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Correspondence on subjects of general interest solicited. To insure notice of their communications, writers must furnish their real name, even though they should desire to withhold its publication, as an evidence of good faith.

Matter intended for publication should be written only on one side of the sheet, and to insure insertion in the week's issue, communications should reach this office by Wednesday's mail of that week.

FROEBEL AND HIS TEACHINGS.

Froebel, Friedrich Wilhelm August, a philosopher, philanthropist and a great educational reformer.

Was born in the year 1782 April 21, in the village of Obercrissbach, in the Thuringian forest. He was the son of a Lutheran clergyman, who paid very little attention to his life and early training.

Froebel when quite young lost his mother and the consequences were that he had a hard time in battling against the many struggles which came into his life and besides he was robbed of the influence of a mother which is everything in the building up of a man's character.

After his mother's death he was placed under the care of a maid-servant, and after a lapse of a few years he was left in the keeping of a step-mother, who instead of lessening his trials and making his lot in life easy, as it was her duty as a good woman, she on the contrary filled his life with sorrow and grief.

However in due course of time he went to the village school where he received a very limited education. While at school the first week he heard a quotation from the Bible: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." These words made a good and everlasting impression on his mind.

He was not very studious and bright in his school work, but he dearly loved to steal out in the woods and cast his wandering eyes on the beautiful scenery of nature, he loved to break away from his fellows and commune with her—it filled his heart with gladness to watch the beautiful little birds in their frolicsome games and hear their joyful songs, he loved to hear the rippling music of the water as it trickled down the hillside, he loved flowers not for their fragrance, but for their symmetry, loveliness, and beauty.

While these many scenes were a source of great pleasure to behold—yet his soul was filled with a more divine inspiration when ever his eyes were turned towards heaven. About the age of ten his Uncle, who was indeed very kind to him, took him into his home and sent him to school, but he still did not perform very satisfactory work.

The only progress noticeable was the growth of his love for nature. At the age of fifteen, he began to think about choosing a calling and in the year 1797 he became an apprentice, to a Forester in Thuringia, for two years and in 1799 he went to the University of Jena where he attended lectures on the most important branches of study.

His work in botany he said essentially quickened his insight into nature, and made his power of observation more active. While at the University he became involved in a debt which resulted in his remaining in prison for nine weeks, before he was released. He was always trying various trades. In 1805, he worked under an architect in Frankfurt, but was not satisfied until one day Gruner, the principal of a model school persuaded him to give up architecture and dedicate his life to the cause of education. In 1808, he went to Yverdum and received instruction from Pestolozzi for two years. Then he went to the universities of Berlin Grottingen. In 1813 he enlisted in the Prussian army against Napoleon. After having returned from war he established at Keilhau a school which did not come up to the requirements of the time, that is it did not accomplish the needs of the time, and about fifteen years later he established a Kindergarten school in the little village of Blankenburg 1837. It was the first of its kind ever established—hence he is called the "father of the Kindergarten system. After having lived seventy years he died at Marienthal on the 21 of June 1852.

His teachings were well received. He applied his principles in such a manner as to establish them firmly in the hearts of his people, that they might be handed down to posterity. He believed in educating the in-

fant from the time it left its mothers arms that they might be well prepared to take up the regular school course. By educating them or training them he wished to develop their taste for the beautiful, to cultivate kindness, love and friendly feelings for one another, to stimulate their activities, to develop all the faculties of their mind harmoniously, that they might create new ideas from within, to teach them the existence of a supreme being, to shape their character, to speak correctly, to assist one another, to bear in mind the Golden Rule, to instill into their hearts all virtuous principles.

To achieve his purpose he organized his Kindergarten school wherein he wished to transform their plays and amusements into work by having them do it in a systematic manner. The physical nature he would cultivate by calisthenics exercises, and by the means of blocks, cubes, cones, sticks, balls, and all imaginable playthings he would furnish them that they might display their genius in constructing, inventing and making different designs. The method of keeping their minds active and training them in this manner until they were prepared to take up their regular school work was a very wise thing, for when they did enter upon their school duties they were well equipped and they had a good and a solid foundation whereupon a mighty structure could be erected.

The people are just beginning to realize the sad necessity of more Kindergarten schools, and the day is not far distant when a permanent Kindergarten system will be established, and his works be accepted as it would have been the longing desire of his life.

As a teacher he considered the possibilities of woman greater than those of man, especially in Kindergarten work. Her soft winning ways, the persevering spirit which animates her soul, her knowledge of the needs and desires of the child at this age, her sweet and gentle influence—are these lovely attainments exalt her to the highest of positions in this field of work. Froebel said that the destinies of nations depended upon the manner in which she used her wonderful influence. Therefore if the destiny of nations lie in the hands of woman how essential is it then that she should be instrumental in shaping and moulding the character of man in his earlier days. Froebel held that man and nature inasmuch as they proceed from the same source, must be governed by the same laws. That the mind is reached through its senses and that the first senses should be as far as possible be exercised as the organs of the mind, and not as organs of mere pleasure and desire. He laid very great stress on self activity, to produce development; connectedness and unbroken, continuity to help the right acquisition of knowledge; creativeness to produce assimilation of knowledge, growth of power, and acquisition of skill, physical activity to develop the physical body and its powers; and happy and harmonious surroundings to foster and keep all these.

He said that the vocation and destiny of every rational human being is to develop his individuality—to become himself; to gain a clear insight into his divine being, in order that he might be at peace with nature and in union with God.

THE CHAOTIC DEMOCRACY IN THE HOUSE.

The Democrats of the House of Representatives at Washington held a caucus recently to endeavor to agree upon some course of action in regard to the Cuban reciprocity bill, which proposes to reduce the duty on Cuban sugar and tobacco 20 per cent.

It is claimed that the United States Government, after having given Cuba freedom and independence at the enormous cost of war, involving the loss of many precious lives and the expenditure of hundreds of millions of money, still owes the Cubans a debt which the sugar-makers and tobacco-growers of the Union are called on to pay. Of course, everybody who has given attention to the subject knows that there is no intention of doing anything for the Cubans, but that the entire scheme is exclusively for the benefit of the American Sugar and Tobacco trusts, but chiefly for the former.

The Democrats in caucus did nothing, nor did it seem possible for them to agree on anything. They now have an opportunity by voting with the Republicans, who are opposed to the reduction of the duties, to assist in splitting the Republican party, the President being at the head of the movement to reduce the duties. But it is plain that they will not take advantage of the opportunity to defeat their enemy. The "Jackass party" seems incapable of any wise measure, but always plays into the hands of the old foe that could be so easily beaten if there were any combinations of all elements for the purpose.

A few Democrats will vote against the Sugar Trust and the Republican presidential faction, while the balance will vote to strengthen the hands of the enemy.—Picayune.

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