SYSTEM IN EDUCATION.

PRESIDENT HARPER ADVOCATES SOME RADICAL REFORMS.

TOO MANY INEFFICIENT COLLEGES IN AMERICA—PROFESSOR DRUMMOND CONTINUES HIS COURSE AT CHAUTAUQUA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Chautauqua, July 5.—The counter attractions of the Columbian Exposition seemed to threaten for a while the attendance at Chautauqua this year; but at the opening exercises of the assembly last Saturday and again at the opening exercises of the college and schools this morning, the audiences by actual count were found to be larger than those of last year on the same occasions. The number of pupils enrolled in the educational departments, so far as heard from, is also gratifyingly large. William R. Harper, president of the Chicago University and principal of the Chautauqua system, spoke to-day on "A System in Education." What Dr. Harper called "fragmentary and suggestive remarks" proved to be a thoughtful and able address. He began by referring to the many forms of educational activity in this country, which he said were without adjustment to each other and entirely devoid of relationship to any general scheme. There is not such a thing as system, or order or plan. It is beyond dispute that, whatever advantages the American college possesses, it by no means ranks with the gymnasium or Lycee. The introduction of order and system would double the efficiency of the work done, save two to four years in the life of every student, and secure a thoroughness which would revolutionize American methods in politics, business and letters.

Dr. Harper said he did not presume to propose a system of education for America. But among ideas which should characterize any plan of educational work he named the principle of individualism as capable of application alike to students, instructors and institutions. Culture should be as broad as possible in the line of the work which the individual can do to advantage. The reason why so many men who have college and university training are reckoned as failures is because the idea has prevailed so extensively that men may be educated in a mass; that they may be ground through the curriculum of study without reference to special tastes and predilections. The speaker said he stood ready to assume the responsibility for the statement that as many men have been injured by college training as have been helped, and that the cause of the injury in nine cases out of ten has been the inflexible routine of the college curriculum. How much better it would be if one institution devoted its strength and energy to the development of history and politics, another to the development of the biological sciences, another to throwing all its efforts into the great field of electricity. As it is, a tenth-rate college in a remote locality announces courses in every department of human knowledge, and students are compelled in self-defence to dabble in everything, rather than to do work in a few things.

Of grammar schools Dr. Harper said they are now conducted with special reference to making provision for teachers and finding a market for text-books rather than for developing pupils. The beginning of real university work is in the kindergarten. Dr. Harper proposed a rigid classification of schools, according to purpose, scope and rank. He suggested that a National commission for this purpose should be created, and said he could conceive no more undertaken by the Government which would accomplish results of greater importance to the country. Dr. Harper proposed first the association of students, then the association of academies in relation to college; the association of Chautauquas; the reduction of colleges to half-colleges, and the association of several thus reduced in relation to a college fully equipped to do the best of work; the association of colleges in relation to a university, and the association of universities in relation to one National university.

Professor Henry Drummond, in the third lecture of his course on the "Ascent of Man," gave an account of how man got his speech, and said evolution, if it is the true theory, must give an account of the whole man and of the whole human society. Everything which goes to make up man has been fitted into him by a long series of processes. For thousands of years man wandered about the face of the earth without the power of speech. Primitive man hit upon the idea of living together in numbers with the advantage of animal strength in the combination and also of mental observation. One man thus has as many eyes as a flock has eyes and as many ears, provided there is some power of communication between the different members. The mere fact that animals are together proves that they are in communication with each other. The three kinds of language used among deer are signs, note, intonation. Turning to man one finds sign, tone and word language all passing in definite forms into speech. Some of the most primitive races still cling to gesture languages, with only the use of a few growls. From gesture and sound language the specialization of sounds was next traced and Professor Drummond said it is a general belief among evolutionists that to this development of languages among man is due the evolution of the human mind itself. The reason that animals have not gone on in mental development is because animals have no speech, which is not anatomically possible to them.

With some account of the history of the formation of words and languages by individuals, tribes and nations, the next proposition was that from being able to say what he knew man passed to write what he knew, first by objects and later by more simple signs. By all the traditions of evolution the telephone ought to be the vehicle of the language of the future. The human mind is already feeling for a better means of talking, and telepathy has become a scientific word.

Lectures were also given by Miss E. R. Sill on "The Women and Homes of Japan," and by Mrs. C. E. Bishop, instructor in Delsarte culture, on "Our Bodies and Our Dresses."

THE GREAT LECTURES AT MT. GRETNA.

