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THE COLUMBIAN.

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Education.—No. 3.

It often happens that great benefits are conferred upon society by men whose personal qualities are not such as to entitle them to esteem or respect, but who, nevertheless, attain rank and social consideration in consequence of their services to their fellow men. In many departments of active life, great results are not unfrequently attained by those whose qualities, either moral or intellectual, are far inferior even to the average standard; yet it is considered right, and for the interest of society, to overlook defects of this kind, and to regard such men for what they *have done*, irrespective of what they *are*, nor could society safely proceed on any other plan. But no such drawbacks exist in the case of the true educator. Not only are his *doings* of the utmost benefit to his country, but his own *being* must correspond in excellence to his deeds, his "outward endeavors" being necessarily a reflection of his inward condition. How can he teach unless he has been taught? How can he successfully act upon the mind of his pupils unless he has studied the phenomena of his own? How can he make others think, unless he has himself thought much? How can he govern the passions of those committed to his charge, unless he has mastered his own? How can he guide the young towards the nobler objects of their being, unless he himself has a clear perception of them, and by his life and actions shows that their attainment is with him paramount to all merely temporal advantages? How can he be an example of meekness, patience, disinterestedness and honor, if these virtues have no place in his soul? And how could society justify neglect of men so highly endowed, or be so blind to its own interests as not to raise them to such a position as would increase the force of their example, and their power of doing good? But we shall be asked with an incredulous sneer, "Where are these wonderful men whose virtues and usefulness you extol so loudly? Never has it been *our* good fortune to encounter one of those living personifications of every excellence; and we in common with society at large, should be only too happy to have the opportunity of doing them honor. You surely cannot mean the members of that nondescript class, whose occupation is neither a profession nor a trade, but partakes of the worst characters of both—whose vocation, so far from being noble and dignified, is universally regarded by others, and not unfrequently by themselves, as mean and contemptible, intolerably tedious, and abounding in petty vexations, so far from being of most importance and utility in the State, is merely a mode of ridding parents of their children during the most troublesome and uninteresting period of life, and of keeping those children out of mischief by a dull round of useless and disagreeable studies, which are abandoned and and forgotten as soon as the impatient youth is emancipated from his worse than Egyptian thraldom; so far from requiring in those who follow it attainments and virtues beyond those possessed by their countrymen at large, it is notoriously the refuge and last resource of many whose inferiority both intellectual and moral, has been shown by numerous failures in other departments of exertion, which cannot be regarded as making demands upon the mental powers, but who often rise to success and eminence in this, the same fact being plainly indicated too by the circumstance that so little of distinctive speciality does the vocation present, that even its highest posts are almost invariably filled by men who, whatever be their other accomplishments, have never made it a distinct object of study, but have generally been so wholly engrossed with pursuits of a totally different kind, that they can hardly have bestowed even a passing thought upon it, until they were actually invested with its dignities. These men, besides, confessedly at the head of the so called profession, do not conceal the somewhat contemptuous feelings they entertain towards it, and evidently regard its employments as mere stepping stones to other objects of ambition, which stand much higher in their estimation. 'If such things be done in the *green* tree, what shall be done in the *dry*?' If so little of peculiar knowledge or capability is requisite to the due performance of the duties of the chief places in the profession, must it not necessarily follow—as indeed is the case—that the great body of its members have no prevailing characteristics of any kind? Many undergo no special training, and are thus altogether destitute of that *esprit de corps* which serves so many useful purposes, and acts as a strong restraint upon vicious individuals. They are subject to no searching examinations, preparatory to being admitted to practice their calling, so that there is no trustworthy guarantee of their moral or intellectual fitness to perform their assumed duties; they are not recognised by the State in any capacity except that of taxpaying individuals. In short if you really do allude to the actually existing educators, it can only be ironically; if you are in earnest, you may expect to be laughed at by everybody who knows any thing whatever of that strange body—the schoolmaster."

