CORRESPONDENCE.

"A GREAT PAPER."

The following letter comes to us from a clergyman of Hartford, Connecticut, at date of July 30:

The most [illegible] paper I ever saw, the oldest paper I ever read, a copy—coincidently the most replete with interesting matter—was published in America—as the day come to hand, entitled "THE NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE." Thanks and honor to its able editors and enterprising publishers. By one of not less than ten thousand admiring clerks DAILY TRIBUNE readers in this Republic. J. B. C.

MILITARY PAY.

An ex-officer of Nebraska cavalry states his own case by way of illustrating certain army matters. He enlisted in June, 1861, for three years; was promoted to a lieutenancy in September, 1862, and was mustered out, by reason of the expiration of his term, in October, 1864. There is a law that all officers serving through the War for the Union, and honorably discharged, shall receive three months' extra pay; but though thousands of officers who joined the army since his promotion, and left it before his own discharge, have received this extra pay, he and others are not entitled to it because they were not mustered out with their regiments. Again, officers mustered out before their regiments are not paid until they get papers from the Second Auditor of the Treasury, on presenting such papers to the Paymaster, the applicant is informed that he will have to get a statement from the Paymaster to show that there are no "stoppages" against him, and after that he must swear that his accounts are correct, and that he is not in debt to the Government. The document "cannot see any sense in requiring this oath after so many certificates." He gives the word of the Paymaster that it is a common occurrence for mustered-out officers to come for their pay without the Paymaster-General's certificate, and that though he has served for four years and four months in the army, he has been trying for over eight months to get his due, namely pay. These facts furnish another warrant of military overcautiousness, and, as our correspondent complains, injustice of the most stinging kind.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

"I. T. P.," of Albany maintains with religious intensity that capital punishment is entirely condemned by the N. T. [illegible] version. Capital punishment only "seems proper or necessary in opposition to the course drawn to us from the dark ages, as an established principle." He thinks God that "society has taken, in a century, great strides toward the right in this respect. Mark how society, every few years, grows in respect for human life. In one period the Inquisition was swept out of existence. In another, duelling is discountenanced by society and prohibited by law. In another, public executions of capital punishment are found to be demoralizing and they are abolished. And next in course, will follow capital punishment itself, the last of this barbarous, gross and [illegible] crime."

PUBLIC BATHS AND LAUNDRIES.

Can we not have public baths and laundries in New-York? These establishments would promote both health and morals. The principal cities in England and on the continent have already, or are now engaged in the erection of buildings where the people may freely wash and be cleansed at public expense. New-York should not more slowly in this matter. If these institutions cannot be established by the city authorities, then private enterprise should supply the want, at rates that would place the luxury of cleanliness within the reach of the poorest citizen. There is a field for philanthropists, humanitarians and public-spirited capitalists that should not long remain unoccupied.

WHERE TO SPEND THE SUMMER.

A New-Yorker writes from New-Hampshire: "The rural village presents far more inducements for rational enjoyment than fashionable resorts, while the expense is reasonable and can be borne by families of moderate means. Here adults are charged $5 to $6 per week, and a liberal deduction made for children. The food provided is wholesome and in great plenty. The beautiful drives and reasonable rates for horses induce the boarders throughout the village to take frequent morning and evening excursions over the hills through the valleys and under the shadow of the mountains almost daily."

THE ILLINOIS JUGGERNAUT.

Our Dongola correspondent says: The Chicago Press Trade organ exults in the defeat of the Tariff bill. People ought to know why Chicago is a free trade city, and why western members of Congress unite with eastern Senators to crush western manufactures. Chicago is envious of St. Louis, she is willing to destroy any enterprise which will build up her rival or the interior. The idea of Chicago as the grain trade, and this must be sustained, whatever it may cost. Everything else must be subject to the warehouses, to the grain vessels and the steam-ships. If manufactures and manufacturing towns are established, they will be independent of Chicago, and there will be small farms and varied industry. No, this will not do. To keep up the grain trade farms must be large, wages low, the laborer half a serfs; our young men must raise grain or seek clerkships in Chicago, there must be no market in the interior for varied products—if sent to Chicago the railroads will absorb the profits—our sheep must be carried to the slaughter-houses, the many woolen manufactories incompleted, must remain so. With large farms, schools, meetings, and rural society will be impossible. Chicago will lay the foundations of her prosperity in the destruction of every interest but the raising of grain. Western Congressmen are envious of Eastern manufactures; they hope that free trade will make cheap goods. Eastern Senators know that if the West only will raise grain, their operatives will be well fed. New-England and Old England are a band of brothers. The Chicago organ, having done what it could to debauch public sentiment and to destroy Western prosperity, properly loses that it never advocates any kind of reform. But great is Mammon, and we will have the interest of the middle country at heart, not of northern cold cities. It is astonishing that only a few can see that a civilized people will be ruined if they are governed by the laws of savage or barbarous people. It is not even understood that, while we are taxed by the Internal Revenue, the Free Trade scheme will remove taxation from everybody in the world but from ourselves.

SUCCESSFUL PLANTATION MANAGEMENT.