Mt. Gretna, Penn., July 5 (Special).—The class work at the Pennsylvania Chautauqua was started to-day with good classes, and the prospect of many more additions later in the season. In the list of instructors who are present and gave their first instructions throughout to-day, are: English Old Testament and New Testament, the Rev. Dr. Willis J. Beecher, of Auburn Theological Seminary; Hebrew, Dr. C. B. Schultze, president of the Moravian Theological Seminary at Bethlehem; New Testament, Greek, Professor George T. Ettinger, Muhlenburg College; classic Greek, Professor H. A. Curran; German and French, conversational method, Miss Clara A. Fueauff; English literature, Professor Robert Ellis Thompson; American history, Professor John Fiske; political economy, Professor Laurence C. Brickenstein, painting and drawing, Miss Frances Louise Farrand, of Philadelphia; art needlework, the Misses Lehman; history and theory of music, Professor W. J. Baltzell; oratory and vocal culture, Professor John R. Scott; geology, Professor Frederick Starr, of Cambridge; botany, Professor Curran; physics, Professor J. K. Light; normal kindergarten, Miss S. K. Lippincott; physical culture, Delsarte and Swedish systems, Miss Lydia Newcomb; business course, J. C. Shamberger.

At 10 o'clock Dr. Beecher gave a lecture to a large audience in the main auditorium on "Bible Study." It was an introductory to the series of lectures proposed to be given and was devoted, after a ten minute discourse, to answering queries. At 3 o'clock Chancellor Hart delivered a lecture entitled "The Immediate Effects of the Discovery of America on European Civilization." Professor Baltzell delivered the first of his series of his six lectures on the "Theory of Music" this afternoon in Musical Hall. There was a large attendance to hear his talk on melody. Professor Thompson has prepared a course of four lectures on English literature, and the first was listened to by a large audience, at 8 o'clock this evening.

CRAWL, BROTHERS, CRAWL WITH CARE

NOT A TARIFF FOR REVENUE ONLY, BUT A PLATFORM FOR BUNCOMBE ONLY.

From The Richmond (Va.) Dispatch (Dem.), June 6, 1893.

We always read "The Atlanta Constitution" with pleasure. We have borne testimony to the ability with which it is edited. It is a power in the Empire State of the South and circulates far and wide in other States. Nevertheless, we have thought sometimes that it did not appreciate the condition of things in Virginia and some other States, seeing that it advocates at least one measure which, if it should become the law of the land, would ruin Virginia. We mean a tariff levied for revenue purposes only. . . .

A tariff for revenue only means a tariff levying heavy customs duties upon sugar. A Democratic Congress would not dare to lay such duties. They would fall upon the people in proportion to their number instead of in proportion to their ability to purchase that necessary of life. So as to coffee, tea, etc.

Countervailing duties are levied not for revenue, but for protection or prohibition. Therefore a tariff for revenue only would abolish all countervailing duties levied to protect the tobacco interests of this country against the effects of the heavy tax imposed upon them by the internal revenue laws. Such a tariff would admit foreign-made cigars, cheroots, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, etc., into this country. Of course the Virginia tobacco manufacturers and tobacco-handlers could not pay $8 per hundred on the tobacco they manufacture and at the same time successfully compete with rivals in Canada or elsewhere, paying no such internal taxes, but exporting their goods to the United States free of duties. In a word, a tariff for revenue only would pauperize Richmond and every Virginia tobacco town, and ruin Virginia herself. The countervailing duties, we repeat, are levied not to raise revenue, but to prohibit the importation of the articles into this country.

In a word, rash pledges must not and will not be rashly redeemed. The tariff of the next Democratic Congress must be a tariff of discriminating duties. We believe the statement to be true that Mr. Cleveland would have been elected upon the platform reported by the Chicago convention's Platform Committee.

Our Atlanta contemporary must excuse us if we say once more that its tariff articles seem to us to be somewhat like those of "The New-York Sun"—that is to say, intended to show the original Cleveland men that they have "put their foot into it" on the tariff question." . . .

WOMLN IN MICHIGAN.

THEY MAY VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

AN EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION—CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE ACT QUESTIONED.

