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INVITATION

To the National School Convention.

The accompanying address has been written by the Hon. Horace Mann, preparatory to a meeting of a Convention of the Friends of Education.—The address and its object recommend themselves strongly to the attention of all the Friends of Education in the country, and as one of them we have taken the liberty of sending the address to you with a request that you would give it an insertion in your columns.

Reports upon the following topics it is expected will be made by Committees appointed at the last meeting of the Convention.

1. TERRITORIAL OR CIVIL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE—involving the extent to which the District System should be carried, and the modifications of which the same is susceptible.
2. SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE—including the location, size, modes of ventilation, warming and seating, &c., of buildings intended for educational purposes.
3. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE—including the school age of children, and the best modes of securing the regular and punctual attendance of children at school.
4. GRADES OF SCHOOLS—the number and character of each grade.
5. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION—Physical, Intellectual, Moral and Religious, Esthetical, Industrial.—Studies—Books, Apparatus, Methods.
6. TEACHERS—Their Qualifications—their Examination and Compensation—Normal Schools, Teachers' Institutes, Books on the Theory and Practice of Teaching.
7. SUPPORT—Tax on Property, Tax on Parents, School Fund.
8. SUPERVISION—State, County, Town.
9. PARENTAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST.
10. SUPPLEMENTARY MEANS—Library, Lyceum, Lectures.

JOSEPH COWPERTHWAIT,
GEORGE EMLEN, Jr.,
P. P. MORRIS,
A. E. WRIGHT,
A. T. W. WRIGHT,
Committee of Arrangements.

At a National Convention of the Friends of Education, held at Philadelphia, on the 17th, 18th and 19th of October last, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"First. That this Convention will meet in the City of Philadelphia, on the Fourth Wednesday in August, A. D. 1850.

"Second. That in the judgment of this Convention, the Friends of Education in all its departments ought to be enlisted in its deliberations, and that in issuing notices, or an address for the next annual meeting, the invitation should be so framed as to comprehend both those interested in Common Schools, and those connected with Colleges, Academies and other institutions.

"Third. That the President of this Convention be requested to prepare, on this principle, a short address, to be published by the Committee at least three months before the next meeting, urging the attendance of the Friends of Education throughout the country."

The time having arrived, at which the duty prescribed in the foregoing Resolutions must be performed, the subscriber respectfully presents himself before the public, and solicits, for a few moments, the favor of their attention.

Although the Convention from which the foregoing Resolutions emanated was composed of the Friends of Common Schools, yet it is expressly required that "the invitation be so framed as to comprehend both those interested in Common Schools, and those connected with Colleges, Academies and other institutions."

This comprehensive invitation was liberal and wise. It proposes to unite ALL Teachers of youth in one co-operative effort. The different periods and degrees of education so meet and flow into each other, that they are hardly susceptible of being even theoretically separated. From the first form in the Primary School to the highest class in the University, there is a perfect continuity of progress. No break, no chasm, no change of identity, interrupts the course. The succeeding grows from the preceding, as the oak of a hundred years has grown from the germ that cleft the acorn; or as the bird that soars undazzled towards the meridian sun, has grown from the eagle just chipping its shell. Hence, the President of a College and the Teacher of a Primary School, though standing far apart, stand in the most intimate relation to each other. Without the labors of the latter, the former would have no material on which his processes could be performed; and with-

out the former, the works of the latter would remain crude and incomplete. They are engaged on different parts of but a single work, and there is the same common interest between them as between the sower of the seed and the gatherer of the harvest.

Heretofore, there has often been something, at least of indifference, if not of alienation and repulsion, between those who preside over the commencement of education and those who superintended its close. It is time they should see that their interests are not adverse, but identical; nay, that when pursued in harmony, they are cumulatively beneficial. These parties may create some benefits when acting separately; but when co-operating, they multiply those benefits by a high moral power. The child, whose mind was well developed in the school-room, not only shoots ahead, but speeds farther and farther ahead of all that he could have been without such early development. His advancement is represented by a kind of compound as well as geometrical series, made up by multiplying time into velocity. When, in his turn, such a child becomes a parent, he sends better prepared children to the school-room. And out of a larger number of minds, awakened in their youth, and made self-conscious of the existence of their faculties and of the glowing delight of their exercise, all the colleges are sure to lengthen their catalogues; for a child whose mind has been fired by a love of knowledge cannot be kept back from those deeper fountains where his thirst can be slaked. The college draws him irresistibly, and he will break through every barrier,—poverty, discouragement, toil, sickness, all but the "unconquerable bar" of death itself,—to reach and enjoy it. The colleges will not only lengthen their catalogues, but illuminate them with brighter names. And a community so trained and advanced, will look back with filial piety to the institutions where their honorable career began, and will love to cherish, honor and elevate them, and all who labor in them. Such action and re-action cannot fail to lift up the race. It is, therefore, most earnestly hoped that all grades of teachers, from the earliest to latest, will attest their interest in their sacred profession, and their regard for each other, by their presence at the proposed Convention.

