

Agricultural.

The papers of late have had various notices of agricultural societies, associations, etc., some of which seem to combine literary with agricultural improvement, and to be very comforting and cheering signs of the times. Farmers' families, from excess of work and by being comparatively remote from educational and social centres, are deprived of very many opportunities of improvement that are open to other classes of people; while they are, by their close association with nature's processes, possessed of much information and many ideas that would benefit others. Anything, therefore, that will extend their social spheres and cause them to be felt as an intellectual as well as a productive power in the land, must be a help to all other members of the community as well as to them.

The Buffalo Express, speaking of a new organization called "The Patrons of Husbandry," says: "It was organized in 1868 and already numbers more than half a million of members. * * * The principle is association in rural districts. It is a good one and for this reason we believe the Western Princes will in some form spread throughout the country and become a permanent part of modern American life."

This seems to be a western plant, but there are some farther east, though more circumscribed and local, that seem to have found a very excellent way.

As the present term of our borough school is drawing to a close, we venture to remind our friends that it is also near the close of the school year and that the better we acquaint ourselves with its character and management the better we shall know what is required on our part to ensure its greatest success and usefulness.

After the summer vacation it may re-assemble under the same teachers and with a good proportion of the same students—never all the same. Experience and observation teach us that present opportunities never last. If we wish to know how well and faithfully those employed to lead our children as we would have them go have fulfilled their duties during the present year, now is the time to see and to determine. We owe it to the children, who spend hours there every day, to encourage them by our presence and interest; we owe it to the teachers, to show our value of their labor and skill; to ourselves, most of all, that we may feel that for the good of the community in which we live we have not been idle and careless, but attentive, earnest and watchful.

THANKS TO M. E. O. for copy of the "Reports of the Several Banks and Saving Institutions of Pennsylvania."

THE JOURNAL has received from the publishers a copy of "Lives of the Governors of Pennsylvania," by W. C. Armor. It is very handsomely printed in large clear type on fine paper and contains portraits of all the Governors from the womanly face of William Penn to the bearded one of Geary, so strong in contrast to it. These portraits alone would make the book very desirable, but from the slight examination we have been able to give it we should think the history also valuable and interesting. It will make a handsome addition to any library.

Sold by subscription only at from \$3.50 to \$4.50. Agents desired in this County. Published by James K. Simon, No. 29 S. Sixth St., Phila.

Beecher on Heroism.

It would be hardly right for me, when the public indignation is so justly excited against the Indians, to say that there is heroism there; but there is. There is cruelty and meanness and revenge, and almost every vice that disgraces manhood; but nevertheless there are some among them that rise superior to the average of their fellows and really love their nation. They are standing for what they regard to be right in a way that shows them to be heroes. In their darkness, in their narrow limit let us not fully despise them.

There were multitudes of heroes when the Atlantic went upon the rocks, but there was one—nor am I sorry that he belongs to my own profession, the Rev. Mr. Ancient—under circumstances sufficient to daunt even professional seamen, amid the storm and raging sea, went out in the boat and unclasped the man bound to the rigging and brought him in. That was heroic; the man

was no relative of his but he said what is my life to his humanity; it is good for nothing. That man was ordained then; before that he had somebody's hand put upon him, but God put his hand upon him then, and so his name will go down in story forever upon the roll of honor: It is proposed to raise a purse and send it Mr. Ancient: Well; I have no objection to that; I presume a settled pastor on that rock is not overburdened with revenue, yet I should be sorry that he should think that was the only reward he had. His name—we will teach it to our children; his name, like that of Mary that broke the alabaster box, shall be known and revered forever; and we will say that in the storm and the peril he did an act that made him dear to the race and to manhood. Another one, nearer to our door—I don't know his name, but I mean the engineer on the ill-fated Stonington train—when he was found in the morning he, unwarned, standing out upon his engine, dashing forward at all speed, saw by the head-light the danger he was approaching, and he was found upon his engine with one hand on the throttle and the other upon the brake. Instead of leaping off he stood and died at his post. Rushing into death he was a hero. He did not know it; it was not for the sake of having men say he was a hero that he did it. It was easy for him to die; but being dead he yet lives, for such men shall not be forgotten.

