

Educational Department.

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The readers of the CHRISTIAN HERALD are solicited to give an expression to any thoughts upon educational topics which they may wish to discuss in these columns.

The profession of teaching is a noble one. One which is becoming more and more scientific. And it is growing to be a necessary auxiliary to education that teachers and and parents make themselves acquainted with the advanced methods of instruction of the times. It may be a good way for people to discuss through a family journal the subjects in which they are interested.

Teaching English Grammar.

The subject of the study of English grammar is to gain a knowledge of the correct use of the English language. The student desires to learn to speak and write the language correctly. If he had never heard any but good English he would now know how to speak it rightly, and his work would be to learn the written form of it only. How much better it would be if the child had learned by imitation to use correctly the language from his parents and teachers, and would not now have to spend so much time in trying to unlearn that which has become so firmly implanted in his mind. He would have to use the language as he learned it. But as it is he is put to studying his language, when he enters school, by learning the nouns, pronouns, subjects, absolutes, diagrams, transitives, masculines, independents, possessives, cases, unpersonal, etc. All being done to give him rules by which he can detect poor English when he hears it. He learns the rules in the grammar, and is surprised that he can not speak by rule. He gets discouraged and thinks the study dry and valueless.

It is probably useless to regret the frequent use of poor English, and the great labor consequently bestowed in trying to correct faulty speech learned. Yet it does seem that parents and especially teachers should be more accurate, and not make such glaring blunders in the use of the language they try to teach the students to use correctly. The teacher will often dwell long upon the discrimination between an ad-

jective and an adverb, and probably with the same breath mispronounce many words, and use a plural relative after a singular antecedent, or a singular subject with a plural verb. If his attention is called to the inaccuracy, he readily admits the mistake, and speaks as if that is of small importance, forgetting that the imitative mind is influenced more by the use made by the language than by a learned disquisition made upon some nice point.

The child is very apt to take the teacher as a model. He is sure to learn customs rather than rules.

It may be the parents are excusable. They are if they use the very best language in all places, and at all times they are able.

But the teacher is in no wise justifiable in any inaccuracy of speech. If he does not have good use of the language, the science and art of which he proposes to teach, he should either acquire such use, or abandon the profession.

Since there is so much poor English used in the presence of the children, it might be a good plan for parents to bring good literature among them, and encourage them in reading it. A father or mother by reading and hearing the children read story papers or any select literature adapted to them, can teach them a better use of the English language in evenings of one winter, than a teacher can in many years of training in school.

School Notes from Monmouth.

School progressing.

Students arriving daily.

Teachers good natured.

Eld. D. M. Doty lectured in the chapel on last Wednesday, on the School System of Kansas. His lecture was very entertaining.

Citizens of Monmouth have shown the interest they manifest in the school work; almost every day last week we were greeted by visitors; and nothing speaks better than this.

President Stanley has been absent from some of his classes, during the past week, on account of the illness of his little son, Claude.

On last Friday the Vespertine Society met for the purpose of re-organization. Miss A. Butler acted as president pro tem. After due organization, the society elected the

following officers for the ensuing term: President, Miss A. Butler; Vice Pres., Miss Jennie Bushnell; Secretary, Miss Millie Doughty; Cor. Sec., Miss Alice Bowman; Critic, Miss Esther Goodman; Marshal, Miss Lena Dicus; Reporter, Miss Peek.

On the eve. of the same day, the Hesperian Society elected the following officers: President, Jay Butler; Vice Pres., Prof. Hawes; Secretary, P. Powell; Treasure, A. J. Shanks; Marshal, J. Mitchell; and they have about 20 members. It is hoped that nearly all the students will join either one of these societies as they give a discipline which is necessary for every student.

Last Sunday afternoon quite a number of students took advantage of the pleasant weather by visiting the famous "Cupids Knoll." They were all pleased with the trip, and have come to the conclusion that no one ought to judge of the scenery of Monmouth, unless they have visited the "Knoll." STUDENT.

Institute.

INDEPENDENCE, OR., Oct. 4, 1883.

To the Teachers of Polk county:

The fall terms having commenced in most of the districts of the county, it is thought desirable to do some thing in the way of comparing methods and experiences, at the outset. For this purpose, I have arranged to meet a number of teachers, working in the south end of the county, at the school house in South Independence on Saturday, Oct. 13. All who can possibly do so, are cordially invited to attend. The business of the meeting will be to discuss informally the best methods of teaching Reading, Arithmetic and English Composition. No leaders have been appointed, and all will have an opportunity to state any difficulties they have met with or any discoveries they have made.

Such meetings are believed to be a necessary supplement to the work of the regular institute. They are not intended to map out work for the ideal school, but to do what can be done in meeting the difficulties of the actual schools in this county. Many excellent methods presented in books and ventilated at institutes require, for their successful use, apparatus not found in most of our school houses. We will discuss more of these; but consider rather how we can best work with such tools as the people have given us.

The meeting will begin promptly

at 6:30 A. M., and will adjourn at 3 P. M. If well attended, others will be held at such points as will be easy of access to a fair number of teachers. FRANK RIGLER, County Sup't.

The Southern Exposition.

The Southern Exposition at Louisville was opened August 1st, by President Arthur, and will continue for one hundred days.

It was organized entirely by Louisville people, who subscribed nearly \$300,000 to put the enterprise on its feet. This was done in the fall of 1882.

It was at first proposed to make the Exposition here largely a cotton exhibition, but this idea was abandoned, and the Exposition was planned to make it embrace all that pertained to the development of the South. From the first the idea that the Exposition was a local enterprise was eliminated and it was given a truly national character.

The Exposition is larger than any other ever held in America, except the Centennial, and in some respects is more perfect than that was, as for instance, in the Machinery Department. The main building is 900 by 500 feet, and covers thirteen acres of ground. The annexes are numerous and large. The saw mill annex is 400 by 75 feet, and the annex for the display of wagons and carriages is 250 by 100. The Art Gallery is the most popular and remarkable of the annexes.

The exhibition of machinery has never been equaled, the display of agricultural machinery being particularly perfect. In every branch of mechanics the latest inventions are exhibited. One half of one of the main aisles, that is nearly a sixth of the ground floor of the main building, is devoted to textile working machinery, and there every process of working cotton and wool may be seen.

The display of electric lights is the largest ever made in the world. In the main building alone there are 4,600 Edison incandescent lights of sixteen candle power each. Forty miles of copper wire weighing 40,000 pounds, are required for the Edison lights. In addition, there are incandescent lights of the United States and others companies in the main building. The carriage annex is lighted with United States arc lights, and the park and courts with the Jenny arc lights, each of 2,000 candle power. Over Fourth and Sixth streets, at the Exposition en-