiding client "Jes' get up and abuse them witnesses like the devil, and spread yourself on general principles."

M. Lincoln done as he was told The jury retired, and in less than an Although this herculean labor to half an hour, much to the suprise of

"I don't understand this, " said Mr.

" Not a d-d bit of it," answered the study of dead languages. For the sagacious client with a knowning young men designed for the learned wink. "You see, Squire, every one of professions, and who have many years them ere feller's had a piece o' them

> A San Francisco widow keeps the skull of her deceased husband in a glass case. She once remarked to a friend who was viewing the remains : "Alas! how often have I banged those bones with a broomstick. I am sorry for it now."

Workmen will shortly be occupied in every thinking and scrupulous educator clearing away the ruins of the Tulleries -I will not say so obvious to every and the opportunity will be taken to thinking mind, for I meet men of talent search for any objects of art that may and education many times, who surprise have escaped the flames and the Comme by wishing their daugthers to take munists. the Pavilion Marsau, which a portion of their slender period of time is still in the state to which it was rein school (embracing the years from duced by the fire in May, 1871, will be eight or ten to seventeen), for the ac- the first attacked. Hopes are entertaquisition of several languages, when in ineb of finding several articles in metareality they can scarcely do justice to le which the insurgents had not time to

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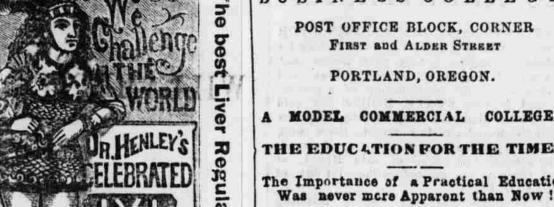
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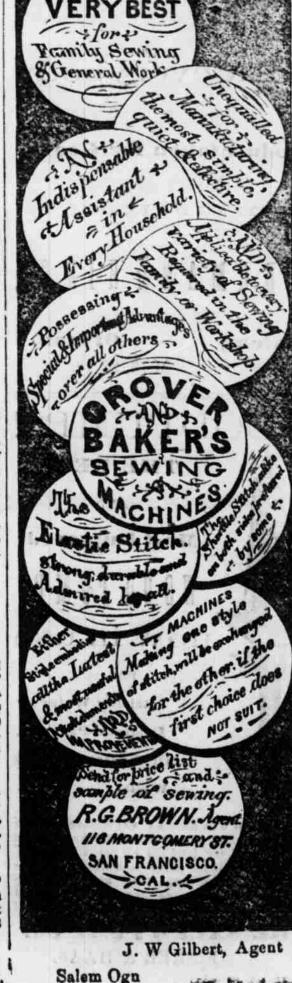
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