It is the fashion to heap opprobrium on the race of aborigines, such of them as remain the poor dregs of a mighty people, and also on the mighty people as they were before the Anglo Saxon race had, step by step, crowded them out of all they had and look down upon them because they are helpless. But it is strange to see one so large souled as Beecher almost apologizing for the good word he says of them in his sermon on heroism. It seems to some of us, at least, that in their hunted, waning, perishing condition; even in their occasional outbreaks of helpless violence, they are the incarnation of the heroic element. It would have been nothing strange for an Indian to do what Rev. Mr. Ancient did so nobly—but what would have spoken of it or thought of it if it had been one. Nothing strange, almost a matter of course, for an Indian to be found meeting death as quietly, as bravely as did the engineer Mr. Beecher alludes to, in any place he felt to be his proper position.

Mr. Beecher says "There is cruelty, meanness, revenge and almost every vice that disgraces manhood" but I believe that it has never been denied that in the lowest, most debasing forms of vice the Indians are far surpassed by the white and negro races. It seems like a poor illustration of one's appreciation of heroism to speak with untruthful severity of those who have no means of defense. It is proposed to bestow on the Reverend Hero of the Atlantic disaster (there were many heroes) a purse in token of our appreciation of his wonderful bravery and achievement. It is probable that he could use some money wisely and satisfactorily, but judging of him by what he has shown to the world is it not probable that he would feel humiliated by receiving it in such a way. It seems like a low tendency in the present age to set a money value on everything; even to express our admiration of high and noble qualities, in dollars. Almost it seems as though we knew no way to crown a victor but with gold. Laurels are obsolete honors are considered empty, we may have—may we are thankful to know we do feel some thrills of appreciation of grand and noble deeds, but they are very vain if they do not consummate in a dull, prosy bank-note way.

"There were giants in the earth in those days" but if there were giants in the earth now and they did great deeds, they would have more money than they could use, and we might be obliged to recur to some old-fashioned poetic way of admiring them, or perhaps, grow ourselves into some new mode of sympathy with them.

THE Keystone Good Templar, speaking of the advancement made in temperance organization among the Irish Catholics within the past year, says:

The great procession in this city on St. Patrick's Day was the largest and grandest demonstration of the kind ever witnessed in this country, numbering thousands and requiring considerably over an hour to pass any particular point, and the greater part of this immense procession of Catholic Irishmen was made up of total abstinence societies, including several thousand juveniles, and all clothed in beautiful regalia and marching under appropriate banners with music, flags, etc. This part of the procession was probably the largest and most successful, and we

think also the most impressive and significant public temperance demonstration ever witnessed in our state. And not a single individual in any part of the great procession was to be seen who gave evidence of being under the influence of liquor. Not even a single cigar was to be seen, nor a single straggler, or anything savouring of impropriety or irregularity. The excellent order which prevailed and the commendable deportment of all who participated was the subject of comment by thousands of admirers stationed along the sidewalks.

It admits that "Our Irish friends are now ahead" and urges increased zeal and activity on the part of Protestant churches to come "up to and even with the Catholics in the good work."

Weights and Measures. Several years ago the following question and answer were given in a Literary Society in Coudersport:

"If weights and measures were lost from the earth is there any natural standards by which to find them. If found would they be the same as now?"

"The original standards of weights and measures were not formed from one basis, neither were they all made at one time. Formerly every province, and nearly every place of importance, had its own measures. Few of these were governed by fixed natural laws; some of them came into existence by mere accident or caprice and could never be recovered with certainty if lost, while others will be the same while materials exist and the laws of nature remain in force.

"The troy weight appears to be the ancient weight of England, having existed in the same state from the time of Edward the Confessor and avoirdupois was used then and for a long time before.

"By an act of Parliament in June, 1824, the standard London measures and weights were declared to be the standard throughout the realm. This act, called the act of uniformity, took effect January 1, 1826.

