THE CLARION.

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THE CLARION.

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☞ These are our only rates, and they will be strictly adhered to.

FARM AND GARDEN.

A HOME MADE FRUIT DRYER ILLUSTRATED AND EXPLAINED.

Many Facts That Farmers Ought to Know—Flaxseed as a Food—Medicine for Pigs—Cow Mangers and Stalls of Novel Construction.

The cow manger represented in the first cut is the invention of a Wisconsin farmer and was described recently in a paper read before a Wisconsin farmers' institute; it was originally illustrated in The Prairie Farmer.

As will be seen by studying the cut, the idea is a somewhat novel one. In constructing the manger make a floor ten inches above the floor of the barn and two and a half feet wide. Make the front of the manger about five feet high with one foot upright boards placed twelve or fourteen inches apart.

This front should be two and one-half feet from the wall at the bottom and three and one-half feet at the top. Make the adjustable or inside rack so it will be a

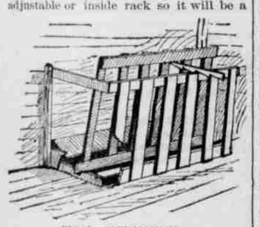

FIG. 1—COW MANGER.

little higher than the manger when set on the bottom. It should be set in notches at the bottom and remain loose at the top, so it can play back and forth. A notched board is hinged to the middle of this adjustable rack at the top, so as to catch on the top of the manger and hold it back when pressed against the hay. A slanting board is placed behind the bottom of the rack, which causes all chaffy material in the fodder to slide out in the food box, where it is eaten, and not scattered under the animal's feet. Grain can be fed on the manger floor in front of the adjustable rack. In filling the rack with hay the notched board is lifted up, allowing the adjustable rack to fall forward. When filled this partition is pressed back firmly against the hay.

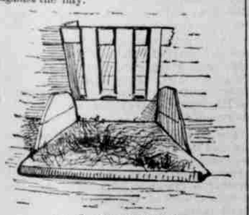

FIG. 2—COW MANGER.

The new style manger illustrated in the second cut is described in Prairie Farmer as follows: The manger should slope well back, and should have a feed box at the bottom. The floor should slope one inch in six feet, and should be divided into stalls three feet wide, or wider for large cows.

The novel feature in this is the pole in back part of the stall. It ought to be placed just far back enough so that the cow's hind feet are behind it while she is still or eating. This causes all droppings to fall behind the pole. When she wishes to lie down she will lower her head, step forward, and lie down in front of the pole, where she never becomes soiled with the manure. The stick or pole should be firmly fastened to the floor.

A Cheap Fruit Dryer.

The drying of fruits for market has grown into an important industry in many sections of the country and consequently there has been called into existence a large number of patent evaporators. The patent affairs are many of them quite perfect in their way, and afford a great convenience and saving of labor where large quantities of fruit are to be handled. Many farmers, however, dry only enough fruit for their own consumption, and can ill afford to purchase an evaporator for the purpose. This class of readers will be interested in the accompanying cut taken from The Florida Agriculturist. The evaporator illustrated is described as follows by a correspondent who has successfully tested it:

Take a large hogshead and cut a small door at the bottom through which to put fuel in the stove. Also cut a round hole in the head of the hogshead directly across from the door for the stovepipe to go up through, also a square one in front of this

HOME MADE EVAPORATOR.

above, sixteen or eighteen inches square, over which to set the oven. Now put your hogshead up with a small story in it, as close to the house as is safe in case of fire and to save as much walking as possible. Carry your stovepipe up through the round hole and about a foot higher than the box or oven to be put on the top of the hogshead. For the oven take a dry goods or tree box and knock off one side, nail on some cleats for the fruit drawers and make a door for the front to fasten with a button or strap. The drawers should be light frames with slat or galvanized wire bottoms so that the air will have free circulation. Make a few auger holes in the top of the box to give ventilation and draft to the hot air. Set the oven over the hole in the head of the hogshead and nail it down, and your evaporator is completed with very little outlay.

With this or a similar home made contrivance may be saved much of the fruit that annually goes to waste on every farm. In it may be dried apples, peaches and all the small fruits.

How to Make Prize Butter.