Detroit, July 2 (Special).—The Legislature of Michigan, which adjourned in May, did more for the cause of woman suffrage than any friend of the movement deemed possible at the opening of the session. For many years the woman suffragists of the State have worked hard at each biennial session of the Legislature to secure the passage of laws that would give them the right to vote at all elections of the State. Usually this work has taken the form of pressing the passage of a resolution submitting the matter to a vote of the people in the form of a constitutional amendment. Invariably this resolution has failed in one house or the other. Two years ago, however, the women succeeded in securing the passage of a law that gave the women of Detroit the right of suffrage in school elections. On the Board of Education in Detroit there are now two women inspectors, one elected on a Republican ticket, the other by a combination of women and Democrats. This spring a hard fight was made to overthrow a Board of Education that was incompetent, reckless and charged with corrupt practices. The women took active part in the election in nearly every ward, although they had but one candidate of their sex. The result was that every member of the old Board who stood for re-election was defeated, and a body that had a large Democratic majority found itself safely Republican.

Inspired by their success in securing the ballot at school elections, the women attacked this year's session of the Legislature with tremendous zeal. A large lobby was kept at Lansing, an unremitting educational campaign was waged on the legislators, Miss Anthony was brought to the capital to use her skill in the cause, and nothing was spared that might help to win a larger franchise. Their efforts were unavailing. The bill to submit a constitutional amendment went down, though by a narrow majority. The organized movement collapsed at once, and the women departed from the capital much cast down.

But there is an organization in Detroit called the Independent Women Voters. This society determined to take a hand, believing that a half loaf is better than none at all. They quietly sent three of their cleverest members to Lansing, charged with the duty of pressing upon the Legislature a request for municipal suffrage for female citizens. Their success was remarkable. Although they did not secure the passage of their bill in its original form, by agreeing to an amendment establishing an educational qualification for the voter to satisfy the prejudices of some of the conservative legislators, they got the measure through both houses and signed by the Governor. The provisions of this act are as follows:

"In all school, village and city elections hereafter held in this state, women who are able to read the Constitution of the State of Michigan, printed in the English language, shall be allowed to vote for all school, village and city officers, and on all questions pertaining to school, village or city regulations, on the same terms and conditions prescribed by law for male citizens. Before any woman shall be registered as a voter the Board of Registration shall require her to read, and she shall read, in the presence of said board, at least one section of the Constitution of the State of Michigan in the English language."

Another section provides that a qualified woman voter shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and immunities, and be subject to all the penalties prescribed for voters at school and municipal elections. Thus a woman in Michigan may now not only vote at the elections designated, but she may be elected to any office voted for at such elections. So it is not impossible that women may gain political control of the city of Detroit, or of any other town of Michigan.

It is certain that this new element in the municipal politics of the State is bound to have great influence upon present conditions, provided the women take the interest in the elections that they are expected to take. The Democrats in the Legislature saw this, and they fought the passage of the measure with all of their strength. They declared that the educational qualification amendment was a Republican trick to secure control of the larger cities of the State, most of which are normally Democratic. In these cities there is a large illiterate and foreign-born element, the great bulk of which nearly always votes the Democratic ticket. Strong allies of the Democrats in Detroit, for instance, are the Poles, very few of whom are able to speak English, much less to read the printed language. In the opinion of the Democrats, the women in the wards where there is the most intelligence, and which generally contain Republican majorities, will be able to vote, while the women of the "foreign" wards, where the Democratic majorities are, will be largely disfranchised. This will give the Republicans municipal control, and thereby great influence upon State and National elections.

Failing in their efforts to defeat the measure in the Legislature, its opponents hope to induce the courts to give it its quietus. They intend to attack the constitutionality of the act. They have two points where they intend to make assault. One is that the act is against the Constitution, because that measure states that a citizen entitled to vote at any election held in this state shall be a male citizen; therefore the Legislature could not confer the right upon female citizens. The other point of attack is the educational qualification clause, which is also held to be unconstitutional.

The friends of the measure maintain that the constitutional regulation applies only to elections for State officers, and that the Legislature clearly has the power to establish such regulations for municipalities and school districts as it may see fit. If the question reach the courts, which is likely, good lawyers maintain that the constitutionality of the act will be upheld beyond doubt.

The first municipal elections under this act are to be held next fall, when nearly all the cities of the State will elect officers.

LITERARY NOTES.

Phillips Brooks was a writer of charming letters—letters which were especially charming when addressed to very young people. A series of these epistles, written from the far West and from Europe and India to the children of his brothers, will be printed in the next "Century." Other letters are promised for a subsequent number.