"The standard brass weight of one pound troy made in 1758, and in the custody of the Clerk of the House of Commons, should be the genuine standard; denominated the imperial standard troy pound containing 5760 grains and that 7000 such grains should be a pound avoirdupois, (making 437 1/2 grains to the ounce troy and 437 1/2 grains to the ounce avoirdupois.)

"By comparing the number of grains it appears that the troy pound is less than the avoirdupois in the proportion of 14 to 17 nearly, but the troy ounce is greater than the avoirdupois in the proportion of 79 to 72 nearly.

"The English system of weights and measures has been followed in the United States. The original standards are evidently deemed of small importance. An act of Congress regulating and establishing the weight of one pound troy merely fixed it to be the same as a brass pound troy weight brought from London by a government minister in the year 1827.

"If the standard pound shall be lost, destroyed or defaced the act directs that it shall be recovered by reference to the weight of a cubic inch of water; it having been ascertained that a cubic inch of distilled water weighed in air by brass weights at the temperature of 62° (Fahrenheit) and the barometer at 30 inches, is equal to 252.458 grains. As the standard troy pound contains 5760 such grains, it is therefore established that the original standard pound may be at any time recovered by making another weight to bear the proportion just mentioned, to a cubic inch of water.

The English yard is determined by the oscillations of a pendulum at London. The rationale is as follows: Take a pendulum which will vibrate once in a second of time in London on a level with the sea, in a vacuum; divide all that part there of which lies between the axis of suspension and the centre of oscillation into 391.393 equal parts; then will 10,000 of those parts be an imperial inch, twelve whereof make a foot and thirty six make a yard.

inch, pole, furlong and mile shall bear the same proportion to the imperial standard yard as they have hitherto borne to the yard measure in general use.

"The Act makes provision for the restoration of the standard yard in case of loss, by reference to an unvariable natural standard which shall be that proportion which the yard bears to the length of a pendulum vibrating seconds of time.

"Thus a sure mean is established to supply the loss that might possibly occur."

"It is but a few years since the table of lineal measure commenced thus; 3 barley corns make one inch, and barley corns being the same year after year, may certainly be considered as a standard. Indeed it would be difficult to find one that could, with greater truth, be called a natural standard."

Little Sammy and His Indian Protege.

Mrs. Columbia. "What is all this trouble about?"

Sammy. "Boo-hoo! I got all his playthings, an' kicked him into the corner, an' was a going to cluck him out of the window, when he up an' slapped me. An', ma, wouldn't you please exterminate him?"—Harper's Weekly.

SPRINGDALE, Neb., April 22, 1873. ED. JOURNAL: As I have a large circle of acquaintances in your vicinity I would like to inform them through your columns of one of the most perilous and destructive storms that was ever known in Nebraska. It commenced raining the 10th inst., turning to snow in the evening with high wind from the north—snowing and blowing for three nights and days—the snow so filling the air that no object could be discerned at ten feet distance.

A number of people perished and one-quarter of all the stock is estimated to have been lost as far as the storm reached. Seven persons of my acquaintance perished by venturing out to reach some near point for assistance or to be more comfortable. One man, wife and daughter were chilled to death attempting to make a neighbor's house; one child two years old survived the storm. When found it was encircled by its dead mother's arms and the sister, dead, lying upon her lap, about half a mile from home; the man some three miles in an opposite direction from the point he attempted to make. To all appearance he had wandered about until his strength was exhausted.

A mother and two young ladies being left alone, the roof blew off the house; the children started out for assistance, making no point they desired. One died after being out in the storm for forty-eight hours, the other fell exhausted in sight of a house and being seen by the inmates was taken in and is doing well. She tells a heartrending tale of their sufferings—her clothing being mostly torn from her. The mother, starting in pursuit of the girls, was found dead a short distance from home.

