

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

We made a special tour of the public schools to see for ourselves in order to inform the general public what has been done by our excellent superintendent, Mr. H. H. Hargrove, and we confess that we were surprised at the amount of work that has been accomplished during the vacation in the way of supplying more and superior accommodation for the benefit of the dear children. The first place visited was the McLeary school building. There we found Mrs. Jones, the principal, directing the finishing touches. Everything presented an air of comfort and cleanliness, and will be ready to receive the pupils on Monday morning next. Misses Howell, Foreman and Dingle will compose the assistant teachers of this department. There has been improvement here in completing one of the nicest rooms we have seen anywhere for the first grade. The other rooms are well supplied with all necessary apparatus for each department. We next visited the Avenue School. There being no one there, we inquired of Mr. Hargrove as to the preparation that had been made there; he informs us that everything is in readiness for the opening. This school will be presided over by Mrs. Williams, with Messrs. Dalzel and Soap, an able and efficient corps of teachers. The boy's school is also in readiness. They will be in charge of Prof. A. S. Dale, who comes to us thoroughly equipped in the public school work. Our boys will no doubt make rapid progress during the present term. We next visited the Crockett School. Here we found workmen busy as bees putting the house in complete repair. Everything for the comfort of pupils and teaches has been made. Waterworks and sewerage, making it in point of sanitary complete. Here we pause to say that our waterworks under the new management furnish water to public schools free of charge. This is indeed a valued contribution, and while we have been hitherto a little caustic upon the old manager, we shall give the new administration all the praise possible that it merits. The Crockett street school will be under the principalship of Miss Teresa Nolan, with Misses Mary Nolan, James and Wolf. This school has done a great work, and we look for great results during the coming term. It is well supplied with all necessary maps, charts and everything that is required to carry on the work.

Our next visit was to the High School room, situated on the first floor of the Y. M. C. A. building. We found Mr. Hargrove and Prof. C. E. Byrd as busy as could be, superintending the arrangement of furniture. No more pleasant rooms could be desired than these the boys occupy, the front room with a hall entrance that divides them completely from the girls who occupy the room in the rear. Waterworks and all modern conveniences have been applied. In the front hall a room is arranged for the apparatus, which will be by far the best that Shreveport has ever had. There will be seventy-five feet of blackboard, a platform twenty-two feet long in Prof. Byrd's room. Miss Morris will have charge of the young ladies. Miss Morris needs no word of praise from us as her work of years in our public school has placed her on a high scale as an educator. We predict under the management of Prof. Byrd great results, as he comes to us as one of the finest educators and trainers of children. A gymnasium will also be under his instruction on the third floor of the building, this however is has no connection with the school, but will be conducted in the interest of the Y. M. C. A. Superintendent Hargrove expects the number to be 800 or more. As we find increased interest in the public schools, we wish to say to those outside of Shreveport, that any child anywhere in the parish can at any time enter our schools, and receive all the privileges of any child of Shreveport. That means from the first grade up to the sciences and languages. This we say upon the authority of Mr. Hargrove.

We must not fail to mention Holmsville school. This belongs to the country, while it is suburban. Miss Enders, a recent graduate of the State Normal, is the teacher. We are confident that the patrons will be well pleased with her. We feel justly proud of the high standard to which Mr. Hargrove, with his assistants have brought it to, and great work for the coming term.

NORTH LOUISIANA'S ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT.

Her Big Exposition Which Will Open October 31st at Shreveport.

The time for the opening of the big Fair at Shreveport is coming on apace, and the feverish excitement incident to such events is beginning to manifest itself.

This is by no means a local affair, though Shreveport has been selected as the most advantageous place for holding it. Four or five States are interested in this Exposition, as it will give each an opportunity to display the products indigenous thereto, and advertise to the world their resources.

The executive committee is giving the matter more attention daily, and will continue with renewed activity until meetings will be held nearly, if not quite, every day. This is a supreme moment with the members, and they are determined to throw off the band of sluggish inertia which the financial stringency has wound around the country, and if possible bring about a pleasurable and acceptable reaction. This can be done as soon as confidence is restored, which should be accomplished when the marketable resources of this country are fully known. Therefore, it behooves all to bend every energy to add their quota to the bringing about of this effort.

For the last two or three weeks THE PROGRESS has been culling from the Fair Catalogue, and publishing different articles on which premiums have been offered. This was done for the benefit of its readers, who may not have received a copy of the Catalogue, and they would thus be enabled to make a note of such things as were of interest to the different individuals.

This week we give a list from the "Horticultural Department," E. M. Smith, superintendent.