Mr. Collingwood's rash statements, in his Mography of Ruskin, concerning the persistent refusal of magazine editors (Thackeray among them) to print Rossetti's poems is flatly contradicted by an English writer. "It will probably be news to Mr. Collingwood," he says, "to hear that so far from editors 'refusing' Rossetti's poetry in 1868, they were particularly anxious to obtain it; and he will doubtless be surprised to learn that he has only to look over the volumes of 'The Fortnightly Review,' 'The Athenaeum,' 'The Academy,' and other periodicals, to find Rossetti's poems in abundance. Rossetti was as shy and hesitating in parting with the achievements of his pen as Mr. Ruskin was bold and eager in pushing forward his own literary productions; and it was only after many importunities from his friends that the painter-poet could be prevailed upon to publish at all."

The modern poet who believes that poetry is just as good when it's well paid for as when it brings in a pittance is pleasantly derided by Mr. Punch:

The poet in the ancient days,
Or so at least we're told,
Regarded neither blame nor praise,
And looked with scorn on gold;
The man—how foolish! lived for art
And cared for nought beside,
And lastly, with a broken heart,
Artistically died.

But modern bards, it's understood,
Are very different men,
They dine, they form a Brotherhood,
They quarrel with the pen;
And if a publisher should pay
Too little for their rhymes,
They write in wrath without delay
Epistles to "The Times!"

The bard of old, we gather, sought
For inspiration long,
And waited till some noble thought
Should rouse him into song;
Our more astute practitioner
Will deal with all events,
And write in praise, as you prefer,
Of love, or Three-per-Cents!

Well, let us all our joy express
That, in these cultured days,
The poet strives for some success
More lucrative than bays;
This fact with pride we look upon,—
However Art declines,
Parnassus now is managed on
The soundest business lines!

Some interesting letters written in 1798-1801 by Thomas Erskine, afterward the famous Lord Chancellor, to his son in America, appear in the July "North American." Erskine owned property here, and at one time had serious thoughts of emigrating to America. One of the injunctions to his young son to be found in these letters is "not to travel with Englishmen." "It is the vice of Englishmen," he says, "that they herd together in all countries and come back with their old ideas."

"I went to see a Boston publisher the other day," writes Mr. Arlo Bates, in the July "Book Buyer," "and I found him deeply grieved over the fact that paper-covered novels by reputable English authors were to be bought in the variety stores for so low a price.

"'Why, I saw a lady this morning,' he said, with an air truly pathetic, 'who had bought a couple of novels to take to the shore. They were of three hundred pages or so, and the paper wasn't bad. They were evidently printed from old plates, but the type wasn't so very much worn. She asked me what she paid for them, and just for a joke I said five cents. I thought I'd put it low enough. But I hadn't. She gave just one cent apiece for them. I'd like to know how we publishers are expected to live?' 'It is quite possible that publishers may continue to live,' I answered, 'but there does not seem to be a very encouraging outlook for the author. The royalties of novels, when the price of the printed volume has fallen to one cent, do not seem likely to amount to sums dangerously large.'"

It is intimated that Mr. Howells's forthcoming one-act play, "Bride Roses," has a note of tragedy.

Mr. Barrett Wendell is preparing to bring out a volume of essays dealing with various phases of character and thought of Puritan New-England.

Professor Skeats's opinion of his British public is not a flattering one. He declares that any text of Chaucer with mistakes of all kinds will be easily swallowed by that public, "who as a rule are indifferent to scholarship—except when some language other than their own is in question."

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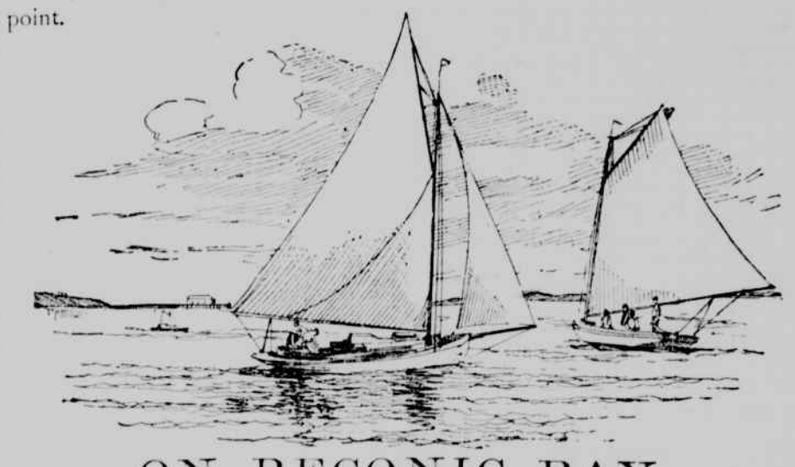

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