L. P. Bailey, Barnesville, O., tells in Rural New Yorker how he made the butter that gained a prize at the dairy show. He says:

My cattle are all Jerseys. I fed corn meal and clover hay, and gave them the run of short, young blue grass pasture from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. I used the Cooley submerged process; cream was all raised and taken off in twelve hours and then stood twelve hours more to ripen, at the end of which time it was slightly acid. It was churned at a temperature of sixty-two degrees in a barrel churn. No coloring was used. The buttermilk was drawn off and the butter washed in the granular form till the water ran out clear. The butter was salted at the rate of one-half ounce to the pound in the granular form in the churn. It was then taken out and stood twelve hours in stone jars and was then put on a Skinner butter worker, and worked just enough to cause the granules to adhere well together. Then it was packed in ash tubs holding thirty pounds each. Ashton salt was used.

The Number of Sheep in the World.

The number of sheep in the world is estimated as follows, according to late statistics:

South America	100,000,000
Australasia, including New Zealand	77,000,000
Europe	212,000,000
Africa	25,000,000
Asia	50,000,000
United States	45,000,000
Canada	3,000,000
All other countries	5,000,000
Total	517,000,000

The average yield of wool in the United States is placed at about six pounds per head.

Flaxseed for Pigs.

Professor Stewart advocates flaxseed as a food medicine for pigs. Its oil is soothing to the stomach and intestines and it is also rich in food for muscle and bone. He tells in Country Gentleman how to use it. Boil the flaxseed in six times its bulk of water till it forms a jelly; now mix a little of this jelly with wheat bran and you have an excellent food for growing a pig. This is also good food for the brood sow, promoting her yield of milk. If used in this way, one pound of boiled flaxseed is mixed with ten pounds of bran. Pigs very soon get a liking for the taste of flaxseed.

Convention of Nurserymen.

At the late annual meeting of the American Association of Nurserymen, Florists and Seedsmen, in Chicago, the name of the association was changed to American Nurserymen's association. The next meeting will be held at Detroit, Mich., in June, 1888. The following officers were elected: President, C. L. Watrous, Des Moines, Ia.; vice president, L. G. Bragg, Kalamazoo, Mich.; secretary, D. W. Scott, Galena, Ills.; treasurer, A. R. Whitney, Franklin Grove, Ills.

Public Lands.

According to a recent estimate, there still remain unsurveyed 9,000,000 acres of public lands in Colorado, 12,000,000 in Arizona, nearly 30,000,000 in California, 49,000,000 in Dakota, 7,000,000 in Florida, 44,000,000 in Idaho, 7,000,000 in Montana, 41,000,000 in Utah and more than 20,000,000 in Washington Territory, aggregating 322,000,000 in the states and territories mentioned.

Facts Farmers Ought to Know.

Marketing the produce of the farm is half the battle.

Botanists include in the grass family barley, wheat, oats, corn, rice, timothy, redtop, blue grass, sugar cane, sorghum, etc. Clover, the most valuable of forage plants, is not a grass, but a legume.

It is stated by one who claims to know that the farmers in the northwest who are making money are by no means confined to the "bonanza class." There are many instances in which a few acres, well tilled, give far better results than a larger farm receiving less attention and care.

An earthen floor is the best for poultry houses.

It is a great mistake to overlook the neighboring home market and trust to the large towns only.

It is poor policy to use green ash tubs to pack butter in.

More attention than heretofore is being paid the clover crop in the southern states.

Good heavy farm horses sell well.

More cheese is being made this season than last year.

Ammonia is considered the best of all remedies for bee stings by Professor A. J. Cook.

Morning in Mexico City.

An early morning start brings us first to the flower market. Whole families seated about are busily engaged in arranging flowers of rare beauty and fragrance. The flower girls, with their olive complexions and brilliant eyes of jet, their white teeth, beautiful hair in long braids carelessly swaying over well rounded shoulders, with skirts gathered short to the uncorseted waist, nimbly ply their delicate fingers so rapidly that they weave bouquets as it were by magic, the roses, the lilies and the forget me nots dropping into their places and forming garlands and wreaths of endless variety. Then to the market square, near the palace, where a jabbering throng of lazy men and loosely dressed women, with robust voices, implore you to purchase almost every article of household necessity, including fruits and vegetables.