We fear we must admit the general truth of these objections, so far as they relate to the *actual* condition of the professor, and that our views of it are drawn not from the existing state of things, but from abstract considerations of its *essential* nature, leaving out of account for the present the merely *accidental* circumstances by which its true character is obscured and defaced. This avowal, we doubt not, will be read with undisguised contempt by many of our practical countrymen who are apt to think lightly of whatever passes beyond the bounds of the visible and tangible. And our statements may be ridiculed, even by educators, as the dreams of a Utopean optimist. Alas! that such should be the low condition of education and educators, as to make what should be nothing more than a description of the *real*, appear the idle imaginings of an ungoverned *fancy*. To the charge of idealism, however, we willingly plead guilty—being fully convinced of the close and necessary connection between ideas and deeds. Excellence in any pursuit can never be attained by those who are content to bound their view by the "poor, miserable, hampered, despicable actual" whereby they are encompassed; who have no high ideal standard in their thoughts by which to test all their performances; no intellectual model of perfection into greater and greater likeness to which it is their daily and hourly endeavor to shape the rude and roughly hewn image of the actual. The reason of this is obvious. Real life mainly consists of a multitude of petty details, and the duties of even the most exalted stations are for the most part, made up of them—great events and the necessity for great exertions seldom occur. It is only on rare occasions that soldiers, for instance, are called upon to perform heroic acts of valor. Most of their time is spent in what shallow observers call trifling and useless minutia, and which would deserve to be so called if considered without reference to any thing except themselves, but which acquire importance, and cease to be vexatious when it is seen that they lay the foundation of that discipline and obedience to superiors which makes all the difference between an army and a mob. Now the man who takes no general and elevated view of his vocation necessarily becomes wholly engrossed in its details, which being, as we have said, in *themselves* petty and unimportant—nay disagreeable and repulsive—soon diminishes the interest he may at first have felt in his duties, and lead him to look with contempt and dislike upon the profession which has ceased to be to him a source of pride and pleasurable enjoyment. To expect that duties which excite such feelings will be well performed, would argue little knowledge of human nature or acquaintance with the world. Day after day they will be more carelessly executed, until such a state has been reached, that they are got through by a merely mechanical exercise of the faculties; and so far as soul or intellect is involved, the performance of them can sink no lower. At this point men remain stationary, and a certain feeling of patient indifference takes possession of the mind—a feeling which may be mistaken for contentment, but which is really the most hopeless of all conditions, and leaves little chance of better things from those who are sunk in this "Slough of Despond."

These remarks are peculiarly applicable to the profession of the educator, which is essentially one of detail; which possesses comparatively few opportunities of public display with its attendant excitement, which presents little variety in the unceasing round of its duties, and which, undoubtedly, has its full share of trouble and vexation. Unless the educator is able to rise above the details with which he is concerned; and as from an elevation, to look down upon them, so as to take a general view of their relation to one another, and of the whole of which they are part, whereby alone a due impression of their importance can be made upon his mind, it can hardly be otherwise, than that year by year his aspirations become less elevated, and his performances more mean, until at length he sinks down to a mere formalist, without vital energy himself, and therefore incapable of imparting spiritual life to others.

It is true such men spare themselves many mortifications that must be endured by those who have higher objects, and who are constantly compelled to lament the great discrepancy between their aims and their performances, their daily short-comings, slothfulness and blindedness.

But though the latter are deprived of the dull repose and self-satisfied indifference of those who take lower views of duty, they have ample compensation in the approval of their own consciences, in the perception of their prayers and the abundant fruits of their labors. Thus these very circumstances, which to others would be productive of nothing but vexation, are to them sources of positive pleasure; and many things in themselves, and viewed apart from the great objects which they subserve, would be simply troublesome and annoying, become interesting and important when considered in their due relation to the system at large. It is only, then, by adopting juster and more elevated ideas respecting their profession, that educators can successfully attempt to raise it to its proper eminence. So long as they acquiesce in mean and dispraging opinions relating to it, and have no clear conviction of its essential dignity and value, so long must we expect to see the profession deprived of its just rights, privileges and influence, and its members little better than social outcasts. That the opinions we have here stated are not merely imaginative, but capable of realization, is proved by the fact that *some* educators have actually exemplified in their lives and character all the qualities which we have described as constituting the ideal of an educator. Such men as ARNOTT in America, ARNOLD and MAYO in England, FELLENBURG and PESTALOZZI in Switzerland, and JACOTOT in Belgium, rescue the profession from the "low and lost estate" into which the treachery of others had sunk it. They show what education should be, and may serve as models for the imitation—not servile, but intelligent and independent—of those who desire to make the profession worthy of its noble objects, and the reverence and love wherewith their pupils and the world at large reward them. From that, there is ample encouragement for all who have sufficient knowledge, energy and virtue to tread in their footsteps.

BERNARD CORNELIUS.

VICTORIA, V. I., October 1853.

