

The New York Star gives us some valuable hints on the teaching of science. As we have before said, the obstacle is to find teachers who understand the physical sciences.

"Let the teachers spend two or three hours a week with their classes in the study of botany at the Central Park, on Staten Island, or in some of the many places in and around New York, where abundance of plant specimens are to be had to teach from."

"In the same way two hours a week could, with great profit, be devoted to the study of zoology. The splendid collections in the Central Park Museum would serve to illustrate such instruction, and render it attractive, pleasing and impressive."

Let our public school pupils be taught the general laws and principles of geology by being brought in contact with geological facts. Let them see and examine for themselves the various strata in quarries, railroad cuttings, and excavations.

"In this way they will soon acquire a sound knowledge of the general principles of geology. Geography and surveying (not mere surface measuring, but taking levels and mapping also) could be taught and made useful and interesting by a similar method of practical teaching."

One hour each day of the forenoon in school should be devoted to the grammar school pupils to correcting and rewriting the previous days' notes on natural science, and such notes, when rewritten in small hand and close lines, should fill at least one page of foolscap.

"Such lessons should not be tasks. A healthy stimulus might be given the pupils' exertion by simple, unpretentious examinations, and a record of the work done. Practical teaching of this kind is of the highest mental order. It produces habits of observation and discrimination, strengthens and improves the memory, and develops the reasoning powers."

As it proceeds in a natural order, it is attractive and pressing, and does not weary or fatigue like book study.

"Such a course of summer instruction would be of incalculable value to pupils and teachers. By it they would lay in a stock of health and have acquired a knowledge of nature, the possession of which would be a benefit and a source of continual happiness."

A REMARKABLE MIRAGE.—The Scotch papers report a mirage at the mouth of the Firth in May. The weather was remarkably warm, and in the afternoon there was a dull deceptive haze. The sea presented almost the appearance of a mirror, and the vessels upon it seemed to have a double reflection from the sea and the background beyond.

At one time the masts and rigging seemed elongated to four or five times their natural length, and then in the course of a few minutes they were reduced so as to be scarcely visible. At other times the vessels appeared to be sailing double—one ship in sea and one in air.

Extraordinary appearances were assumed by the May Island, which rose and fell and changed to all manner of shapes in the course of a few minutes. At one time it appeared a perpendicular wall, rising to the height of several hundred feet, and shortly afterward it appeared to be flat on the surface of the sea.

All the other objects which came within the range of the refraction underwent similar changes, and the illusion lasted, with varying features, for several hours.

EDUCATION does not wholly consist in an understanding of the various branches of science. Yet these are desirable. There are thousands of men who have educated themselves, to very great advantage, by studying those elements of knowledge which enable them to comprehend practical issues.

The self-made men of the country, those who have distinguished themselves in peace and war, are those who, leaving the technical sciences for the study of the obscure, have well stored their minds with useful knowledge.

What we desire to impress here, is the fact, that a practical education is in the reach of all; and that when once obtained, such an education is a perfect guard against Democracy, the child of superficial and impractical ideas.

The subject of female education seems to excite the interest of Italian ladies, several of whom have devoted their time to giving lectures with a view to its improvement. In Milan, a course of scientific and literary conferences has been inaugurated by Signora Torriani, at which ladies have delivered addresses on matter connected with female education.

Among them the Signora Malvina Franck gave lectures on the following subjects: "The Condition of Women Among the Ancients," "On Materialism," "On the Women of America," "On the Women of France," "On the Women of Italy."

It is said that the excellent example set by these ladies will soon be followed in the other cities of Italy.

MR. VALLANDIGHAM ON PARTIES.

The following well-timed remarks from the leader of the Boston Advertiser express our views very concisely:

Mr. Vallandigham holds very properly that a party is the means to an end, and not the end itself. He might have compared it advantageously to a railroad. The one is a political machine, the other a commercial machine; but both are intended to facilitate the realization of certain definite purposes.

In such a comparison the leaders of a party correspond to the managers of a railroad, whose private fortunes depend on the degree of credit which the public which their administration obtains.

But at this point the parallel ends. The railway director makes dividends the earliest aim of his labors. If he manages his line with a view to the best accommodation of the public, it is because such a policy is found to be in practice the most expedient.

