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## The Public Schools.

### Some Thoughts Suggested to "Parent" by "Tutor's" Able Articles.

Ed. News: I have just finished perusing "Tutor's," article No. 3 on "Public Schools." It impresses my mind very favorably indeed. It is brimful of good, common sense and logic. There are a few salient points, however, untouched so far, which I would like to call attention to, with the hope that it may induce Tutor to expatiate upon them in next issue, as I believe a full discussion of this subject may lead to some good results.

The first is concerning the present mode of choosing, or appointing, I should say, our trustees. I believe this is one of the most fundamental points of the whole subject. The present arrangement is, in my opinion, defective and unsatisfactory, for the simple reason uninterested and incompetent men are too often appointed for these responsible positions. I believe the law should be changed, so as to allow the patrons of each school district to elect their trustees, who should hold office for a stated period. Such a bill was introduced, I understand, at the last session of legislature, but, unfortunately, it met with same fate as did a number of other good bills. If we could get, in every instance, men as trustees who have a deep interest in educational affairs, men who have children of their own attending these public schools, a general revival would ensue and many needed reforms would be the inevitable result. I do not mean to convey the idea that we do not get some good men by the present arrangement, because we do, but it is not as satisfactory as it should be. Men are too often appointed who are not in any wise suitable. Some have no children to educate, and it is not natural for them to take as much interest in every detail as the man who has. We cannot be too particular about choosing these trustees, because if they do not manifest a very great interest in their school how could it be expected of teachers to do so?

The second point I wish to mention is the frequent changing of text books. Why do not the trustees and teachers get together and adopt a set of books, which they can stick to for a number of years, and abolish the changing of books every time there is a change in teachers? This frequent changing entails too great expense upon large families, many of whom cannot afford it. The elder child should, upon passing up to next grade, turn its books over to a younger brother or sister, and so on. This would result in a very appreciable curtailment in expense for books.

The third and last point I wish

to call attention to is the practice of requiring pupils to prepare their recitations almost exclusively at home. All schools do not do this, but the practice seems to be gaining headway as time goes on. I know of an instance where a child called upon the teacher for enlightenment on some study, whereupon it was commanded to resume its seat. The teacher's only excuse was that he did not have time, and that the child should have learned this at home. I have always been under the impression that the teacher was paid for this very thing—to properly instruct the pupil, and not require, or depend upon its parents entirely, for in many instances the parent is wholly incompetent to enlighten the child in the least. I do not wish to be understood, however, as not favoring the practice of studying at home; it is proper that they should, but it is not right for the teacher to depend on this. The trend of the present age seems to be gradually drifting day by day towards mere routine formality, and a big show, and a corresponding decrease in the real article. This should be reversed, and I hope to see this subject agitated by all concerned until the desired reforms are accomplished.

Parent.

Kershaw, S. C.

## A Bad Accident.

### Mr. W. D. Gayle, Daughter and Son Narrowly Escape Serious Injury at Lane's Creek.

Mr. W. D. Gayle, a former citizen of Lancaster, now residing at Wingate, N. C., had a thrilling experience last Saturday afternoon, while driving through the country to this place. At Lane's creek, in Union county, N. C., he met some cattle in the road, which frightened his horse, the animal backing and hurling himself and buggy off a very high embankment at an iron bridge across the stream. In the fall the vehicle upset, throwing its occupants, Mr. Gayle, his daughter and little son, violently to the ravine below. All parties were more or less hurt, but none seriously.

The North Carolina authorities should have railing placed on each side of the embankment where the accident occurred, as a protection to the traveling public.

—There will be preaching at Tabernacle next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, by the Rev. P. B. Ingraham.

—The Primus Democratic Club will meet next Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

N. B. Small.

—Attention is directed to new announcement in today's paper by the Williams-Hughes Co.

## Earthquake Aftermath.

### Present Conditions in San Francisco and Neighboring Towns--Feeding and Caring for the Many Thousands of Sufferers.

Condensed from late Associated Press despatches from San Francisco:

Had it not been for the sight of the rude altars set up in the open air wherever San Francisco's homeless thousands were camped, one would have had some difficulty in finding any of the peaceful associations of the Sabbath in this city to-day. Everywhere throughout the burned as well as the remaining section of the city there was the greatest activity. Streets were being cleared of debris, laborers were repairing water pipes, sewers and gas mains, electricians everywhere were seeking to untangle the confusion of wire—in fact, San Francisco was in the first stages of its regeneration.

The Associated Press representatives to-day covered the entire area of the burned section. The circumference of the area of the great conflagration, as near as could be ascertained by the marking of a cyclometer, is 26 miles and comprises the entire business district and a large section of the residence district, all of which was densely populated. It was estimated to-day by competent insurance authorities that the loss will aggregate \$300,000,000, and on this vast amount of property the insurance companies carried approximately \$175,000,000 insurance.

The work of relief was started early to-day. A big bakery in the saved district started its ovens and arranged to bake 50,000 loaves of bread before night. Thousands of people were in line this morning before the California street bakery. The police and military were present in force and each person was allowed only one loaf.