CLASS 80.

Best display of fruit trees and vines grown by exhibitor (not over 2 years old), diploma and \$25; the exhibit to consist of 40 varieties apples, 25 varieties peaches, 10 varieties pears, 5 varieties American plums, 10 varieties Oriental plums, 15 varieties grapes, 5 varieties cherries, 10 varieties strawberries, 3 varieties apricots, 2 varieties nectarines, 4 varieties mulberries, 4 varieties figs, 2 varieties quinces, 5 varieties Japan persimmons, 4 varieties raspberries, 3 varieties blackberries.

CLASS 81.

Fruit Trees—One Year Old—Ten trees of apples, 5 varieties, \$5; ten trees of pears, 5 varieties, \$5; two trees of L'Conte and 2 Keiffer's Hybrid, \$2; ten cherry trees, 5 varieties, \$5; ten plum trees, 5 varieties, \$5; twenty peach trees, 10 varieties, \$5; five quinces, 2 varieties, \$2; six figs, 3 varieties, \$3; ten Japan persimmons, 5 varieties, \$5; twenty grape vines, 10 varieties, \$5; ten trees of Asiatic plums, 5 varieties, \$5; four trees nectarines, 2 varieties, \$2; ten trees apricots, 5 varieties, \$5; one hundred raspberry plants, \$5; one hundred strawberry plants, \$2; one hundred blackberry plants, \$5.

CLASS 82.

Collection of nut-bearing trees, \$10; collection of evergreen trees, \$5; collection of evergreen shrubs, \$5; collection of deciduous shade trees, \$5; collection of deciduous weeping trees, \$5; evergreen tree for the South, \$1; shade tree for the South, \$1, single tree for the South, \$1.

CLASS 83.

Fruits Nuts Etc.—All fruits shall be in their natural state, and shall consist of one plate of each distinct variety, and each variety must be distinctly named. Five specimens of fruit, ten of nuts and three bunches of grapes shall constitute a plate.

Collection apples, \$5; plate of fall apples, \$1; plate of winter apples, \$1; plate of crab apples, \$1; collection of pears, \$5; plate of fall pears, \$1; plate of winter pears, \$1; collection of peaches, \$5; plate of peaches, \$1; collection of grapes, \$5; plate of grapes, \$1; collection of figs, \$5; plate of figs, \$1; collection of Japan and native persimmons, \$5; plate of persimmons, \$1; collection of oranges, \$5; plate of oranges, \$1; plate of pomegranates, \$2.

Sunday, September 18th, will be missionary day at St. John's M. E. church, colored. The pastor, C. D. Shallowhorne, will preach the missionary sermon at 11 a.m.; also at 7:30 p.m. The Benevolence Cross will be exhibited. Subject, Memento More.

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

A few days ago we met one of our prominent fruit growers, and in discussing the fruit culture we readily agreed that no country could surpass this in point of perfection, both in flavor, size and quantity as regards fruit. Yet his complaint was that for want of proper facilities he could not make it profitable as it should be. His chief trouble was in getting the railroads to give him a rate that would insure him a profit. We said to him that we thought the trouble arose in the fruit growers not organizing themselves, and having some concert of action by which they could guarantee the railroad sufficient business to make a special rate. We feel assured that the railroad and express companies will do all possible in their power, should this be done. Now, get together, fruit growers, and have some concert action, and we will almost insure you success. Call the gardeners into your association, and have them go into the Irish potato and strawberry business, so that you will be ready to give the railroads and express companies a business worth their special attention, as is done all along the line of the Illinois Central and through Mississippi. Come, Brothers Sibly, Stoner, Saunders, and others; you are old veterans in the business. What say you?

A COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE FOR SALE.

I will sell at a bargain the residence of Dr. F. E. Yoakum, situated on Fairfield avenue.

This is in the bon-ton portion of the city, has good sewerage and waterworks connections, cow stalls, stable and carriage house, and is a very desirable residence. Terms easy and satisfactory.

Call at once and secure this bargain. C. D. Hicks, 205 Milan street.

TALK CORRECTLY.

Probably there is not an instrument in common use, from a pencil to a piano, which is used so imperfectly as language. You were well taught here, and most of you have been using the English you learned for some time since you graduated. But, if you let me be plain, I suspect that it would be safe to offer a gold medal as a prize to every young lady who will not, before to-morrow night, utter some sentence that can not be parsed; will put no singulars and plurals into forbidden connections, will drop no participles, double no negatives, mix no metaphors, tangle no parentheses, begin no statement two or three times over without finishing it, and not once construct a proposition after this manner, "When a person talks like that, they ought to be ashamed of it."

