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You will find the Largest, Cleanest and Freshest Stock in Waterbury. Because we carry a fine stock of Imported and Fancy Groceries it is no sign that we do not carry the staple goods also, and at popular prices.

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School Begins.

We extend our congratulations or condolences, as the case may be, to the millions of youngsters who go into school the 1st of September. It ought to be congratulations throughout. School ought to be to young people what President Cleveland says matrimony is to him, "one grand, sweet song." That is what it will be when we have the model school and the model pupils.

We are approaching both these models. What was useless and tiresome and hampering in our public school courses is being gradually weeded out, and learning that will be of real, practical use to the world substituted. Speed the day!

Meantime the pupils and teachers are the ones who will bring into realization the beautiful model. Part of the model education will have come when every youngster in this land has polite, gentle manners and speaks correct English in a sweet, clear voice. There is one part of grammar that is even more important than the learning of rules, yes, and much more important than knowing how to parse correctly. It is knowing how to speak correctly in a voice that is as clear as a crystal bell, without a suggestion of crudeness, lack of cultivation, nasality or throatiness in it. Teachers can create this voice in their pupils and in themselves.

The way to learn to speak grammatically is for the pupils to watch one another's language, note down the mistakes made and bring them to be corrected in the class. Many a merry, instructive lesson can be eternally impressed on the mind in that way.

Labor Day.

For the second time in our history Labor day, Sept. [illegible], will be celebrated as a national holiday. It is fast becoming as much of a general holiday as Thanksgiving or Washington's birthday.

Hon. Amos J. Cummings of New York city was the man who introduced the bill into congress making Sept. 1 a national holiday. Mr. Cummings himself began his career as a printer. This was perhaps one reason why he was so interested in a national labor holiday and why he kept his pet measure persistently before congress till it was adopted. Like so many of his craft, like Horace Greeley himself, Mr. Cummings graduated from his printer's case into journalism. He was a member of the staff of the New York Tribune under Horace Greeley and afterward was city editor of the New York Sun, till he stepped from his high place as a newspaper man and became a congressman.

Attempts of course are made every year and will be made to turn Labor day to partisan political ends. This is to be deprecated. Neither should Sept. 1 be used wholly as a day of idle merry making. It should be used seriously to advance the highest and best interests of working people the country over. One feature of Labor day this year, serious or otherwise, as one looks at it, is the desire of Grand Master Workman Sovereign for an expression from the ranks of united labor condemning the imprisonment without trial by jury of Debs and his companions.

The French republic has lasted a quarter of a century the 4th of this September. What the Fourth of July is to Americans the 4th of September will in time become to the French, an occasion for universal rejoicing, for fetes and feasts, for powder and firecrackers. We of this land extend our heartiest good wishes, as we do every 4th of September, to our sister republic of France. But this time we take the liberty of reminding our sister of France that if she does not do the square thing by ex-Consul Waller of Kansas she will get herself into the hottest of hot water. Waller is an American citizen. We believe he has been deeply wronged and cruelly treated, and we shall continue to believe so until we are positively assured to the contrary. The French do not own Madagascar, and they do not seem to be making great headway toward getting possession of it. The Hovas certainly owned Madagascar when they leased 225 square miles of it to the American citizen, John L. Waller. He had a perfect right to his property, and it was none of France's business. The American government will protect every one of its citizens, as France will find out. It is to be hoped, however, that she will do justice to Waller and not force any unpleasantness between the world's two greatest republics, and that next year, on her twenty-sixth anniversary, Americans can congratulate her without any reservation at all.

The next thing we shall have, or ought to have, will be ball bearings on locomotive and car wheels; also on the wheels of huge freight wagons and trucks. There is no reason why the ball bearing idea cannot be extended to these as well as to carriage wheels. Next perhaps the balls themselves will be fewer in number. It may be found that the friction of wheels will be still more lessened by touching fewer points or balls, at the same time that the power and steadiness of the revolutions will be fully maintained.

Is it true that this government was going to seize Havana and hold it till the Mora claim was paid, as Great Britain held Corinto three months ago till the Nicaraguan government paid the indemnity due British subjects on account of the Mosquito coast troubles?