A few considerations will serve to show that there never has been a period in the history of man, when Universal Education was so imperative a duty as at the present moment. I mean education in its most comprehensive and philosophic sense, as including the education of the body, the education of the mind, and the education of the heart.

In regard to the first topic, it is well known that physical quantities are hereditary. Disease and weakness descend from parent to offspring by a law of nature, as names descend by a law of custom. God still ordains that the bodily iniquities of the fathers shall be visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. When we look backward and see how the number of our ancestors is doubled at each remove in the ascending scale, it affrights us to reflect how many confluent streams from vicious fountains may have been poured into the physical system of a single individual. Where, for many generations, this horrid entailment of maladies has not been broken by a single obedient and virtuous life, who can conceive of the animal debasements and depravities that may centre in a single person. At every descent, the worst may become more worse; and the possible series of deterioration is infinite. Before the human race, or any part of it, becomes more diseased, or physically more vile, is it not time to arrest and restore? This can only be done through education, or through miracles; and it would require more than three hundred and sixty-five miracles each year, to preserve health and strength under our present vicious social habits. Those who do not expect the intervention of miracles, are false to their families, to the community and to God, if they do not urge forward the work of Physical Education as the only means of rescuing the race from an infinity of sicknesses, weaknesses and pains. Public Schools are the only instrumentality for inculcating upon the community at large a knowledge of the great laws of Health and Life.

There never was such a necessity of imparting power to the human intellect, and of replenishing it with knowledge, as at the present time; and in no country is this necessity so imperative as in our own. The common affairs of life require a hundred times more knowledge now than they did a century ago. New forms and kinds of business, too, are daily emerging into practice, which must be conducted with intelligence and skill, or they will ruin their conductors. How much more knowledge and art are requisite to make a cotton or woollen factory, with all its nice and numerous appendages, than to make a spinning-wheel or a distaff; to manage a locomotive on a rail-road, than to drive a team on a highway; to build and navigate a steamship, than to sail a vessel; to make a chronometer, than a dial or an hour-glass; to manage a telegraph, than to send a courier; to make a power-press that shall strike off ten thousand copies in an hour, or a telescope that shall lay open the structure of the universe, than to copy manuscripts or profess astrology. The profoundest sciences are working their way into the every-day business of life, and carrying power and beauty and multiplication of products wherever they go, and whose ever cannot seize upon the benefits which they confer, will be left in poverty, misery and contempt.

Not only in all the departments of business are there every where more life, energy and compass; but the masses of the people are investing them-

selves, or are becoming invested with new social and political prerogative. The freeman who may go where he pleases and select whatever occupation he pleases, needs vastly more judgement and intelligence than the subject of a despotism who is born into some niche of labor, and must stay where he is born. The citizen who manages not only his own personal affairs, but those of his municipality; who governs himself in all his political relations through representatives chosen by himself; whose vote may determine not only who shall be rulers, but what measures of national or international policy shall be established or annulled; on whose will peace or war, national honor or national infamy may depend;—such a citizen, in capacity, in knowledge, and in wisdom, should be as a god, in comparison with a Russian serf or a Hindoo pariah. At this time, then, I say, there is vastly more for the mind of man to do and to understand than there ever was before; and, therefore, that mind must be proportionately strengthened and illumined.