EDWARD EVERETT ON SPIRITUAL RAPPINGS.—It was said by Edward Everett in a recent speech, in which he noticed the "superstition of this material age:"

"An age supremely skeptical and supremely credulous, which is ready to believe in every thing spiritual rather than God, and admits all marvels but the interposition of his providence; an age which supposes it a thing of every day's occurrence to evoke from their awful rest the spirits of the great and good, and believes that the master intellects which while they lived—obstructed with these organs of sense—ravished the ears with 'the tongues of men,' and have now cast off 'this muddy vesture of decay,' and gone where they speak with the 'tongues of angels,' can yet find no medium of communication from the eternal world but wretched inarticulate rappings and clatterings, which pot house clowns would be ashamed to use in their intercourse with each other—as if our matchless Choate, for instance, who has just electrified the land with a burst of eloquence not easily paralleled, in the line of time, if sent with a message from a higher stage of being, would come skulking and rapping behind the wainscot, instead of coming in robes of light with a voice like the music of the spheres, an age I say, that believes all this, and yet doubts and sneers at the wonder-working fervors of earnest men, swayed by the all-powerful influence of sincere faith."

TAKEN FOR A FILLIBUSTER.—When Commodore Vanderbilt's yacht, the North Star, arrived at Civita Vecchia, she was looked upon as a very suspicious craft. The Papal government connected her visit with the recently discovered Mazzina conspiracy, and refused the Commodore permission to land. After two or three days of useless negotiation, the North Star proceeded to Naples, where she was also an object of suspicion, and had eventually to seek refuge at Malta.

☞ Forget not that human virtue is as polished steel, which is rusted by a breath.

Sitka.

From the San Francisco Herald, Oct. 24.

Prior to the establishment of the Americans in California, this spot was known to us only as a small speck upon the map, comprised within the Russian Possessions on the Northwest coast of America. Even now but little more is known. Like the sealed ports of Japan, it still remains a subject for the investigation of the curious. Like those ports also, Sitka is sealed to the general commerce of the world, and no vessels are permitted to trade with the residents, except those having a special license from the Russian Government. Some years since the attention of the Russians was directed to this point, by the abundance of furs found in the vicinity. A company was formed under a charter granted by the Emperor, and a factory established, at which a trade was opened with the native Indians in the article of furs. To this company the exclusive privileges of commerce were granted, and in it they still remain, with a single exception. A want of ice in the market of San Francisco was felt, soon after the advent of the Americans, and the attention of several gentlemen of our city was at once directed to this point, as affording a proximate position from which the market could be supplied, without awaiting the tedious voyage of a vessel from the Atlantic. A company was accordingly formed here, which, after negotiation, obtained the permission of the Russian Government to procure a regular supply of this article.—Its privileges were also made exclusive, but were limited to the trade in this article alone. By reason of this trade a more intimate relationship has arisen between our port and that of Sitka, rendering the latter one of some interest to us. Our attention has been directed to this subject by the arrival at this port a few days since, of the Russian brig Schilkoff, forty-one days from Sitka. Through the politeness of Captain Juselius, we have been placed in possession of some facts which may prove interesting. Sitka is an island, near the 59th degree of latitude. Upon this island there is but one town, or rather factory, called Sitka. This place is located upon a beautiful bay completely land-locked, and affording the amplest security for shipping. The population of the town is fifteen hundred or two thousand souls, all of whom are attached to the trading company first mentioned. The houses composing the town are built of logs, somewhat after the fashion of those in the new States of the Union. The men are employed in trapping and in trading for skins with the Indians. These skins are confined to the beaver, otter and seal, which are taken in great numbers by the natives. The face of the island is rough and mountainous, possessing but little arable land.—This, however, is cultivated, and yields a scanty supply of potatoes, cabbages and other vegetables, which are the only vegetable productions of the island. The supplies of provisions are mostly obtained from Europe—from the former, salt meats, and from the latter, flour and other breadstuffs. The only fresh meat is that of the deer, which animal is successfully hunted through the dense forests by the Indians alone. In this pursuit the gun is used. Small shallow streams trickle down the hills into the ocean, and these are filled with fish in great variety. At certain seasons salmon are found in abundance, at times completely choking up the streams, from which they are taken with the hand, or by means of a small hook used by the Indians for that purpose. Other species of fish are taken with spears. Upon these articles of food the inhabitants subsist, although from the remote position of the island they are often caught with a limited general supply of provisions. The only article of traffic which the island affords is that of lumber. There are at present two saw mills running, both of which are driven by water. The company is, however, engaged in the erection of another, to be propelled by steam. This is designed to be a floating mill, and will be removed from place to place along the coast, as the only timber available is that immediately upon the beach. In felling trees it is necessary that they be made to fall into the water. Should they fall landward, the forest is so dense that no use can be made of them, and hence has the expedient of a floating mill been adopted. The only timber upon the island is a species of white pine, an article with which the brig is laden. The ice with which our market is furnished is taken from three small lakes back of the town. In these the water is but four or five feet deep. When the brig sailed the supply of last winter had been exhausted. She left in the harbor no other vessel, and the inhabitants were plodding on as usual, completely cut off from all intercourse with other portions of the world.—The natives of the island live in houses similarly constructed to those of the Europeans. They lead a life of contentment and indolence. Although possessed of no very low order of intellect, they are said to be extremely lazy. The colony is under the control of a Governor, who is assisted by two subordinates. Particular observance is paid to religious worship—there being some seven or eight ministers of the Greek Church in the town at this time. The island possesses no attraction whatever as a place of residence. During the summer the weather is rather pleasant, but in winter the rains and fogs render it almost intolerable.—Should clothing once become saturated it is almost impossible to dry it. When the rain is not falling the atmosphere is very clear, but intensely cold. The only attractive feature about the island seems to be its beautiful harbor.