Water carriers, with their earthen jars slung over their heads, are passing to and fro, delivering the morning supply of water from house to house. The little burro, that tiny quadruped so necessary to Mexicans, hardly yet awake, is pushed along by his master. The little fellows, in groups of a dozen or more, are loaded down with everything from a chicken to a stove. The slightest laxity on the part of his master and he stops short to nibble at the nearest thing at hand, be it an old shoe or a tin can. The question was once asked, "Can a burro driver be a Christian?" the answer being, "He might if he tried very hard, but he would have to give up driving burros."—Mexico Cor. New York Post.

Odd Forms of Cure.

At a famous water cure some odd forms of cure are whey, buttermilk and strawberry. Whey is prescribed for affections of the chest, buttermilk for certain diseases of the stomach and strawberries to purify the blood. The buttermilk and strawberries are favorite remedies.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Tee Lime-Kiln Club.

The wisdom of the club in deciding not to permit any lecturer to enter the hall until he had passed an examination before a committee was apparent when Hon. Plumbago Josylin, of Huntsville, Ala., walked into Detroit to deliver his lecture on "Can We Ever Be Perfectly Happy?" The committee submitted him to the following examination:

"When and where was Plato born?"

"What brought the downfall of the Roman Empire?"

"What nation first made use of the soup bone as a substitute for turkey?"

"Who introduced the game of policy into this country?"

"Who was De Soto, and why did he discover the Mississippi river?"

"If I have 1,000,000,000 cocoanuts and give a strange darky 265,420 of them how many do I have left?"

"How long would a body weighing 250 pounds take in falling 1,800 feet?"

The list of questions embraced thirty-one, and Hon. Plumbago could not return a correct answer to a single one of them. He grew quite indignant over the examination, claiming that the only two things which stood in the way of perfect happiness on earth were green watermelons at 50 cents apiece and the house fly; but the committee was firm, and he was told to jog along.

"De report of de committee will be accepted an' adopted," observed brother Gardner, "an' each member of it will considder hisself formally thanked. Had de Hon. Plumbago been allowed to take dis platform we should hev lost half an hour of our valuable time an' been no wiser. We will now proceed wid de reg'lar purceedin's."

MANY of the citizens of Tulare, Cal., have been made seriously ill by the bites of big black spiders, which have appeared in great numbers.

DIPHTHERIA is epidemic in St. Louis. Twenty-four new cases were reported on Tuesday last, a greater number than was ever before reported in one day.

THE CLARION.

THE FRATERNITIES.

New Masonic Lodge.

Grand Master DeLap has issued his dispensations for the organization of Jasper Lodge at Heidleberg. Hon. John F. McCormick, Past Grand Master, to be W. M.; Thos. McFuller to be S. W.; W. M. Bounds, J. W.

This makes the second new Lodge organized this year. One dormant Lodge revived.

Jurisdiction of Initiates.

——, MISS., Aug. 26, 1887.

BRO. POWER: A young man by the name of W. C. D., wishes —— Lodge, No. —, to confer the Third Degree in Masonry upon him. He was initiated in —— Lodge, No. —, in Mississippi in 1878, then removed to Alabama, where he took the F. C. degree. The Lodge in which he was passed is not now in existence, and I am at a loss to know how to proceed in his case.

Fraternally,
E. S., W.·. M.·.

Answer—The Mississippi Lodge that initiated him has jurisdiction of him until he is passed and raised, and until he dimits from same. The Lodge passing him could only have so done by request of the Lodge initiating him. The Alabama Lodge having ceased to exist, he must obtain a certificate from the Grand Secretary of Alabama setting forth the fact that he received the F. C. degree in that State, which certificate should be sent to the Lodge initiating him, with request that he may be raised by the Lodge in whose jurisdiction he now resides.

A Comparison.

If all members of the Knights of Honor were carrying loans of $2,000, secured by mortgages, with interest-bearing coupons maturing the first day of every month, how promptly we should see them gathering around the broker's office on day of maturity to clip the coupon and prevent a foreclosure. No excuse for non-payment of the 8 per cent interest would be deemed valid, and the cut-throat stipulations would be expected to be enforced according to the letter of the law. Brothers, we guarantee your heirs the self-same amount of $2,000, and it costs you less than one per cent a year. Why do you then absent yourselves from the lodge? Why not go promptly and pay the small assessment which is just as legitimately a business transaction as the case of the mortgage and loan? You fail to pay the assessments, suspension is bound to follow, and in the end your Beneficiary Certificate will be annulled. By your own carelessness, and neglect of duty, you allow the best and cheapest insurance to become void. A few of our members can afford to drop it, but the great majority owe it as a duty to their wives and little ones to faithfully keep it up to the end.—Knight of Honor.