STORIES OF THE DAY.

Uncle Sam Was Not at Home When the Call Came.

I met a real Georgia colonel the other day—and Georgia colonels are as scarce in real life as they are abundant in fiction—who told me ever so many stories. This is one of them: This same Georgia colonel lives on a plantation, as all Georgia colonels ought to do, and he has an innumerable horde of black servants. One of them is a pessimistic old man named Sam, who has always been loud in his expression of a desire to die. He feels that earth is not his home, and he is homesick. One night last fall the colonel went down to Sam's cabin for something or other, and as he passed the window he heard the old negro praying that the angel of death might come—and come quickly. The colonel knocked on the window ledge.

"Who's dat?" asked Sam.

"The angel Gabriel come for Sam," said the colonel impressively.

"Huh!" said Sam in a voice which he strove to make contemptuous, "don't you know no better'n dat? Dat nigger Sam's done been dead [illegible] these weeks."—Washington [illegible].

Wooed In the Wet.

Allen Lester Fowler, a South Side Chicago society leader, is engaged to be married to Miss Emma Gibson, an extremely engaging young woman of 19 summers. The engagement is a pretty sequel to the terrible experience of Fowler, Miss Gibson, James Dalton and a boy on the lake recently.

The party had started out for a pleasant sail, and when about five miles out on the lake a sudden storm came up, and the boat was overturned. Fowler succeeded in getting Miss Gibson back on the [illegible] boat. He noticed that Miss Gibson was the coolest and least [illegible] of the party, and his admiration of her [illegible] was unbounded.

"Miss Gibson," he said finally, "you are the pluckiest woman I ever met, and you are the only woman I would make my wife. I love you, and if we get out of this I want you to marry me."

"That's a bargain, wet feet and all," replied Miss Gibson.

"Shake on it," said Fowler.

They shook and the wedding will occur in the early fall.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mother Mandelbaum.

The most notorious female criminal, [illegible] and [illegible] New York has ever known was Mother Mandelbaum. She [illegible] criminal characters. [illegible] stories of crime were associated with her career. [illegible] —Bound to New York Journal.

"Anything to Beat Grant."

[illegible]

[illegible]

An [illegible] of a preacher who dwelt [illegible] to be prepared. While he was describing the peril [illegible] congregation ejaculated, "Thank God!" The minister sought out [illegible] of the voice and asked why he was thankful for a [illegible] at which most [illegible] should [illegible] "Anything to beat Grant," was the answer.—[illegible] For September.

Geese Object to Bloomers.

Two ladies from New York city who are stopping at a summer resort down the Delaware [illegible] on the Jersey side took a run on their wheels to the Pennsylvania side of the river as far as Matamoras.

When about to enter the village a flock of geese attacked one of the young women, who wore bloomers. Both women were riding slowly and did not notice the geese until nearly upon them. The geese tugged at the young lady's bloomers with such force as to upset her, and it required the efforts of the small boys and her companion to drive them off. The young women mounted their wheels and went in the direction of Milford.—Philadelphia Press.

A Moonlight Scrap.

A fierce battle took place one night recently between a setting hen and a large chicken snake. The Pierson [illegible] correspondent heard the racket, and upon investigation found the biddy and the egg thief having it nip and tuck in the moonlight. Old biddy seemed to be on the aggressive and was giving the midnight marauder as good as he sent. As soon as the correspondent took in the situation he quickly dispatched his snakeship, and the old hen went back to the nest which she had so gallantly protected.—Florida Times-Union.

This Was In Boston.

The tiniest little tot imaginable, with chubby cheeks and a wilderness of fluffy blond hair, was sitting by the side of her mamma in a street car, deeply interested in what she saw passing before her. Presently the car stopped and a passenger entered, whereupon the mother took the child on her lap to make room for the newcomer. The youngster resisted, saying: "Don't be ridiculous, mamma. Ladies don't get up and give their seats to gentlemen." There are some real children left, but not many.—Boston Herald.

JAPAN'S CHIEF FORCE

SO COLONEL COCKERILL DESCRIBES HER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Coeducation a Feature of the System—All Must Attend School Up to the Age of Fourteen—The Subjects Taught—Teachers' Qualifications.