The Indians, supposed to be Sioux, had made a raid in our neighborhood six days before the storm commenced, taking what stock they could get handy and capturing eleven horses. Fortunately I lost nothing. The Indians showed no violence to the settlers until pursued by a party of the settlement on whom when overtaken they opened fire. The pursuing party retreated a mile to a ravine and returned their shots for about an hour, knocking one Indian from his horse, upon which the rest retreated. The supposed wounded Indian lay for a moment upon the ground, then got up and mounting his pony rode off at a slow walk until he overtook the rest of his party, which had halted half a mile off. They went off together, the settlers returning home. The soldiers were ordered out to protect the settlers.

Sixty cavalrymen were caught out in the storm; fortunately they struck a house where they could all get in by standing up. They suffered intensely though none of them perished but they lost heavily in stock—twenty-seven horses and four mules. Many of the settlers lost all their stock and there are few but have lost some by not being prepared for the storm or not looking after their stock in time.

Stock will always go with the wind in these storms unless they be obstructed; many were found in the Loup and Platte rivers. One man on Wood river lost two hundred head, another one hundred and thirty-two; one on Loup, near me, lost thirty-nine ponies and sixteen head of horned cattle. I lost no stock by the storm.

than last or two years ago. The Indians are committing some depredations which indicate trouble. We are looking for an outbreak of the Sioux. One of the agents of the Sioux tribe has resigned. W. M. E. FREEMAN.

For the Journal & Item.

Memorial Day. OR DECORATION OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES. Come one and all with floral wreaths—Of tribute and respect, Come strew them on our soldiers' graves. Who peacefully have slept. Since war, so cruel and severe, Stretched loved ones from their homes Who never returned our hearts to cheer: Our fathers, brothers, sons.

Time flies, but never can efface The memory of the past, When men in blue proved ever true— Fought treason to the last. Our stars and stripes must ever wave, Nor stop to count the cost; Though thousands lie in soldiers' graves, Though limbs and health are lost.

I would not check the flowing tear For these, our fallen brave, Who faced death's missiles without fear Our Nation's flag to save. I leave these flowers bedewed with tears On graves of comrades brave; I too have bled by rebel lead, Which I carry to my grave.

Don't talk that Congress must erase From regimental flags Those heroes' deeds when face to face With rebels and their rags. We can forgive—we do forgive Those erring men, and yet, While soldiers' graves lie thick around We never can forget.

No more they hear the cannon's roar, Nor heed the bugle's blast; Perhaps their spirits round us soar 'Midst our offerings of the past, Then gently strew redolent flowers Where soldiers' graves are found— They died to save these homes of ours And leave us freedom's ground.

SOLDIER. *Confederate colors were known to our boys by the name of rebel rags.

DEATH OF A BRAVE GIRL.—Miss Lottie Dougherty, a young lady of Millville, New Jersey, died a few days ago of consumption, the superinduced cause of which was an accident occurring under the following circumstances:

Last summer Miss Dougherty was employed as a telegraph operator at Radnor, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. A severe thunder storm one night in August rendered the telegraph apparatus useless. A large tree was blown down by the gale directly across the track at Eagle station and Miss Dougherty, upon becoming aware of this, seized a danger lamp and ran through the storm up the track to warn the Western Express, then due, of the danger. She saved the train, which stopped when it reached the tree, a branch of which struck Miss Lottie on the shoulder, hurling her down an embankment into a ditch and inflicting injuries which ultimately resulted in her death.

The man who was killed near the Hayton depot on the Milwaukee & Northern Railway, last week, was drunk. His death was caused by a fall from his wagon. The adder stung poor Packard to death, and it is stinging thousands who are unwilling to admit that there is any danger.

The man in Easton, Pennsylvania, who pounded the life out of the mother of his own helpless children, last Monday, was drunk at the time.

The woman in New York who, last Saturday, staggered and let her helpless babe fall upon a red-hot stove and cook to death, was in a state of beastly intoxication at the time.