Fraternity Not Charity.

Ours is not an eleemosynary institution. Gratuities and alms-giving are not among the primary obligations imposed upon us. Our charities, and they are abounding, are not dispensed under the impulse which prompts us to toss a nickel to a beggar. Their objects, their beneficiaries must come commended by higher qualifications than present destitution of money or health. Upon any other basis the acceptance of members would bankrupt any mortuary benefit Order in a month.—Knight of Honor.

The Difference.

Instead of reckoning what we pay for dues and assessments in the Order as money lost, because, forsooth, we do not die and win, it should be considered as a part of our necessary expenses, just as we reckon taxes, church expenses, fire insurance premiums, and other outgoes by which we provide for our families and homes. The only difference is that these latter expenses are for the present comfort of the family, and the commendary expenses are for the future.

Development.

One of the great benefits that has resulted from the growth of fraternal organizations like the Knights of Honor is that they have developed greater breadth of mind, a more enlarged charity and a kindlier spirit of tolerance than the world would have seen without them. Opposition to them is opposition to all that practical religion requires of men in their relation to each other.

Wise Words.

Rev. T. D. Talmage says: "You can go out of this world not having a dollar, and yet die happy, if you could provide for the wife and children left behind. It would be a mean thing for you to go to Heaven while they go to the poorhouse. You at death may move into a beautiful mansion with river front; they move into two rooms on the fourth floor of a tenement house."

THE fraternal features of the Knights of Honor should not be neglected. Every member should visit his lodge at least once in each month, form the acquaintance of the members, and make himself agreeable to them and useful to the Order. Frequent attendance at lodge meetings makes us more familiar with the working machinery of the Order and enables us to give valuable assistance for the good of the Order.

Only Three.

From a careful examination of statistics, it has been learned that only three men out of a hundred leave their families in comfortable circumstances at death. Here are long odds of thirty-three to one against every man who thinks he is going to be one of the lucky trio that will provide his family with plenty. How very unwise it appears for men to risk such odds.

THE Knights of Honor ennobles the man of labor. An elevating partnership is formed whereby the poor man is placed on the platform with the capitalist, his family and loved ones being provided for at death.

THE necessity for law and the importance of implicit obedience is no where more apparent than in the Knights of Honor. With honorable men there is nothing more binding than a voluntary pledge to obey.

HAVE you bad members in your lodge? Don't worry about it. They are everywhere; the churches don't escape them. Try to make them better. Show them a good example.

THE risk of death is thirteen times as great as of your neighbor's house burning; there is the greater need of his joining the Knights of Honor.

THE Royal Arch Masons in the Province of New Brunswick have organized a Grand Chapter.

King Milan's Adieu to His Queen.

A strange scene occurred Thursday last at the railroad station at Buda-Pesth. King Milan of Servia and Queen Nathalie, who have agreed that they never can agree, bade good-bye to each other for an indefinite period. He took leave from his beautiful wife on the platform in full sight of the public, and after coldly kissing her on the brow and patting his little boy on the head he got into the train, which bore him swiftly back to his discontented Servian subjects. Queen Nathalie and the boy subsequently proceeded to Baden, near Vienna, where she will stay until autumn, and then take up her residence in Ouida's "winter city," Florence, where she passed her childhood. Henceforward Milan and Nathalie will never live together again.—London Letter.

THE desire of fame betrays an ambitious man into indiscretions that lessen his reputation; he is still afraid lest any of his actions should be thrown away in private.

Uniformity of Text Books In Public Schools.

AN ESSAY READ BY JOHN W. JOHNSON, BEFORE THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION IN STARKVILLE, MISS., JULY 14TH, 1887.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Text books to the teacher are what tools are to the mechanic, or arms to the sportsman and warrior. As similarity of arms gives beauty, symmetry, and efficiency to battle ranks of soldiery, so does uniformity of text books add to the ease, grace and rapidity of mental culture in the school room.