Not so with the highest theory of politics. For in politics there is a moral element which underlies and should support the whole fabric. It is true that every party contains men who pursue their private fortunes at the expense of principle and honor, or assume these virtues, like a garment, to conceal their moral nakedness.

But such men are politicians in the worst meaning of the word. A statesman is a man who recognizes, within proper limits, the utility and even the necessity of parties in a free government; who attaches himself to and submits to the discipline of a party so long, and only so long, as it upholds in the true spirit the whole or the greater portion of the principles which he holds dear; and who, appreciating the tenacity of existing organizations and the value of tried associations, is slow and cautious about changing his party allegiance.

In short, a statesman, as distinguished from a politician, uses neither the party to advance his own fortunes, nor his own powers or position to help the party, as a primary consideration; but both with reference to the best interests of the country.

We shall not measure Mr. Vallandigham by this standard; but he left behind him many warm admirers, and to them we commend the above suggestion. They are merely intended to amplify his own idea, and no one would be reader than he to accept them to their fullest extent.

Unlike some of his associates, Mr. Vallandigham never shrunk from the consequences of his own logic. He frankly admitted that no more political campaigns can be fought on the issues of the past few years. "They are dead," he said, "but if the Democratic party refuse to move to the front and accept the new order of things, it will simply pass away, and some other party, made up of the earnest and progressive elements of old parties, will take possession of the government."

He also intimated that he should not feel bound to act with the Democrats in any race for the spoils, or for any purpose except the triumph of such principles as in his view the necessities of the country demand.

SPEAKING of the last political conversation of Mr. Vallandigham, the Boston Advertiser says: There is another part of this conversation which we commend especially to the consideration of disaffected Republicans.

While Mr. Vallandigham, as a man of principle, chafed under the restraint of a party that failed to sympathize with his new sentiments, he also had respect for old ties and associations. Hence he first struggled patiently to bring the Democratic party up to his platform. He sought reform, but he also sought to make the Democratic party the reformers. His success was but indifferent, yet it was sufficient to justify his confidence and his efforts.

Now if a man of his restless, aggressive spirit could patiently strive to lift to a higher platform a reactionary, unpopular organization like the Democratic party, does not the spectacle afford a valuable lesson to the friends of reform within the Republican party? The Republican party, from its birth has been the party of progress.

The reactionary element within its ranks is an insignificant force; while the radical element, seeking fresh abuses to correct, is as active and determined as when slavery was the doomed foe. The half-concealed unfriendliness with which the Democrats regarded Mr. Vallandigham's movement, and the probability that his death will invite a relapse into the old path, must show all true reformers that the Republican party alone can be relied on to meet the issues of the hour. It is their duty, therefore, to abide by the old organization and make that the medium of reforms to which it is indispensable.

And it is the duty of the party to invite this continued loyalty by disregarding sinister counsels and selfish considerations, and going forward with unbroken ranks to fresh labors and renewed victory.

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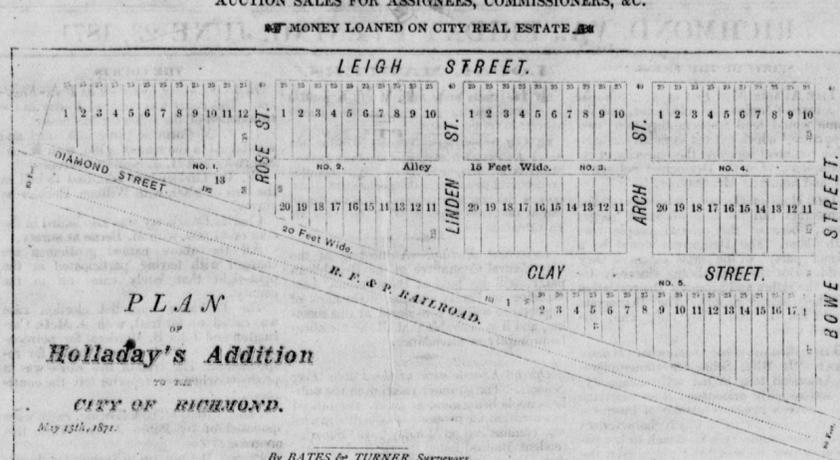
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