We all repeat and perpetuate conventional blunders and hereditary solecisms without once applying the study of four or five years in syntax and conjugation to our current speech. Where is the reform to begin? I say, emphatically, set about grammatic correctness first of all. Watch yourself. Criticise yourself. Get some housemate to expose you. Say over the thing correctly till the mistake is impossible. It would be no more discredit to your training to finish a picture out of drawing, or to misspell the names of one of our Territories, or to mistranslate a line of Virgil, or to flat in music, than to confound the parts of speech in a morning call.

Nothing to be said of slang. If we were to exhort those who were here on that matter it should be only to forbearance, in that they are obliged to it from their ill-bred acquaintances. "Awful handsome," and "horrid nice," and "jolly sunset," and all that pitiful dialect, coming from weak heads and early neglect, we shall have to bear with it till select and heightened schools have chastened the manners and elevated the spirit of the better conditioned classes; and, through them, the improved standard will work its way outward and downward into the public schools and into the homes of the people. Unexpected hyperbole is often witty; but nonsense is not, nor are stale repetitions of nonsense.

An ill-natured bachelor shamefully reports that he has entered in his dairy a thousand scraps of talk of young women, overheard in streets or houses, of which seven hundred and eighty begin with "Says I" or "Says he," and a hundred and twenty contain the combinations, "just splendid," "struck up," and "perfectly lovely."—Bishop Hunting-ton.

WAIL OF A SOUL IN DARKNESS.

[Written for THE PROGRESS.]

Oh! for the light and hope of days gone by.

The "might have been" of a Soul that's past;

Here, gnawing memory will not die; My God! must this anguish forever last?

Pitiless memory, tablet of the Soul! Awful reminder of an ill-spent life. Better annihilation had been my dole, Or eternal sleep, than this mental strife.

Gloom environed by damning acts on earth,

I here but reap what there I have sown;

Naught have I done in deed or thought of worth—

Relentless Conscience stays with me, alone.

By Compensation's law eternal, I have but come to the sphere I've made.

For such as I gleams there no light supernatural!

"Not until utmost farthing thou hast paid."

From out the gloom of deep dejection, Comes a voice—Make thy full reparation;

Thine acts, of thine own self, are but reflection;

Thy Soul thou'st wronged—from peace a separation.

What judgment worse than stern, accusing Conscience,

With ever-present memories of the evil done?

If souls would live in God's pure love and presence,

They must be clothed with light—by purity won.

In the somber distance, see! a light has risen.

While, like a benediction, comes a peace.

Again the voice, speaking to "Spirits in prison,"

"Pray on, and cease not; thy sorrows shall cease." KOURMIL.

Essays and Pictures.

Beautiful line. Very cheap. The Fair.

FALCON, ARK.

To the Editor of The Progress: Falcon, Ark., Sept. 15.—Your correspondent has for the time being changed his abode, and though every one I meet wears a cheerful countenance, I find little to write about at this particular time.

Ticks are all the go in this county, or at least right around here, and they are considerably mixed with what they call yearling ticks and pol ticks.

This county has been full of candidates, but they were thinned out to one in a place on election day. Those who were defeated drooped around for a day or two as if they had just gotten up from a spell of pneumonia. The People's party carried the day, only 40 Democrats to 108 People's party.

Joe Davis, colored, while at church Sunday, lost two mules and two horses, all being struck by lightning, and were instantly killed.

Crops here are sorry. Lots of cotton fields that won't make one bale to four acres.

Corn is better than cotton. Cane is good and everybody is making syrup; some farmers making as high as one thousand gallons. Molasses will be cheap this fall, as well as cotton. BOSSIER BOY.

"LOOKING AHEAD."

On last Friday morning THE PROGRESS noticed among its usual exchange callers, a new face, hailing from Mansfield, La. It was a neatly attired monthly journal, with attractive appearance pleasing to look upon. Looking Ahead is its cognomen, and its mission is to increase a new and more elevated interest in the management of children, from the parental influence to that of the scholastic instructor. Its editor and proprietor is Mr. G. D. Pickels, and while we are not personally acquainted with the gentleman, his language denotes him a Christian man of education and culture. His mission is a laudable one and no doubt under his management and authorship, "Looking Ahead" will prove a valuable friend to the children whose beneficial effects will be more fully appreciated by them in their maturer age.

THE PROGRESS gladly places it on the exchange list and bids it God speed in its work.

HOME GENIUS AND A USEFUL INVENTION.