There never was a time when the moral nature of man needed culture and purification more than it needs them at the present hour. What we call civilization and progress, have increased temptations a thousand fold;—in this country, ten thousand fold. The race for wealth, luxury, ambition and pride, is open to all. With our multiplied privileges, we have come not only multiplied obligations, which we may contend, but multiplied dangers into which we may fall. Where oppression and despotism reign; all the nobler faculties of man are dwarfed, stunted, and shorn of their power.—But oppression and despotism dwarf, and stunt, and despoil of their power, all the evil passions of men, not less than their nobler impulses. In this country, all that is base and depraved in the human heart has such full liberty and wide compass, and hot stimulus of action, as have never been known before. Wickedness, not less than virtue; diabolism, not less than utilitarianism, has its steam engines, and its power presses, and its lightning telegraphs. Those external restraints of blind reverence for authority, and superstitious dread of religious guides, and fiery penal codes, which once repressed the passions of men and paralyzed all energy, are now lifted off. If internal and moral restraints be not substituted for the external and arbitrary ones that are removed, the people, instead of being conquerors and sovereigns over their passions, will be their victims and their slaves. Even the clearest revelations from Heaven, and the sanctifying influences of God, unless vouchsafed to us so daily and momentarily as to supersede all volition and conscience of ours, would not preclude a virtuous training as an indispensable pre-requisite to a happy and honorable life.—He takes but a limited view of the influences and the efficacy of Christian ethics who does not strive to incorporate and mould them into the habits and sentiments of youth; who, as fast as the juvenile mind opens to the perception of wonder, of beauty, and of truth, has not an exhaustless store of moral wonders and beauties and truths ready for transference into it.

By force of these weighty considerations, which pertain to the whole circle of human interests, individual and social, mortal and immortal, I am instructed to entreat those most effective guides and reformers of mankind,—those guides and reformers who act most efficiently upon the race, because they act upon it in the ductile and impressionable state of childhood and adolescence, and who can act also upon the largest numbers as well as with the greatest power,—to assemble at the time and place specified in the first of the resolutions, to deliberate upon the great interests of education, to increase the intensity of its action, to enlarge the compass of its beneficence, and to cheer and stimulate each other in the discharge of their respective duties. If each shall bring, though it be but a taper's light, their united rays will pour a flood of illumination upon the whole path of duty. If each shall inspire the others, though it be with but one flash of enthusiasm, their union shall become as it were tongues of flame, uttering prophecies and hymns of gladness. If each shall impart to his brethren, though it be but a feeble impulse, their combined force will endue every arm with a vigor and every heart with a resolution unknown before; so that each shall return to his own sphere of duty, to work no longer in a lonely field and by his own solitary strength, but with an energy borrowed from a thousand arms, and with a living consciousness that all good men and angels and our Father in Heaven are co-workers with him for the improvement of mankind.

HORACE MANN,
President of the late National Convention of the Friends of Education.
WASHINGTON, MAY 18TH, 1850.

RIVALRY IN WIT.—A speaker who understands himself, will give his audience occasionally an item of wit. It gives the mind a necessary stimulus, and better attention will be given to what he has to say. The Irish nation in their palmy days, before they knew of slavery and oppression, were a remarkably witty people—and it is not extinguished yet. They even carried it to the inscription upon their own tombstones. One man thought he would be more witty than the rest, and had this put on:

"Here I lie—
As snug—
As a bug—
In a rug."

Another Irishman saw it, and thought he would beat that—so he ordered the following for the head stone of his grave:

"Here I lie—
Snugger—
Than that 't'other bugger."

Carniverous.

In the town of Penfield, New York, a few days since, a woman left her child in the house alone, sleeping in the cradle, while she went for a pail of water. When she returned, she discovered, to her horror, that a sow had entered the house and taken the babe in its mouth and carried it some distance. She immediately ran to the rescue of her child, but it was not until she had beaten the pail to pieces over the ferocious animal's head, and afterwards wounded it severely with an axe, that it released the infant, and even then the sow attempted to secure its prey again. The child was considerably injured, but is likely to recover.

Peter Flinn's Luck.

BY FALCONBRIDGE.

In that beautiful, quiet city of paralled streets, sweet butter and sweet women—Philadelphia—there once did live a certain native of the Emerald Isle, called Peter Flinn. His vocation was a most honorable one, because of its usefulness to the commercial world—driving a dray. Peter owned a very ancient and nowise spry horse, and equally unstable dray, by means whereof he essayed, and by dint of great physical exertion, in succeeded obtaining for his large and growing family a tolerable living.