A planter in Florida thus writes to his patrons in the North: "I am glad to say that the weeds and grass are fast disappearing. Our Southern neighbors have been saying that the Yankees were caught in grass, and would lose half, if not the whole of their crop—but we have shown them a trick worth two of that. We scoured the country for 50 miles and picked up all the men we found running around loose, hired and set them to work. For the past few weeks we have had from 60 to 100 extra day hands, pay them one dollar a day and rations—it's expensive, but we are bound not to lose. You know that I expressed fears that the negroes would not work after they had earned a little money. They continue to work faithfully and earnestly, can perceive no difference to-day and when they commenced in January. On the Fourth we gave all hands a holiday, and gave them a grand dinner, told them to invite their friends, and they rendered folks in the highways or byways. More than 900 sat down to dinner—band of music from town, flag, hats, candy, &c., &c.—50 large wedding cakes—roasted two whole oxen, 10 pigs, besides chickens, &c. Thirty-five couple were married, colored folks who had been living together as man and wife. One couple were over 80 years old. Hail the Star Spangled Banner floating in front of the house. Everything passed off pleasantly, each one had enough to eat and drink, and when they dispersed to their heart's content. In fact it was a complete success in every respect. It cost us over $1,000. We think it has done more than that amount of good. In school progresses nicely; the ages of the pupils vary from four to 50; the blue hands attending night school; all are very eager to learn."

EDUCATION.

The State Teachers' Association at Geneva.

From Our Special Correspondent.

GENEVA, N. Y., August 1, 1866.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON.

The Association met again at 2 p. m. The address of John H. French, LL. D., upon "The Physical Geography of the State of New-York," was the first thing in order. I regret that the pressure upon your columns is too great to allow of full justice being done in them to this valuable lecture, which contained a large amount of information made available, as the speaker remarked, only within the last few years by a survey of the entire State under the Legislature, and valuable to every teacher throughout the State. It would be difficult to digest the mass of facts contained in the lecture, and I must be content to present a very few, for the rest referring those interested to *The New-York Teacher*, where it will appear entire.

Dr. French began by glancing at the history of the Empire State, first alluding to the aboriginal inhabitants who became finally the Six Nations, and are still represented by a small remnant. The names bequeathed to the whites by these tribes indicate the geographical limits of each; those of the Wyandots or Iroquois, for example, soft and musical, as Canesteo, Ga. Onon-da-ga, &c. From the first discover, Champlain, who set foot on the soil of the present State (July 4, 1609), to the time when its boundaries were finally appointed, the lecturer traced the geographical history of the State, giving many valuable hints to the teacher who would accurately instruct a pupil to "bound New-York." The land grants, the mountains, rivers, systems and sections of the State were described at length, and the points for dilating upon which time was lacking were mentioned; and the lecturer left the stand with the satisfaction of knowing, by the applause generously bestowed, that his excellent compilation of facts, not commonly accessible, had been well appreciated.

Papers were presented upon "The Importance of the Study of the Natural Sciences," by Profs. W. H. Rising of Michigan University, and S. G. Williams of Ithaca. They recommended the introduction, or at least the more thorough adoption of the practical method of study, going out into the fields for the practice of surveying, and a similar course for each study.

Considerable music was interspersed throughout the afternoon, by various performers, both amateur and professional; but perhaps the most welcome treat of all—certainly the most enthusiastically asked and rewarded—was the appearance of Miss Helen L. D. Potter of Packer Collegiate Institute, well known in educational circles, as a very successful teacher of reading. She gave a recitation of a poem entitled "May Day," and another of Whittier's well-known boat song on the Tyber. Her voice is remarkably powerful and quite flexible, which enables her to change from the imitation of the masculine to a feminine voice with great readiness and effect. Her merits are many, and evident. If she is faulty, it is in that false emphasizing of words, which prevails almost universally, among even the best readers.

The report of the Standing Committee on Improved Methods in Education was postponed until the morning session to-morrow, together with the paper by Mr. Cavert of Albany on English Language and Literature.

Adjourned till 7½ p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Linden Hall was packed to suffocation this evening by the members of the Association and their friends and the people of Geneva and vicinity. The attraction was mainly Miss Potter, who creates as intense an excitement here as Miss Rosmer did in New-York a year ago. Add to the readings of Miss Potter those of Mrs. Randall of Oswego, and the still further attraction of singers, male, female, and professional, too numerous to mention, and you have an audience exactly suited to cry "Fire!" among. Somebody did cry fire, and we had an admirable opportunity to judge of the strict orthodoxy of Linden Hall. In the middle of Mr. Miller's address some thoughtless boys in the "green-room" discovered a fire some 10 blocks off and, with boyish impetuosity, rushed pell-mell out of the hall, sounding the alarm as they went. The audience rose to their feet in great fright, and looked for a way out; but as architecture had first failed to build more than one door, and the flame of the excitement had sealed up that, the teachers wisely concluded to listen to good advice from the platform, which was at once volunteered by at least half a dozen gentlemen. A rush into the hall-way was thus prevented, which must have resulted, had it occurred, in serious and fatal injuries to very many. The measure to the ethics, and to prove as things go, was already chalked with a crowd, and your Greenwich-avenue school-teacher might have been found [illegible] in the State Teacher's Association, but enough of this. The lesson occurs every day, but we look in vain for improvements in public assembling rooms. If schools are slaughter houses, as Dr. Townsend said in the morning, what shall we say of these hole of Carlisles?