It has long been expected that our worthy townsman, and personal friend, Mr. W. H. Johnson, possessed genius of an order that could be put to practical use whenever that gentleman desired it, but as it was not his pleasure in previous years to add his mite, to the collection of inventions, his possibilities were left to conjecture only. The contrary is the case now, however, and industry has received a helpmeet in her daily toil, as the result of the turning of this gift to a practical account. The invention of Mr. Johnson here alluded to is a combined reel carrier and wire stretcher which seems to be a perfect piece of mechanical workmanship. It is made after the fashion of a hand cart which can easily be drawn by one man. It is so arranged that coils of wire of any size can be placed on the reel and drawn out like hose from a hose cart. The clamp and stretcher is connected to the implement, and can be adjusted to any height of fence desired. The entire machine seems to be perfectly simple, durable and can undoubtedly be sold at a very reasonable figure. It likewise contains a box for all necessary tools, (the only thing required being a small wrench), and staples to fasten the wires to the posts, and will, no doubt, soon be in general use, as it will evidently take the place of the old hand stretcher. The model can be seen by calling on Mr. Johnson, who will take pleasure in exhibiting it to all who desire to see it.

Brass Bird Cages.

Worth \$1.00, go at 75c. The Fair.

LOCAL MARKET.

[This report is carefully corrected up to Friday of each week, from the most reliable sources.]

Cotton Market.

SHREVEPORT, La., September 15.—Cotton closed quiet. Ordinary..... Nom'l Good ordinary..... Nom'l Low middling..... 5 13-16 Middling..... 6 3/4 Good middling..... 6 1/2 World's Visible Supply— This year..... 1,657,755 Last year..... 2,582,955 Increase..... 925,198

Provisions.

Bacon—Firm 9%. Dry Salt Meats—Steady at 8 1/2c boxed. Breakfast Bacon—11 1/2c by the box. Hams—12 1/2c. Lard—6 1/2@8 1/2c.

Breadstuffs.

Flour—Steady; family, \$3.85; extra fancy, \$4.00; patents, \$4.50; sacks 10c per bbl. less. Cornmeal—Steady, \$2.90; sacks 10c per bbl. less.

Coffee and Tea.

Coffee—Firm; fair, 16 1/2c; medium grade 17 1/2c; better, 19 1/2c. Tea—Fair 40c; good, 50@60c; fine, 75c@85c; finest, \$1@1.25 per lb. by chest.

Sugar and Molasses.

Sugar—Steady; yellow clarified, 5c; white clarified, none; granulated, 5 1/2c. Molasses—Common, 20c; prime open kettle, none; choice reboiled, 35c.

Esculents.

Onions—\$1.05@1.10 per bushel. Beans—Navy, 6@6 1/2c per lb. Potatoes—Eating, 85c per bu.

Bagging and Ties.

Bagging—2 lbs, 7 1/2c; 1 1/2 lbs, 7c. Twine—For baling purposes, 10c per lb. by the bale. Iron Ties—\$1.25

Grain and Feedstuffs.

Corn—Firm; white, seed, none; mixed. Sacked, 60c per bu. Hay—Timothy, \$16.50; prairie, 8.00@11.00. Oats—Firm; Texas, 35c; Western, none. Rye—\$1.00. Barley—\$1.00. Bran—95c. Ground Mixed Feed—\$1.40 per 100 lbs. Chopped Corn—\$1.25 per 100 lbs.

Fruits and Nuts.

Almonds—15c per lb. Brazil Nuts—8 1/2c per lb. Dried Fru t—Apples, 6@7c; evaporated, 9c. Filberts—12c per lb. Lemons—28.00 per box. Peanuts—Hand-picked, red, raw, 4 1/2c; white, 6@6c; roasted, 1c higher on all grades. Pecans—10c per lb. Walnuts—10c per lb. Raisins—New stock, \$1.75 per box.

Chickens, Eggs, Butter.

Grown chickens, per doz. \$2.00@2.25. Grown young chickens..... 2.00@2.25. Eggs, per doz..... 15@20. Butter, country, per lb..... 15@20. Dry flint hides, per lb..... 35. Damaged..... 30. Dry salted..... 35. Bull..... 35. Guestock..... 35. Green..... 35. Wet salted..... 35. Deer skins..... 25@30. Goat skins..... 15@20. Sheep skins..... 15@20. Wax, good bra. h..... 25@30. Wool, washed..... 15@20. Spring, clean and unwashed..... 10@15. Burry and black..... 10@15. Tallow, in barrels..... 3