Stephen Girard lived and carried on his immense mercantile transactions at the time of which I write, and was a principal performer in my little story. The one eyed little Frenchman, the great pet of dame Fortune was not a man of very wonderful developments of heart and soul, or sympathy in the misfortunes, crosses or losses of his fellow beings; but now and then he was known, more through eccentricity than aught else, to perform some very creditable and really magnificent acts of kindness and generosity towards those falling in his way. One day said he to Peter Flinn, whom he had oft, and for a long time, employed upon the wharves in hauling goods from his large ships to his warehouses—

"Pe-tair, I believe you have worked vairy hard."

"Yis sir, and be my sowl, I have," responded Peter.

"Very long time; you no save anything?" said the banker, the merchant prince, the millionaire!

"Be my conscience, Mishur Ge-rad, it's not a ha'p'uth I save at all; the devil himself might dance his horripipes in my buckets of a Monday morning, without disturbing a toe-nail of his fut agsin' the silver that's there."

"Two, three, five, seven of de children home, eh?"

"Faix, and its yerself that's guessed it exactly, Mishur Ge-rad; I have seven as brave boys and gals as iver ye clapped an eye upon sir."

"Ah, yes, I see, I see; vairy well, Petair, you shall have von chance presently, by and by, directly, to do something battaire zan drive de old horse and dray."

"Faix, Mishur Ge-rad, it's myself that's a saying it as should not be saying it, p'raps, but it's few men labor harder nor longer, for the meat, bread, praties and hay that we ate, than meself and Barney the old hoss there; and be me conscience, it would be a godsend that would put us both, myself, and the poor ould baste there, over all our ills and miseries," said the drayman.

"Ah, ah! vairy vell Petair, you come into my counting-house by-and-by," and the little old Frnchman, with his hands locked behind him, stalked off to his counting-house, leaving the poor drayman considerably mystified as to what the result of this conference was to be.

"Be dad," says Peter to himself, "may be it's the old feler's whim to set me up in a shop or be gottry, buy me a new dray and horse. O, be me conscience, there's no telling what the ould jintleman will do when he takes the turn; and so still soliloquising, after a respectful delay, Peter presented himself at the door of the millionaire's counting-room, and doffing his hat, in he walked."

"Petair," said the merchant prince "ze big Canton packet ship Mozart lay down at my wharf."

"Yis sir."

"She have one grand cargo of tea," continued the banker.

"Faix, she have," said Peter.

"To-morrow, Petair, ze whole cargo be put under de hammaire, to be sold to ze highest bidder."

"Yis," Peter replies, still deeper in mystery as to what or how that could interest or concern him.

"Vairy vell, Petair," continued the banker, "to morrow morning when ze sale begin, be you dar; ze tea be put up two or three lots, one of ze merchants begin to bid, den you bid the next."

"Me! O, be gotra, save your prinsice, Mishur Ge-rad, would it be for the like of Pether Flinn to be among the merchants, and bidding for a cargo of tea? It's mad entirely they'd say I was."

"Nevair mind you bid on ze tea—when ze tea knocked down you take ze whole, zen you come to me, I fix 'em. Good morning, Petair."

—And stumbling and awkward with astonishment, Peter got out and the rest of the day he went about muttering over to himself the entire strange and bewildering part which he had to enact on the morrow, at the grand tea sale.

Next day, the merchants of the Quaker city assembled on one of Girard's quays, where the huge pile of chests of tea were ready for the auctioneer's hammer and the bids of the merchants. It was a consignee's sale—cash was to be raised in short time, and the whole cargo was put up in three separate lots, half cash and balance at four months, with approved endorsements.

"Now, gentlemen," said the auctioneer, opening the sale, "we put up eight hundred chests of young hyson tea—what do I hear for this hyson tea warranted all through as sample or no sale? How much do I hear? Start it gentlemen—we shall not dwell long on this tea. Forty cents a pound I hear bid I only forty cents a pound—forty, forty, forty, forty cents a pound only is bid; two and a half did I hear?"

"Yes, forty two and a half I bid," said Peter Flinn, in a tone of voice that fairly startled some of the merchants. The auctioneer paused.

"You bid, sir?"

"Yis, it's me; go ahead."

"We are not selling a pound or a box, but

800 chests!"

"Be dad, and sure I know that sir; go on with it."