From the Oregonian.

SHOALWATER BAY, W. T., October 1, 1853.

FRIEND DRYER—I have read with peculiar satisfaction the various accounts in the "COLUMBIAN," (the pioneer paper of Washington Territory), of improvements and prosperity in all parts of our new and flourishing country. At this exciting and interesting period in our history, I deem it not inappropriate to give the readers of your paper, and more especially the immigrant—a short history of the discoveries and improvements which are being made in this section.

The time which has elapsed since my promise to write has put me in possession of much general information concerning the geography and natural resources of this section of the Territory. The prairies found upon the head waters of Willipay river, are sufficiently extensive to admit of a large settlement, and no doubt is now entertained of the practicability of constructing a good wagon road from the above prairies to intersect the road leading from the Cowlitz to Olympia. A party of our citizens will soon proceed to survey the above road, which will run mostly through a good farming country, of prairie and timber, with a soil of light black loam from 3 to 5 feet deep—which for strength and productive capacity, is not surpassed by any on the Pacific coast. The land along the bay is of the same nature, and lies well for cultivation; but cannot be made immediately available for farming purposes, as it is covered with an immense growth of evergreen timber, affording however, great facilities for the manufacture of lumber, which will be an extensive business here as soon as mills can be erected.

The business of our bay is fast increasing, our citizens, although poor at first, have established a brisk trade in the oystering and lumbering line, by which in a few months they have acquired the means sufficient to place them in comfortable and easy circumstances, while the farmer has been abundantly rewarded for all his labors.

The immigrant who has the means to travel would do well to visit the north side of the Columbia, before settling in Oregon, as here he finds a large vacant field in which to make his selection of a claim.—This is one great inducement, as nearly all first rate claims in Oregon are occupied.—The flattering prospect of abundance from the labors of the people, together with the assurance of good health, hitherto realized in this Territory, renders every poor man's labor a sure capital, by which he may avail himself of the various resources of wealth, which abound in all parts of the country. And while we sincerely desire the prosperity and settlement of our sister Territory, we cannot forbear a suggestion to the poor emigrant, that he settle in a country where he is not liable to be shaken daily by the fever and ague, or to have his only capital, his health, taken from him by billious and intermittent fevers. But I have digressed widely from my subject, so I will return, with an apology, to Shoalwater Bay. Here is the bark Arianna, Capt. Ankers, direct from New York, to San Francisco, where she chartered for this place without chart or pilot. The Capt. found no difficulty in coming in at the middle channel; the least water being four fathoms on the bar. Capt. A. speaks in the highest terms of the entrance to the bay. We have also in port, brig Sophia, for piles and square timber; and schooners Maryland and Potter, for oysters.

J. L. BROWN.

A SNAKE STORY.—A correspondent writing from Texas, gives us a good story, for the perfect truth of which he pledges his sacred honor. "One night, my wife and myself were awakened by a noise from the shelf, which contained our store of crockery, followed by a crash, which showed that a great portion of our cups and plates had been flung to the floor. Springing up to discover the author of this attack upon China, I found a large snake in a somewhat unpleasant fix. He had crawled upon the shelf, attracted by a number of eggs which were scattered about. One of these he had swallowed, and, in order to get at the next, he had to put his head and a portion of his body, through the handle of a jug which happened to stand between the coveted delicacies. The handle was just opened enough to let his body, in its natural state, slip cleverly through, but not sufficient to let it pass when puffed out by the egg. In this position he had swallowed the second egg.—His snakeship thus found himself unable to advance or retreat, and in floundering about to escape from this novel stock, had caused the accident which had aroused us."