The common destitution and suffering have wiped out all social, financial and racial distinctions. The man who last Tuesday was a prosperous merchant is occupying with his family a little plot of ground that adjoins the open air home of a laborer. The white man in California has forgotten his antipathy to the Asiatic race and is maintaining friendly relations with his new Chinese and Japanese neighbors. The society belle who Tuesday night was a butterfly of fashion at the grand opera performance, was assisting some factory girl in the preparation of humble daily meals. Money this afternoon had little value. The family which had foresight to lay in the largest stock of foodstuffs on the first day of the disaster is rated highest in the scale of wealth.

From a three story lodging house at Fifth and Minna streets

which collapsed Wednesday morning, more than 75 bodies were taken out to-day. There are 50 other dead bodies in sight of the ruins. This was one of the first to take fire on Fifth street. At least 100 persons were killed in the Cosmopolitan, on Fourth street.

Many persons dropped dead to-day of heat and suffocation.

More than 150 persons are reported dead in the Brunswick Hotel, Seventh and Mission streets.

The total number of bodies recovered and buried up to Sunday night is 500. No complete record can be had at this time as many bodies have been buried without permits from the coroner, and the board of health departments found not more than twenty bodies to-day. They were buried immediately. It is impossible at the present time to obtain any sort of death list, or even to make a reliable estimate of the number of casualties. Whenever a body is found it is buried immediately without any formality whatever, and as these burials have been made at widely separated parts of the city by different bodies of searchers who do not even make a prompt report to headquarters, considerable confusion has resulted in estimating the number of casualties and exaggerated reports have resulted.

Thousands of members of families are separated and with no means of learning one another's whereabouts. The police today opened up a bureau of registration to bring relatives together.

It is impossible to secure a vehicle except at exorbitant prices. One merchant engaged a teamster and horses and wagon, agreeing to pay \$50 an hour. Charges of \$20 for ferrying trunks a few blocks was common. The police and military seize teams wherever they require them, their wishes being enforced at revolver point if the owners proved indisposed to comply with the demands.

Eleven postal clerks, all alive, were taken from the debris of the postoffice to-day. All at first were thought to be dead, but it was found that although they were buried in the stone, every one was alive. They had been for three days without food or water. All the mail in the postoffice was saved.

Nineteen persons were killed in San Jose by the earthquake of Wednesday, and the entire business quarter was wrecked. The damage was \$5,000,000. One hundred and ten persons were killed and seventy were injured, mostly patients at Agnews Insane Asylum, near San Jose. The asylum was ruined.

R. A. Dobson, Esq., of Kershaw, was in town yesterday.

Mrs. L. C. Payseur returned Saturday night from a visit to her daughter in Columbia, Mrs. Poore.

## News in Kershaw.

### Miss Daisy Pearce and Mr. John Bell Towill to be Married Tomorrow--Veterans Off for the Reunion.

Editor News: Spring is upon us in all of its grandeur—the loveliest season of the year. It seems to infuse new life into almost everything. The mocking birds are beginning to sing and their melodious notes are wafted by the gentle zephyrs into our ears—how sweet!—and the whippoorwill can be heard late of evenings as Uncle Sol bids us adieu and hides himself beyond the western horizon; gently reminding the tiller of the soil that the planting season is at hand, and judging from his conspicuous absence upon our streets, it is presumed he is wasting no time.—For the past week or ten days the weather has been ideal indeed for almost anything.

Isn't it about time, Mr. Editor, that the office-seekers were having their friends make their announcements? It is to be hoped that there will be plenty of good material to select from.

Cards are out announcing the marriage of Miss Daisy Pearce to the Hon. John Bell Towill on 26th instant. Miss Pearce is a daughter of the late Jesse K. Pearce and is a sister of Mrs. E. D. Blakeney, wife of our efficient Mayor.

Several of our citizens are contemplating a visit to New Orleans this week, account on Re-union of Confederate Veterans. Mr. Jno. W. Truesdel will remain away until some time in May, as he expects to visit several brothers and sisters in Mississippi before returning to Kershaw.

TATTLER.

Kershaw, S. C.

### Mr. Paul McCorkle's Left Eye Removed.

Charlotte Observer, of Sunday: At the Presbyterian Hospital yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Mr. Paul McCorkle, of Chester, S. C., underwent an operation and had his left eye removed. The right eye had been removed some time last year. This, of course, leaves Mr. McCorkle totally blind. It will be recalled that Mr. McCorkle was in an unfortunate accident, with his horse and buggy, and was almost killed. Excepting the loss of his eyes Mr. McCorkle now seems to be sound in mind and body. His friends here are glad that it is no worse.

Dr. E. R. Russell performed the operation yesterday. The patient stood it well and will soon be out again.

Mrs. McCorkle came here to be with her husband.

—The Crusaders, who have pitched their tents in the Catholic grove, as previously noted, will begin their revival meeting May 4th.