I shall present my subject, "Uniformity of Text Books" from three different stand-points, viz: In schools, in counties, in States. A simple common-sense view only is required for the first division. One of the fundamental ideas in the organization of schools is the advantage gained by classification. Without classification the most zealous and worthy efforts of the teacher are limited and well nigh abortive. The very few pupils that the teacher can serve, annihilates the spirit of emulation and rivalry, which is so often fraught with the best of consequences. Such a school becomes lifeless, for a plain reason—the want of more *lives*.

We are fondly gregarious by nature; and this quality of our constitution seems more potent and influential in children than in adults. Put children together if you want them to *do* anything; to play, let them play together; to work, let them work together; to sing, let them sing in groups, they enjoy it; to eat, let them have the dining room to themselves, they will all be at home; to sleep, let them nestle many and close; the little pallet or trundle bed is like a city street car, always room for one more, the difference being that in the case of the trundle bed the *one more* is always welcome, which is not equally true for the way worn traveller entering the jam of a crowded car or omnibus. If you want children to study, let them study together, having the same books, the same lessons, sitting in the same room and reciting to the same teacher. What is more pleasant than for a teacher to have her group of thirty or thirty-five children all properly classed; so that in explaining some interesting point, dozens and scores of bright eyes are all upturned, eager to catch the tiny morsel of knowledge, and every mind gladly appropriating it to its own treasure-house of knowledge. The teacher has ample time to enlarge and illustrate any point, and to tell an anecdote or story, to break the monotony of routine, and add a interest to daily duties.

But the contrary to this is so often found. The teacher opens school to find perhaps English Grammars from four different authors, perhaps even a greater variety of Arithmetics. And so she must worry and hurry over four or five lessons in the time that ought to be given to one, and that, too, with two, three or four in a class. While one little bunch is reciting the others are restive, mischievous and troublesome, thus adding more vexation and hindrance to the teacher in trying to discharge her conflicting duties. Whereas if all could be classified, interest would be maintained, attention secured, and far more efficient and satisfactory work accomplished. Let the teacher suggest that Reed and Kellogg is superior to Smith, Kirkham, or Butler, and perhaps the reply is sharper than a two edged sword, with a grave inuendo that the teacher is not competent to handle these old reliable standard works, but is carried away with some short-sighted artificial notions of her inferior books, and then will the patron close the warning with an appeal for economy in the matter of text books, saying: "I cannot and will not try to accommodate every new teacher who comes along, by buying a new supply of books. I have done that already several times, and before my children can half way know one book I am called upon to get a new supply. I see no end to it, unless I make an end, and *this* I have determined to do at once." The result is that parents are justly indignant at the idea of changing school-books continually, the teacher is worried and hurried and wearied unmercifully, she finds conflicting methods of construction in different Grammars, various rules in Arithmetic, and finally she feels despondent, and really believes she would prefer the sewing machine or the clerk's desk, or the mantuamaker's calling to that of the teacher. The children are confused; they observe these different constructions, and different rules, and not being able to master the subject far enough to comprehend and harmonize these differences, they conclude that the whole matter is in a confused and gloomy state, and where authors differ, they think it simply impossible for children ever to make their way clear. Hence they lose confidence in our system of instruction, grow indifferent, become discouraged, and finally insist on stopping school; sad as the fact is, too many parents allow their children to do as they please in this matter, and in fact nearly every other. Hence we conclude that among the many causes of dissatisfaction in schools, to teachers, patron and pupil, the want of uniformity in text books constitute one of the largest factors. Considered from this standpoint alone this want seems to be a necessary evil, without remedy or antidote. Parents are not to blame. They are willing enough to buy any series of text books for the education of their children if one time's buying would suffice. But it is the repetition of the thing that worries and tries their patience. The continual demand of teachers for new books, when the shelves at home are packed with books scarcely used enough to be properly called second-hand books, but rather, as the merchants say, shelf-worn books. Not a finger print to be seen in the last half of the book, and no injury at all in the first half. The teacher is not to be blamed. We have noticed the inconvenience and confusion growing out of a great variety of text-books, and hence it is but natural and right that the teacher should endeavor to classify as far as possible and when necessary to call upon parents for new books. Not so much for her own convenience, as for the general good of the school and special good of the child. Before another session opens perhaps half a dozen patrons will move to another community, or rather to as many new communities, others will take their places, and hence another general mixture of text books We infer, therefore, that in schools viewed singly and separately, uniformity in text-books is simply impossible.