☞ "Muscatine," an ox six years old, raised at Muscatine, Iowa, now *en route* for the World's Fair, is believed to be the largest ox in the United States. He is 6 feet 8 inches high, 17 feet and 4 inches long; girts 10 feet 9 inches, and if fatted, it is believed would weigh over 1000 lbs.

Read the Advertisements.

A great many persons have been heard to say, "What is the use of taking that paper, it's so full of advertisements." Why for the very best of reasons. The advertisements in a paper are but the types of the mind of the advertiser. The advertisements are but contributions to a paper, and are the effusions of the brains of different persons. To read them, says the Transcript, you have an idea of the advertiser; you have, as it may be called, an insight into the mind of each and every person doing business, who is intelligent and shrewd enough to place his business before a large number of people through the medium of the press. Advertising is an advantage, having a great number of different branches, the whole forming one of the greatest and most advantageous channels for the business man that has ever come to the knowledge of the person in pursuit of a fortune. We say, read them. A shrewd man in a strange place can tell the character of those who do business by the manner in which he places his business before the public. Nothing affords us more gratification or pleasure than to get a paper from a distant place, and then to run over the advertisements. We admire to notice the different cunning and pert methods in which business men go to work to bring themselves into notice and their business before the readers of a newspaper. By a little careful attention, you have a very good, in fact, we may say a very fair idea of the merchant and his qualifications for transacting business. Again, another advantage to be gained—and a most essential one—is, that in purchasing from a man or parties who give publicity to their business, who ask the public to call and make an examination, who invite attention to the advantages to be gained by calling upon them, you do not run any risk of being cheated or having any deceit practiced upon you. The man who places his business before the public calls their attention to it, and invites all to examine his wares, is not the man to take any unfair advantage. It is only those who wish to keep out of the notice of the public, by withholding from them their branch of business, &c, that practice deceit and knavery upon the unsuspecting and ignorant. Whoever heard of an advertiser in a paper resorting to duplicity in the disposition of his wares?—Again we say, read the advertisements.

Science for Every Day Life.

A variety of interesting papers were read before the American Scientific Association, during its late session at Cleveland. Wm. H. Thomas, Esq., of Cincinnati, read an essay, which discussed the indications of the weather, as shown by animals, insects and plants; and was full of facts, many of them new, and of scientific explanations of themselves. Birds, it asserts, invariably show, by the way they build their nests, whether a season is to be windy or otherwise. If the former, they thatch the nest, between the twigs and lining. If the latter, they omit these precautions. If a dry season is in prospect, they build in open places. If a wet one, they choose sheltered spots. A careful observation of these peculiarities will afford, Mr. Thomas says, a certain criterion, early in spring, of the coming weather.

Snails also reveal, by their habits, whether rain may be expected or not. Several species of these animals invariably ascend the stems of plants two days before a rain, in order to place themselves on a leaf, there to imbibe the water, for they never drink.—Other species have tubercles that rise from their bodies generally ten days before a rain, there being a pore at the end of each tubercles to imbibe the water. Others grow yellowish white just before a rain, returning to a darker color after rain. Locusts also foretel rain by sheltering themselves under the leaves of trees, and in hollows and trunks, as soon as, by the changes in the atmosphere, they discover that rain is impending. Most leaves of trees are also barometers, for if rain is to be light, they turn up so as to receive their fill of water, while for a long rain, they double so as to conduct the water away.

Another member, Professor Brokleshy, of Hartford, read a paper describing a spring near his residence, whose waters rose invariably before a rain. He suggested that the diminished atmospheric pressure which precedes a rain was the cause of the phenomenon, and recommended that observations should be made over the whole country, to ascertain whether the phenomenon was general or only exceptional. It would be curious if the former could be established, and not less useful than curious, for if nature has made every spring a natural barometer, the fact will be of vast benefit to know.

EDUCATION.—Education does not commence with the alphabet. It begins with a mother's looks, with a father's nod of approbation, or a sign of reproof, with a sister's gentle pressure of the hand, or a brother's noble act of forbearance, with handfuls of flowers in green and daisy meadow, with bird's nests admired but not touched, with creeping ants and almost imperceptible emmets, with humming bees and glass beehives, with pleasant walks in shady lanes, and with thoughts directed in sweet and kindly tones, and words to nature to acts of benevolence, to deeds of virtue, and to the sense of all good, to God himself.