

# ATHENA PRESS

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ATHENA, APRIL 3, 1903.

### SOME PLAIN TALK.

The Weston Leader sums it up this way: "Prosperous merchants mean a prosperous town, and a prosperous town adds to the value of every farm in its vicinity. It is the direct advantage of the farmer to build up the town nearest his land, and he cannot do so by patronizing traveling fakirs, who are here today, another place tomorrow, pay no taxes, buy nothing from the farmer, do nothing toward local development. Just now an itinerant grocery outfit is 'working' the Athena neighborhood in the interests of some eastern concern. Its expenses are high and it must make a profit. For a 'bait' it may undersell the local grocer on certain articles, but only with a view to corresponding profits on something else. As a whole the farmer can do just as well, or better, by patronizing the home tradesman, who is always present to back the goods he sells in price and quality, and is not in another country or state should a swindle be detected. Athena, Weston, Adams and Helix grocers have organized to beat the invaders, and have sent an agent to 'trail' the wagon and offer duplicate prices on all the goods the persuasive eastern dealer attempts to sell. There is no excuse for the farmer who thinks he can 'get things cheaper' by trading with an eastern house that will never benefit him a particle in exchange. If he does listen to the siren song of the traveling tout, it will be because he is too low-browed and too narrow between the eyes to appreciate his own interests. 'Help those who help you' is a motto that reads well in this instance."

The story that Mr. Morgan is going to buy up all the Cuban railroad systems is not at all improbable. He has the necessary money and the buying habit.

The organization of the Athena gun club will have a tendency to stimulate field sports, and the enforcement of the game laws in this vicinity.

With the Hague tribunal so handy it would seem as though the Dutch labor unions might arbitrate their grievances.

Shamrock III is pronounced the most promising one yet. Another breach of promise in prospect, probably.

### A GREAT MISTAKE.

Why will fool parents place their sons in the commercial department of a college, where they learn bookkeeping, when there are already ten competent bookkeepers idle where one is occupying a good position, or in the penmanship department, where they learn to make impossible birds on impossible nests and fancy flourishes which no merchant will have on his books, and when the best of such 'artists' are either starving or writing cards on the street for pittance—and this is the very face of the fact that if their boys were placed in the shorthand department a good paying position is waiting for and is seeking every one of them just as soon as he graduates?

Let them learn all three, if you can possibly spare the time and money, but if only one, then by all means let that one be shorthand and typewriting.

Merchants, doctors, lawyers, authors, railroad officials, public speakers, manufacturers, managers in large firms and corporations, the whole civilized world over, now employ stenographers, and the supply of young men for these positions is today thirty per cent less than the demand!

More than that—the stenographer is always the confidential clerk—he is closest to the employer; he it is who cannot fail to soon learn all about the business, and he it is who stands the very best chance of himself becoming manager and in time, himself the employer.

The girl stenographer is all right, and if competent, will have no trouble in securing a good position, but the de-

mand which so greatly exceeds the supply is today for young men stenographers.

Many of the railroads and other large corporations have decided to employ only male stenographers in the future, because, as they plainly state: "Our stenographers are our confidential clerks; they soon learn the business and it is from their ranks that we wish to draw for our future managers and officers."

Let your son learn bookkeeping, if you can, for he should have a knowledge of it when he is made chief clerk or manager in an office where he will be over many bookkeepers; let him learn a good practical (not fancy) penmanship, for, although the typewriter is fast taking the place of the pen, he will always have more or less writing to do, but if you have his interest at heart, and if you wish to place in his hands the one weapon that will most surely and most quickly bring him remunerative employment and success, see that he is taught shorthand and typewriting.—Phonographic World.

### THE JORDAN METHOD

Dr. David Starr Jordan, in his address at the University of California on Monday, no doubt reflected a growing public sentiment when he spoke against the college system which requires men to study what they do not intend to use.

The liberalizing of college curricula and the increase of optional studies and courses have been in line with this thought. Perhaps the advance has not been as rapid as Dr. Jordan would like to see, but it is certain that in the larger and more progressive institutions the tendency is to allow the student to follow his bent and not to force him to delve in studies for which he has no liking and which he knows he can put to little practical use when he starts out in the world to earn a living.

There are comparatively few institutions which now adhere to the old idea that a college man cannot consider himself educated unless he has had Greek and Latin rammed into him throughout the course and has given term after term to higher mathematics. The classics are not now regarded so essential to a liberal education, and the abstruse sciences have had to give way to those which are practical and may be used in everyday life. An education which a man cannot use is no longer forced upon him; he is given greater latitude in choosing those subjects which appeal to him, and every year colleges are making it easier for him to apply the Jordan method and study those things which he intends to use.—Spokesman Review.

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