We search for relief, then, from the next standpoint, viz: Can we have uniformity of text books by counties? The thoughts of futile efforts already made probably flash before the minds of all. Such laws have found their way to our statute books and for ought I know they are there yet. But they have never accomplished the ends for which they were intended. I believe I am correct in saying that a few counties have made a success of the effort, and are well pleased. But these form the exception and not the rule. The law, undoubtedly has its advantages, if it could be carried out in good faith. The introduction of the law had its opposition as innovations generally have. It is bad enough when one or two or a half dozen patrons peremptorily refuse to buy books and thus worry the teacher; but is worse when whole communities refuse, and thus set the law at naught. There seems to be a sort of allied pleasure in a whole community resolving at once not to put themselves to the extra expense of buying new books, or even paying the small amount for exchange. All then seem to have a fellow-feeling which, says Shakespeare, "makes us wondrous kind." We have inherently liked rebellion ever since we succeeded in the Revolutionary War. Publishers recognising all these influences, the matter of extra expense, the difficulty of forcing a community into measures on account of their readiness to rebel, the indifference that pervades the public mind in such matters, have endeavored by devious ways and means to obviate the trouble, and most especially to introduce their own publications. Hence county superintendents and prominent teachers receive through the mails many excellent books to examine, and, if possible, endorse. They send agents—talkative agents, intelligent gentlemen, representative men of scholarly attainments, courteous bearing, and great personal magnetism. They are business men and they carry out literally the scriptural injunction, "Be diligent in business," and so they hold up the advantages of their text-books, in such glowing colors that boards of supervisors and boards of examiners, and county superintendents and teachers all fall in love with their series. Then the inducements come. Introductory prices, cheap! cheap! cheap! Exchange price cheaper still, and a free copy to the teacher if adopted, etc., etc. Finally the negotiation is accomplished, the curtain falls, the publishers retire from the scene, and the people come into view. A search is instituted for old books, and so the whole place is ransacked from cellar to garret, and every old school book, regardless of age, service, color, previous or present condition, is packed up and carried away to the exchange store. And thus old books, absolutely worth nothing, are exchanged for a mere nominal difference, for good, new books. Good trade for publishers; good trade for people. "All is well that ends well." So it might be if the people would unanimously take hold of the enterprise. But alas! there are always some who will not. At any rate, a partial exchange by counties is better than no exchange at all, and it surely is a decided improvement upon the plan of no uniformity. A neighboring county, however, may adopt a different series, and then woe to line-schools, and families who cross county lines in moving, as many tenants do. In a few years the time is out and a rival publishing company comes on with its bids, inducements, and hence a chance for another general upheaval, and exchange of books.

Well, perhaps this is all right. History is said to repeat itself. At any rate, this plan keeps up a generous spirit of rivalry, and authors are always trying to make improvements; so that progress and advancement in methods and matter are constantly stimulated and encouraged. Uniformity of text books by counties, then, seems to be practicable, somewhat efficient, and altogether desirable, if nothing better can be substituted. The failures we have met are due rather to indifference and carelessness on the part of the people than to any inherent deficiency in the law itself. We need another law to enforce the one we have.