Prof. Watson of Rochester, having come an operatic air, the Rev. L. Merrill Mill'r, D. D., of Ogdensburgh, was introduced, and read an address on our common school system, mainly devoted to pointing out defects to be remedied. The manners in the first meeting-houses this evening, and should be so treated by the teacher in relation to the mind of the child; and faith in what is told the child is the next. These should be considered, rather than that fashion of later growth should be demanded by the course of instruction. The teacher should be fully fitted for the profession of teaching; and the religious element must be brought in. The fact that crimes against property and person in France are most numerous where the people are the best educated must be accounted for by the lack of a proper system of morals.

Dr. Miller succeeded in completing the delivery of his address, which was interrupted by a fire alarm, after the commotion was over.

Miss Potter read "High Tide," with the former applause.

Dr. Cruikshank then read a poem by Miss Mary A. Ripley, after whom Mrs. Randall of Oswego gave a reading, which elicited warm commendation. Though her voice lacked the volume of that of Miss Potter, she read with much goodness of emphasis and manner.

The meeting adjourned, after more music of superior excellence by the choir and quartette selected for the occasion, till 9 a. m. to-morrow. MIDAS.

THIRD AND LAST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS—PRACTICAL EDUCATION—OBJECT TEACHING—ELECTIONS.

From Our Special Correspondent.

GENEVA, N. Y., August 2, 1866.

The session of 1866 culminates to-day, and the preliminaries are unusually interesting. Among those your correspondent may name with especial pleasure an auto-prandial ride in the country, in company with other members of the press, and several gentlemen in attendance upon the Association. Mr. S. H. Ellis, of the Music Room in Linden Hall, was at the pains to give us an opportunity to see the country about Geneva, which most of the readers of THE TRIBUNE are doubtless familiar with. The great Sheldon property, called the "banner farm" of the State, with its three hundred acres of splendidly cultivated land, and its blooded stock—the large estate of Dr. Reed at Walnut Hill—the Smith nurseries, &c., afforded abundant entertainment for a delightful ride of an hour and a half, and an appetite beyond the power of the Franklin House to satisfy. To-morrow the admirably-conducted labors of the local committee will be crowned with a trip to the famous Glen at Watkins, when the convention shall have adjourned.

COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION—FOURTH DAY.

The last session of the Association of Commissioners and Superintendents took place at 8 o'clock this morning. The question of teachers or trustees reporting was resumed, and decided thus: That the teachers should report to the Commissioners at the end of the first month of their engagements, and at the end of every term, with regard to the matter of the reports, that the subject be referred to the Executive, with instructions [illegible] to be submitted to the State Superintendent, and [illegible] at the next annual meeting. A [illegible] concerning the qualifications of teachers was [illegible] and several substitutes were offered. The [illegible] were divided in regard to the need of scholastic merit and the necessities of our [illegible].

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION—THIRD DAY.

The teachers reassembled at 9 o'clock. The Geneva Select Choir, under Prof. Gillespie, and a choir of girls under the direction of Miss Porter, entertained the assembly with some of their choicest song and music.

The Rev. J. B. Backus of this village offered prayer.

Dr. Cruikshank read a paper on "The Establishment of an Educational Exchange." It recommended such an institution as might afford facilities for gathering together educational documents, A[illegible] and for teachers and schools who are in want of exchanges.

Prof. A. A. Miles of New-York, a pupil of Aptommas, then delighted the Association and their friends, as he had a small party at Mr. Rice's some previously, with an admirable performance on the horn, which was tremendously applauded.

IMPORTANT CHANGES.

The Committee on [illegible] of Editors of *The New-York Teacher* reported for [illegible] new names: Edward Smith, Syracuse; Emily A. Rice, Geneva; [illegible] David Beattie, Dunkirk; John Jones, Geneva; John [illegible] Jones, Dundee; John S. Fosdick, Buffalo. This [illegible] of five new members is made to make the representation of all parts of the State complete, and increase the usefulness of the Board. The only retiring member is Mr. Edward A. Sheldon, Superintendent of the Oswego schools, whose almost innumerable duties—especially the new office of object-system—preclude him from the possibility of attending editorial duties. Miss Rice, who takes his place, is one of the most successful teachers, as well as one of the [illegible] in the State, and at present occupies a position in the Normal School in that city.

THE BOYS OF GRAMMAR.

A paper upon "The [illegible] and Literature as an Educational Force" was read by [illegible] J. P. Cavert of Albany. The writer condemned the [illegible] of studying grammar, and argued that we should begin teaching the child when he enters school at first. [illegible] Grammar, she that, until he is at least 12 years of age, all attention should be made to contribute to his enjoyment. Grammar should be made a delightful study—exactly the reverse of the methods of our schools—exactly the reverse of the methods of our schools. An independent