

The Evening Bulletin.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1869.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN H. OBERLY & CO.
M. B. HARRELL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

The EVENING BULLETIN is published every afternoon, 125 Washington Avenue, (Democrat Hall), by John H. Oberly & Co., for circulation by carriers, newsmen, and the mails.

The WEEKLY BULLETIN, a large eight-page forty column paper, is issued on Thursday, for the mails, and is for sale at our counter and by newsdealers.

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[From the American Educational Monthly.]

The Year.

Eighteen hundred and sixty eight has been a notable year in education, as in science and politics and nature—though differently. Some of the grandest fetiches of modern science have been made during the past twelve months. Some of the deepest mysteries of the universe have been solved, to the marvelous extension of human ken. The restless heart of Earth has throbbled the downfall of cities and the uplifting of continents. The restless heart of man, struggling with the restraints of centuries, has overthrown systems and governments, lifting nations, let us hope, to a higher plane, and preparing the way for better things to come. Human society is in a ferment, and the heaven of society has not escaped the changes which it has helped to produce. Yet the changes in the condition and prospects of education, which the year has brought about, the world over, have been germinal rather than fruitful. There have been no brilliant achievements or great catastrophes; but the germs of great things have been securely planted. Those who can see the fruit-bearing tree in the tender blade or the sprouting seed, and those only, will duly appreciate the magnitude of the educational reforms which the past year has seen quietly begun—or, rather, the magnitude of the results which they are destined to produce.

Within the twelve months, constitutional provisions have been made in nearly all the Southern States for the establishment of free public schools. Popular opinion has been greatly improved in regard to the education of the laboring classes. And in many places the work has been successfully begun. We must patiently await the result. The education of a people is not the work of a year.

At the North, the most promising event has been, we think, the opening of our new university at Ithaca. Education, till now, has tended largely to divorce mind from labor. That is, practically, in theory the schools have pretended to prepare the rising generation to do the nation's work better than their fathers have done it. In effect, they have chiefly fostered the idea that the great object of Education is to enable the possessor to live without soiling his hands. They have failed therefore to act as they should, directly upon the class which does the nation's heavy work—the great body of producers.

Reasonably, or not, the instructions given in the elementary schools is determined by what is required by the college. Heretofore, these higher institutions have trained young men chiefly for the so-called learned professions. Possibly but one in a hundred of the pupils of the elementary schools is fitted by nature or permitted by circumstances to enter a college. Yet the course of study pursued in the schools has been shaped to meet the possible wants of the possible one—to the disregard of the real wants, to say nothing of the rights of the ninety-and-nine.

Cornell university will change all this. As a great polytechnic labor school, it will, in time, train men for every department of human industry. It will inspire a different ambition, and require a more multifarious preparation, than colleges of the classic sort. It will also dignify labor; and grade the laborer, not according to the material he works on, but by the intelligence with which he works. The public schools will have to supply its demands, while it, in turn, will help to supply the higher demands of the schools. The result can scarcely fail to be the broadening of the schools. They will have to develop and train all the faculties of the pupil—not merely his eyes to distinguish the varying shapes of words, and his memory to hold them fast. The needs of the ninety-and-nine will have to be regarded equally with those of the one. Education will thus be brought to a proper basis—the development and culture of the whole man to better fit him to do the world's work. And men, trained to work, will honor the workman. If this does not solve the "labor question," it will surely go very far toward doing it.

The endowment of schools and colleges continues to be our favorite means of gratifying public and private generosity. In this respect the revolutions of South America retard, but they cannot wholly prevent the advancement of education. Several of the states are striving to imitate their more favored neighbors at the North, with as much success as the wretched condition of South American society gives reason to hope for. Brazil is studying the school systems of the world and the peculiar needs of her own people, with a view to the establishment of a system of public education. The Argentine Republic has lately chosen as her chief officer the man who, perhaps more than any other, has labored for education in South America. And the leading minds of all those unhappy States are casting about to discover what may be done for the elevation of the people. Many years must elapse before their efforts will be crowned with success; yet it is encouraging to know that the germs of popular education are there and living.

In the Old World, England has failed to fulfill the promises she made a year ago. Educational reform, raised as a party cry, seemed to be a party necessity. Both parties, however, took it up, and after striving for a time to excel each other in vehement shouting, both let it drop, to the disappointment of many. Yet, the agitation effected good. Many grievances were exposed, and public attention was called to the crying need of a better and more efficient system of public education.

Germany continues to lead the world, not only in the "Wissenschaftliche Geist," but in the spirit which educates each and every one of her children. France, from the place of "le grande culture," is working down through technical and normal schools, to reach in time every strata of society. Austria has freed her schools from the domina-

tion of the church. And so has Spain. On the other side, Russian tyranny still bears heavily on the schools of her conquered nationalities, and England emulates the example in Ireland. With the overthrow of the Irish Church establishment will come, we trust, a more impartial treatment of Irish schools.

A new era is dawning in Turkey. Overlooking the Bosphorus, a great school has been begun, wherein Mussulman and Christian, Jew and Gentile, the youth of all the nations and creeds of that strange agglomeration of peoples and religions, lay aside national and religious prejudices to sit at the feet of the "Infidel," to receive the teachings of Western civilization.

American Books in England.

[From the Bookseller's Guide.]
English importations of American books, unlike English importations of American gold, bear but a very slender ratio to the books that come from England to the United States. By returns just completed of the exports and imports, we find, according to Messrs. Sampson Low, Son & Marston's "Monthly Bulletin," that the whole value of American books imported into England during last year (1867) was £7,522, or nearly £3,000 in the year less than the amount imported from Holland! While the amount of books to the United States during 1867 was £109,311, being rather better than one-fourth the whole of books exported to all parts of the world during the year. Messrs. Low & Co. pay this country the following appropriate compliment, and tuck it to an appropriate promise:
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