We shall not dismiss the subject, however, till we view it from another standpoint, which may even be better than uniformity by counties. Could we have uniformity of text-books by States? Would this be practicable, expedient or desirable? I see no reason why such an arrangement could not be made practicable. As in all other State matters, such a movement should be begun with great caution and prudence. A little hasty action or indiscretion might make our already bad matters much worse. If the Legislature, after due deliberation and open and frank discussion, should approve of such, with the lights now before me, I should regard their legislation wise. The details, I think, could be arranged easily. I should think that a commission, authorized by the Legislature, to which at least one year of time should be given, would be better qualified to select a series of books for uniform use in the State, than the Legislature itself. It would seem that the work might be safely entrusted to a commission of which our State Superintendent should be chairman, consisting, say, of one *practical teacher* in public schools from each Senatorial district, whose traveling expenses should be paid, and a liberal *per diem* for each day of service given to the work. Let them meet in Jackson, freely discuss text-books, arrange all matters of detail for exchange with publishers, and finally adopt a series which should be compulsory in the public schools for at least five years. The cost to the State for the commission would be a mere trifle. The main trouble would be to induce patrons to conform promptly and cheerfully to the law in the matter of exchange. Money matters do become very close with a large per cent. of the patrons of our public schools. More than fifty per cent. are negroes, and a large portion of the whites are poor. So that the merest nominal difference for exchange—say ten cents per copy—would be a consideration appalling to many of these poor patrons. Hence one very important consideration, for the commission would be the matter of exchange. The most liberal terms should be demanded by the commission in view of the fact that, for a while, five years at least, the publishers would have a monopoly in this State. The regular price, also, after introduction, should be definitely agreed upon, to prevent extortion in prices afterward. So much, then, for the practicability of the scheme of uniformity by States. Is it expedient? The advantages accruing seem to outweigh every other consideration. But there are other matters as to its expediency. Would the people ratify such a law at last, after all the advantages are laid before them, and all the inducements in the matter of exchange? The people are generally slow to adopt any public measure, when the result reaches right down into the pockets of each voter and takes a few dimes therefrom. Then the woeful indifference, that sits as a mighty incubus upon the public mind, would have to be aroused. Tranquility would be disturbed and possibly a repeal demanded before the first five years should expire. Such inducements for frauds as have hardly ever been witnessed would be held out from the very day the commissioners should be appointed or the law passed. Every man having a vote on the text books, would receive by return mail whole scores of books to examine. Enough for himself for life, and for his children to the third and fourth generation. Agents would visit them at their homes, and meet the commission in Jackson, and such "*packing of the jury*" could only be described by the teachers and patrons who would fail to get the text books preferred by them. Some would say that freedom of trade would be curbed by such an arrangement—that Mississippi was a vast foster-mother of monopolies, and very narrow in her views of education; that honorable competition was debarred, and that the inducements to authors to improve text books were circumscribed and limited,—that talent was not given a fair chance to compete with the world, etc. All these are considerations of expediency, which might be well considered together with its practicability. These considerations also may modify the last question I shall introduce on the subject: Is it desirable? When a question is shown to be advantageous and practicable, it might seem that these two would be conclusive of the question and impel an answer in the affirmative. Expediency, however, weighs much, and should constitute one factor in the make-up of our opinion. As a matter of improvement, and a better means of educating our children, it is certainly desirable. As a matter of economy to patrons of the free schools it is commendable in the highest degree. As a matter of convenience and pleasure to teachers, and a means of lightening their work, and rendering it far more efficient, it is worthy of their most zealous endeavor, and cheerful sacrifice. Whenever teachers themselves can come to a full realization of all the benefits to be derived from uniformity of text books by States, then will they lift the people with the same zeal and enthusiasm for advancement, and the objections of expediency will vanish as shadows, and the sunlight of true mental and moral culture will pour upon us blessings never to be estimated in dollars and cents.

FATHER—"Tom, Tom!" this'll never do! Past eleven o'clock! and you've been in bed fifteen hours out of the twenty-four." Tom—"But it's cheap, gov'nour costs nothing. Wh'r'as directly a fellow's up and dressed, expenses begin."

STRANGER—"You say you have been shipwrecked four times?" Sailor—"Ay, ay, sir, twice beauty." "And what was your sensations when the wild waves broke over you and you felt yourself sinking under the water?" "Damp."

DR. B. F. WARD.

N. O. Picayune.]

DR. B. F. WARD has long been known as the orator of his profession in the State of Mississippi. He has been for ten years a contributor to the "Transactions of the Mississippi State Medical Association." When elected President of that Association he delivered an address on "Alcohol," which has been extensively circulated by active friends of the temperance cause. He also delivered before the same body an address on "Medicine in the Cotton States," of which 2500 extra copies for distribution were ordered by the Association—a compliment never before or since paid to any of its members.

Dr. Ward's professional learning, eloquence and general culture had already sufficed to secure for him a high degree of distinction in Mississippi, when his article on "The White Man of the New South and of the Old South" appeared only a few months ago in THE CLARION, of Jackson, Miss. That article has been republished in every part of the country, with editorial comments, and has achieved for its author a national reputation. It was written in reply to a contribution to the *Century Magazine* for March last, entitled, "The White Man of the New South," by Prof. Wilbur Fisk Tillett, of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. Prof. Tillett had undertaken to show that the representative Southerner of the Old South was, by reason of the benighting influence of slavery, inferior to the white man of the New South, and further, that the moral and industrial conditions of this section had been greatly improved by the changes which followed the conclusion of the war of secession. Dr. Ward meets these contentions with an overwhelming array of statistics and historical facts which must go far to reverse the judgment of all those who adopted Prof. Tillett's view, or at least of all whose optimism has left them still open to conviction. Dr. Ward's article is not a lengthy one, but it is a marvel of lucid, terse and telling statement. This is not the place for its analysis, or for a critical estimate of its value as a contribution to the literature of political philosophy; but whoever reads it will understand why it has made its author suddenly famous.