The merchants snickered, and the auctioneer grinned; no more bids were made, and down come the tea, 800 chests.

"The name, sir!"

"Peter Flinn."

"Where is your house, Flinn?"

"Me house?"

"Yes, your place of business."

"Me house and faith I have no house; its two rooms and a cellar I have in wather-street, and me place of business is round here on the wharf."

"Your endorser's name, if you please?"

"Stephen Ge-rad, sir!"

This dubious declaration produced another stretch of the pizzees of the merchants, and the auctioneer in great doubt put up another lot of five hundred chests. Down it went to Peter Flinn! And so likewise went the third. When the sale was concluded, the merchants glided off, believing the auctioneer was certainly a "sold" man. But on presenting the bills and notes of Peter Flinn at the desk of Stephen Girard, the old fellow cashed them on sight. The sales came to nearly \$100,000; the tea was much wanted in the market, and Peter got rare bargains, and before noon next day, received \$15,000 bonus for his bid on the cargo of tea.

The cargo was soon transferred, Girard indemnified and the poor drayman found himself with a snug little fortune in his fob.

A curious fact.

The crocodile, in feeding on the bank of the Nile, or basking in the sun, is very much annoyed by what Heroditus calls *bdella*. The inside of his mouth is lined with them. All birds, one alone excepted, fly from the crocodile; but that bird, the *trochilos*, on the contrary, flies to him with eagerness, and renders him a great service; for every time that the crocodile lands to rest himself, and stretches himself out with open jaws, the *trochilos* enters his month, which it clears of the *bdella* it finds there. The crocodile is grateful, and never does any injury to this little bird, from which he receives so good an office. This was until recently discredited as a fiction of Aristotle and Pliny, but recent inquiries establish the fact. The term *bdella* does not signify a leech, as was supposed, but a kind of gnat, myriads of which insects swarm on the banks of the Nile. These insects strike their trunks into the orifices which abound in the mouth of the crocodile and the tongue of the crocodile being immovable, he cannot get rid of them. It is then that the *trochilos*, a kind of little ring plover, which pursues the gnats, every where, hastens to his relief and dislodges his troublesome enemies; and that, without any danger to itself; the crocodile always taking care when he is about to shut his mouth, to make certain movements which warns the bird to fly away.

A little fellow was questioned by his mother last Sunday from the catechism. Among other questions she asked; "Who was cast into the fiery furnace?" With much promptness he replied, "Dr. Parkman."

Loco-foco Summerets.

An exchange paper thinks a sprinkling of Loco-foco editors and orators would be invaluable to a circus company. They can turn summerets backwards and forwards better than any of the performers who usually solicit the patronage of the community.

What great protectionists they were in 1844! Just to remember their newspapers! How they came out in favor of the Tariff! "We passed it," said they, "and we sustain it." Well, the people believed them and voted for Polk, and the first thing the party did was to give us the Tariff of 1846, (the one the British Ambassador likes so well,) and now they denounce protection with all their might. After such trickery and falsehood how can the people trust them longer?

Question for Exercise.

A certain rich man had 100 orchards, in each orchard 100 apple trees, under each apple tree 100 hog pens! Now in each hog pen were 100 sows, while each sow had 100 pigs. Question—how many sow pigs among them, and what did they all weigh, supposing the price of pork to be \$14 a barrel? Talk about enigmas! Chaw on that.

Some men have very inquisitive minds.... For instance, a fellow who had nothing else to do the other day, rang a door bell in Arch street, Philadelphia, and when the servant girl made her appearance, asked her "where her mistress got that new bonnet she wore, as he wished to buy his wife one just like it."

A GREAT DAY'S WORK.—We learn that more than twenty four thousand persons visited the American Museum on the Fourth.—The receipts amounted to four thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven dollars, being the largest sum ever taken in one day.

A queer remark was made by an urchin of five years, who had lost a sister by death, to a neighbor who was attending the funeral.... "What are you crying for?" said the little fellow to the latter, who was weeping, "it's none of your funeral!"

"Ma" that nice young man, Mr. Saufung is very fond of kissing. "Mind your sewing, Julia; who told you such nonsense?" "Ma, I had it from his own lips."

The Young Men's Debating Society of Troy are now "chawing" on the following question: "Of what kind of timber is the North Pole composed?"