

## Educational Department.

Teachers, school-officers and friends of Education from all parts of the Pacific Coast are invited to contribute to this Department; discussions, essays, proceedings of educational meetings, queries, &c. Address, Monmouth, Oregon.

## Names of the States.

## ORIGIN AND SIGNIFICANCE.

(Continued from last week.)

Indiana derives its name from one of the old ante-revolutionary land companies which had claims in that region.

Illinois is named from its principal river, the Illinois. The river is named from the confederacy of Indian tribes called the Illinois Confederacy, which had its seat in the central part of the State. Gallatin gives the definition of the word Illinois, "real men," "superior men," from the word, Ledo, Leni, Illin, Illini, as it is variously written.

Lanman, in his "Red Book of Michigan," derives the name of that State from the Indian word Michsauyegan, signifying Lake Country. Johnston's Cyclopaedia derives the name from the Indian words Mitchi, Saugyegan, meaning Lake Country. I regard this as a questionable derivation. There are good reasons for supposing that that State derived its name from Lake Michigan and not from its being nearly enclosed by lakes.

Wisconsin was named after its principal river. Until quite recent period the river was called the Ouisconsin, which is said to mean "westward flowing." Ouis is evidently borrowed from the French "ouest." Mr. Schoolcraft says that "locality was given in the Algonquin language, meaning at, ip, or by, as Wisconsin." The name is probably of mixed origin.

The name Louisiana, now confined to State of the Union, was originally given to the entire French possessions on the west bank of the Mississippi by La Salle, in 1662, in honor of Louis XIV.

Arkansas takes its name from its principal river; the river from the tribe of Indians formerly living near its mouth. Till quite a recent period the river was called Arkansas, and the tribe the Arkansas tribe. Mr. Schoolcraft says that both the names, Arkansas and Missouri embrace aboriginal roots, but we hear the sounds as modified by French orthography and enunciation.

Missouri was named from the river of that name, and the river itself from the Missouri, a tribe

once living near its mouth, and afterward driven into the interior.

Iowa is named from the river of that name, and the river from the Ioway Indians, who, after many migrations, settled on its banks. In the *Atlantic Monthly* it is intimated that Ioway is contracted from Ah hee-oo-ba, meaning "sleepers."

Texas, formerly Spanish territory then Mexican, and later an independent State, is the only State acquired by annexation. There is a conflict of opinion over its name. Johnston's Cyclopaedia states that "it is now proved conclusively to be an Indian derivation, the generic title of numerous tribes known to Salle on his visit in 1685." On Seale's map, 1750, the center of the territory is occupied by Indians called the Texas, which may be the generic title referred to. But Mr. Bryant, in his "History of the United States," says: "It is supposed that the name Texas is from the Spanish Tejas, in allusion to the covered houses," found by La Salle on his visit in 1685.

The name Florida is a matter of general agreement among historians. The story of Ponce de Leon sailing to the West in 1512 in search of the fountain of youth, seeing land on Pascua Florida or "flowery Easter," and on account of its profusion of flowers naming it Florida, is familiar to all.

The name California appears to be taken from a Spanish romance, "Las Sergas de Esplandian," in which is described "the great island of California where a great abundance of gold and precious stones is found."

Nevada takes its name from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, which line its western frontier, the mountains in their turn being named from the Sierra Nevada of Granada, which they are said to resemble in the serrated line of the summits.

Minnesota is named from the Minnesota or St. Peter's river, the principal tributary to the Mississippi within its limits. The Indian word is Mini-sotah, signifying "slightly turbid water," or as Minnesota historian more fancifully puts it, "sky-tinted water."

Nebraska is named from the Nebraska river. A writer in the *North American Review*, on "the Missouri Valley," says the word is Indian, and is compounded of nee "river," and baska, a "shallow." Mr. Hale says the name undoubtedly refers to the flatness of the country.

Kansas is named from its principal river. The latter is named from the tribe of Indians called the Kon-yas, who live upon its shores.

Colorado is named after the great Rio Colorado, which rises in the Rocky Mountains and falls into the Gulf of California. The name signifies in Spanish "ruddy," "blood red," in a secondary sense "colored," in allusion to the color of its waters.

Mississippi is named after the great river. Mr. Atwater, a member of this society, gives the Indian name of the river Meesyseepee, "the great water." That the Indian word signifies the "father of waters," is erroneous.

## Science Notes.

The invention of fire-proof papers seems to leave no excuse for the destruction by fire of public records and other valuable manuscripts.

An experiment has been made between Melbourne and Albany which shows that ordinary telegraph wires will, for a distance of 200 miles, serve to convey telephonic messages.

The latest improvement in telegraphy is a mechanical device, whereby a type-writer at one point, connected by a wire with a similar instrument at another point, writes out any message sent over it, without the intervention of the usual telegraph operator. A person who can use a type-writer can send his own message. *Chicago Tribune.*

The English weights and measures in common use in market reports or agricultural produce are thus defined: A truss of straw, 36 pounds; a truss of old hay, 53 pounds; a truss of new hay, 60 pounds. Thirty-six trusses constitute a load. One stone of butcher's meat is 8 pounds. An ordinary stone is 14 pounds, a quarter is 28 pounds, a hundred-weight is four quarters, or 112 pounds, a bushel of flour 56 pounds, a sack of flour, or five bushels, is 280 pounds. In dry measure three bushels equal one sack; of grain four bushels; twelve sacks equal one chaldron; eight bushels or two sacks equal one quarter, and five quarters equal one load. *Chicago Times.*

Experiments show that the new chromo leather—the result of the new tanning process by bichromate of potash—exceeds in tensile strength the bark-tanned article; also, that after it has set under the necessary stress, it still retains an

extraordinary amount of elasticity which is available for tightening machinery, belting on pulleys. As illustrating this statement, the fact is shown that a piece of chromo leather bore an ultimate stress of 3,297 pounds per square inch, while a piece of bark leather only bore an ultimate stress of 2,672 pounds per square inch—this example proving the sample of chromo-tanned leather to be stronger than the bark-tanned by some fifteen per cent. *N. Y. Sun.*

Herr A. Gentilli, of Vienna, has invented an instrument—named by him the glossograph—consisting of an ingenious combination of delicate levers and blades which, placed upon the tongue and lips and under the nostrils of the speaker, are vibrated by the movements of the former and the breath flowing from the latter. The vibration is transmitted to pencils, which transcribe the several signs produced by the action of the tongue and lips and the breath from the nostrils upon a strip of paper moved by a mechanical arrangement. Similar to shorthand a special system of writing, which may be fitly termed glossography, is produced, based upon the principle of syllable construction and combination of consonants.

## Weather Report.

During May, 1882, there were 7 days during which rain fell, and 1.51 in. of water, 14 clear and 10 cloudy days other than those on which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 53.35. Highest daily mean temperature for the month 70 on the 31st. Lowest daily mean temperature 42 on the 13th. Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M. 65.30. Highest temperature for the month 84 at 2 o'clock P. M. on the 22nd. Lowest temperature 30 at 5 o'clock A. M. on the 8th.

Frosts occurred on the 8th and 9th.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the South during 6 days, Southwest 4 days, North 18 days, Northwest 2 days, West 1 day.

During May, 1881, there were 6 rainy days and 1.01 in. of water, 17 clear and 8 cloudy days. Mean temperature for the month, 53.87. Highest daily, 66° on the 18th. Lowest daily, 48° on the 10th and 26th.

T. PEARCE.  
Eola, Or., June 2, 1882.