Dr. B. F. Ward, now a resident of Winona, Miss., was born in South Carolina, and served in the Confederate army as a surgeon.

FOR THE CLARION.]

Hang Up the Slanderers.

BY DR J. W. HARMON.

Did you ever pronounce the word slander with a rotund intonation of the voice and discover how pungent, keen and piercing it falls upon the ear?

Did you ever pause with bated breath to listen to the whiz and whirl of this poisoned arrow as it sped its way to the wounding and damage of human reputation?

Did you ever sympathize with the pierced victims, and with a tender hand and heart help to extract the barbed arrow from a wounded spirit, pouring into the lacerated heart soothing words, fitly spoken.

Does it not baffle human philosophy, and make the face of virtue turn pale to think that against the malignant words of the slanderer no purity is a defense, no innocence a security, and no deeds of goodness a safeguard; virtue baptised in tears of agony and consecrated in prayer, is crucified by the casting of the dice, and the profane gamblers lift their heads into the sunlight and are titled gentlemen and high-toned ladies.

Can human thought fathom the cruel indifference or deep malice that lets fly the cruel shaft of slander? *Mirable dictu*, just as soon as it takes wings, and the whispered voice of slander is heard, a thousand wily tongues, swift as the weaver's shuttle, speeds the arrow with a surer aim to the heart of its victim.

Who can understand why the very best of us, with such readiness, receive and give credit to calumny?—why there is such a consuming desire to repeat it, and thus overwhelm those who never injured us, with all the misery of a defamed character?

The common form of slander is that of detraction, and where is the society free from such slanderers, who transform themselves into angels of light, though smirched and black at heart? They sometimes come forth with a sanctified gentility of spiced morality, as fresh as a night-blooming cereus; and sometimes robed in celestial purity of professions, they whisper their speech with the pledged seal of eternal silence upon the lips of the hearers.

These sweet, silvery-tongued spirits, with evident regret, have sent forth the secret shaft, keen, polished and doubly barbed; and this viperous piece of villiany, oiled all over with the most tender confessions of friendship, has gone forth to do its hellish work amid the delicate trellis-work of human sensibilities, and the sancity of human lives and homes.

And what makes it burn and blister the more, is the fact, that let it be true or false, something supplied or other things concealed, so that the one way will make it criminal, or the other innocent; yet all this while the victim is cut off from all chance of explanation, until a mighty crevasse has broken down his character.

The blistering fires which such moral incendiaries kindle in society is almost incredible, because, for the most part, inevitable. The unjust sentence of a judge may condemn an innocent man, but secret slander condemns innocence itself. Do but paint a pure angel black, and then point the finger of scorn, and cry, lo! here! and that will make him pass current for a devil.

Reputation, integrity of character, is all that some men possess in the world; it is their capital, their fortune; and their success depends upon it; you might as well rob the bank, and be held guiltless, as to rob these persons of their reputation; and to slander them is the greatest crime you can do them; because, in some cases, it would be the lesser evil to murder their bodies.

There is one form of slander common to the best of us, which we commit without a thought as to the consequences. Floating on the great current of gossip and table-talk in every community, we hear of fatherless speeches and motherless remarks, more or less derogatory to character; indexing the character of this one and that one; and every one feels at liberty to pass the slander with his imprint; and as no one questioned, and held responsible, he falls back upon the public syndicate, "They Say." And this great firm of "They Say & Co." appear to be carrying on an immense wholesale and retail business of babbling and secret slander.

It has been said by a keen wit, that the repeater and receiver, and propagator of slander ought both to be hung; the one by the tongue, and the other by the ears; and if sympathy should cry out, cut them down, let it be done, but with a loss of the tongue in the one, and the ears of the other. If such a principle was embodied in law by our State Legislature, and severely executed in all our cities, towns and