The common school system of Japan is in my opinion the chief support of the empire and the promise of the future. There are only two grades of schools—the ordinary and the higher. Children of both sexes, between the ages of 6 and 10, attend the former. Children between the ages of 11 and 14 are eligible to the higher grade schools. Every municipality, township, village, town and city is required to build a schoolhouse or schoolhouses, according to the census returns of children of school age. The houses are constructed according to the capacity and requirements of the school division. In the cities the school buildings are quite commodious and pretentious, though all are seemingly overcrowded. In the country many of them are poor wooden structures. It is obligatory for all children between 6 and 14 years of age to attend a common school until the course is finished. The law is not rigidly enforced because of the poverty of the country and the absolute necessity for children to aid their parents by some kind of labor. But where children are permitted to attend school there is no [illegible] of the attendance. There is no such thing in Japan as a schoolboy "creeping like a snail unwillingly to school." They go trotting to school with happy faces. They all wear a black or white cap with a leather visor, and they carry their books in a leather satchel. The majority of them are studious and fond of books. Children of notoriously bad character or who are constitutionally disqualified for receiving instruction are not admitted to the schools.

In the ordinary or lower grade school the subjects taught are reading, composition, calligraphy, arithmetic and gymnastics. The latter is optional, according to the character of the locality. One or more of the following subjects are also taught in addition to the above: Japanese geography, Japanese history, drawing, singing and handiwork. For [illegible] In the higher grade schools the curriculum embraces moral lessons, reading, composition, calligraphy, arithmetic, Japanese geography, Japanese history, foreign geography, science, drawing, singing and gymnastics. For girls sewing may be added. [illegible] and singing may be [illegible]. One or more of the following subjects may be added, according [illegible]: Elements of [illegible], lessons in [illegible] commerce and manual training. In all these schools great stress [illegible]. Every class is [illegible] singing [illegible] into it with [illegible] themselves [illegible] distance. In [illegible] the summer vacation [illegible] six weeks and [illegible] from one to five [illegible] holidays shall [illegible] year. In [illegible] military [illegible]. In the higher [illegible] of the male [illegible]. For this branch [illegible] every boy [illegible] of 16 has [illegible] of the soldier, [illegible] in the manual [illegible]. They are made familiar [illegible] of discipline.

Teachers in [illegible] schools must have due [illegible]. They are selected and appointed by the governor of the prefecture or the city in which they are to teach. The schoolteachers are regarded as government officials, and a small pension is provided for them when they are [illegible] permanent illness. Their salaries are small, ranging from 10 yen to [illegible] yen per month. Textbooks are [illegible] from those authorized by the minister of education, and are selected by the governor of the district upon the [illegible] of a committee selected by him. Last year Japan expended on [illegible] the sum of 9,055,980 yen. The government maintains a number of high grade schools, and the country is well supplied with excellent private schools and colleges, which are maintained by tuition fees, and in some cases by government contributions to cover deficits. Last year the number of children educated in Japan at public expense was 3,2[illegible], and the average daily attendance was 2,459,657 pupils.—John A. Cockerill in New York Herald.

Bloomers Scare the Horses.

The village council of White Pigeon, Mich., has been petitioned by a considerable [illegible] of the citizens of that place to [illegible] women from wearing bloomers on the streets. An [illegible] gallant "whereas" in the petition alleges that horses are scared by the bloomer apparitions. At Coldwater, in the same state, some of the women bicyclists recently passed out of the bloomer stage and took to men's knickerbockers and golf stockings.

The Closets Fetch Them.

The reason the women are not inclined to join in the general denunciation of Holmes is because he built numberless closets in his house. Many closets are [illegible] of a woman's heart, even if some of them do contain family skeletons.—Chicago Times-Herald.

In These Enlightened Times.

The captain of a Chicago boat has been changed for the sole purpose of "changing the boat's luck." How pleasing it is to know that the days of superstition are past!—Chicago Post.

That Would Be the Last Straw.

Lack of evidence may yet turn Holmes loose on the community as a freak lecturer.—Washington Star.