The Chicago father who kicked his little five-year-old girl out of a saloon, where she had followed him to plead for his return to a sick mother, and broke the darling's leg was brutally drunk at the time. We are called a blind fanatic because we urge people not to drink—because we brand the liquor traffic as a curse—because we give our influence on the side of sobriety and good order.—*Fon du Lac Commonwealth.*

Pen and Scissors. A WASHINGTON dispatch says: Intelligence has been received from New Orleans to the effect that the Democrats in St. Mary's Parish are organizing themselves into military companies. They are armed with Winchester repeating rifles, and parade the town.

Spain.—MADRID, Apr. 27.—The Minister of Finance announces that arrangements have been made for the payment of the Treasury bills due at the end of May—one-third in specie and two-thirds in new acceptances payable one month from date.

latest news, and are eagerly discussing the result. Elections were held today in Mars-Builles and Bordeaux, in which the Radical candidates were also successful.

TOPEKA, Kan., April 25.—Several parties just arrived from Barbour county deny the accounts of Indian troubles in that country recently reported by Atchison and Leavenworth newspapers. Travelers are constantly passing between Medicine Lodge and Hutchinson and no troubles with the Indians have been heard of. Three citizens returned yesterday from a journey of 200 miles southwest, crossing the Cimarron and Canadian Rivers, visiting Camp Supply, and returning through the Cananche country, traveling all the time in perfect safety.

LINCOLN, Nebraska, April 22.—The first train for the week on the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad came in yesterday. The reports of the late storm show it to have been the severest ever known here. Men were frozen to death within two rods of their houses while trying to get to their stock to feed them. Near Grafton a man named Keeler attempted to reach a neighbor, scarcely half a mile away, accompanied by his wife and child, and the two latter were frozen to death. Mr. Marshall, of Hastings, perished while trying to reach his stock from his house. The wife and child of Mr. Bent, living near Red Cloud, were frozen while attempting to reach the neighbors after the house had been rendered uninhabitable. Their bodies were found on Friday ten rods from the house. Families were compelled to take refuge in cellars or keep their bed for three days. Houses were blown down and filled with snow. The loss of cattle and horses was great; some farmers lost all they had. One party lost a whole herd of seventy fine head. The gullies on the railroads were filled with snow as hard as ice, and snow-plows were useless.

SENATOR Bayard has paid his extra compensation as Member of the Forty-second Congress into the United States Treasury.

A BRILLIANT starry triangle is now visible in the early evening. It is made up of the three brightest stars that are ever in our latitude, with the exception of Mars, when in opposition. Venus, Jupiter and Sirius form the shining points of the celestial triangle and make the geometrical marvel easy to recognize. Venus must be looked for in the West, Jupiter towards the zenith in the East and Sirius in the South.

THE first Protestant Easter service ever held in Cuba occurred at the Episcopal Church here last Sunday.

WE RECORD with great pleasure the fact that Senator Schurz declined to receive the \$5000 of back pay voted by the last Congress; and with equal pleasure we record a similar fact in favor of Vice President Wilson. But we confess to more concern for the future than for the past of this increased pay. When all is told about the money refunded, it makes an honorable record for those who refunded, but it only reduces by a trifle the amount of a steal which will at any rate foot up a million and a half. Let those who have got the money keep it, and much good may it do them. We object, however, to having the steal repeated at every future Congress, and therefore we insist upon agitating the question of repeal as an issue in all future campaigns, until accomplished. Mr. Erastus Wells, member from the Second District of this city, promises to introduce a bill on the first day of December session to re-establish the old rate of \$5000 per annum. By so doing he will entitle himself to the applause of the country, and the men who vote against him may bid farewell to public life.

ALDERMAN Ottendorfer refuses to receive his salary both as a member of the Board of Supervisors and Alderman, on the ground that the salaries paid are excessive, and that \$2,500, instead of \$6,000, as now paid, would be amply remunerative.

A COMPARISON made between smokers and non-smokers belonging to the Polytechnic School of Paris shows that the non-smokers take the highest rank in every grade. Further, it is found that the smokers lost grade constantly. In 1861 the Minister of Public Instruction accordingly issued a circular forbidding the use of tobacco by pupils in public schools.—*Pop. Science Month.*

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CONDUCTED BY Prof. E. L. Youmans

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