

A SAMPLE LETTER.

The Goderich "Model" School Teacher's Elegant Composition.

Savings of an Educated Blackguard—Eratic Embury's Latest Epistle.

We have often alluded to the vile language poured out by Allan Embury, school teacher, of this town, against those who did not agree with him.

Although we have repeatedly stated since this school controversy began that our columns were open to all who wished to reply to anything which had previously appeared in THE SIGNAL, Allan Embury, who is a moral coward, never availed himself of the opportunity.

In another letter to the Star, Embury complains that we have written to "ruin his reputation."

Never since the days Guiten sent out his fulminations—maledictions, prophecies, etc.—has anything like our "model schoolmaster's" epistles been seen.

An open letter to Mr. Theo. McGillicuddy. Sir,—I propose to address to you a few remarks the justice of which has long been established, though their force may remain unperceived by you through the obtuseness of your mind as well as the mastery which erratic and vicious habits have acquired over you.

Your last attempt to serve yourself through a public trust forms a distinct chapter in your sordid and ignominious warfare against society, and developed before the world those inborn characteristics which you are so anxious to conceal.

Most next ornaments have hanging pendents, following Egyptian precedent. One very decorative design is composed of chains formed of flat rings; the first chain with rings attached to the shank while the others descend in increasing lengths almost to the knee; this is a most favorite pattern for wedding feasts.

The imperial government has decided to send Matthew Arnold to France and Germany to inquire into the system of free schools.

A gentleman was walking down street a few days since in company with two young men who felt uncommonly smart. One asked how he felt situated between two such good fellows as ourselves?

The following is a genuine Hibernian advertisement: "Missing from Killarney, Jane O'Fogarty; she had in her arms two babies and a Guernsey cow, all black with red hair, and a large black comb behind her ears, and large black spots all down her back, which aquints awfully."

A gentleman passing through one of our public offices was affronted by some clerks, and was advised to complain to the principal, which he did thus: "I have been abused here by some of the clerks of this place, and I came to acquaint you of it as I understand you are the principal."

It is a well known fact that you, who professed to know the law, had been illegally voting at the School Board, while lapping up the crumbs that fell from the treasury.

There is only one point in all the foregoing two column letter which calls for reply in the way of explanation. Embury has indignantly perverted an extract, and by a gross misrepresentation endeavored to make it appear that the person he is writing against was on New Year's day "racing the postoffice question."

The women and children of good Arab families were, in old times, never allowed to wear imitation jewelry, whether of stone or metal; the increasing taste for French civilization is however, fast breaking down such prejudices.

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Learning Shorthand.

Charles Dickens' Experience with an Old Stenographer.

How Easily a "Navy" Mastered Pitman's Phonography.

The following experiences are well worthy of perusal:— Charles Dickens started in life as a reporter. He learned shorthand by the best methods then known, and was soon in his time. It was as serious a business as learning Greek and committing to memory the whole of the Iliad.

The first subject on which I had to consult Traddles was this. I had heard that many men distinguished in various pursuits had begun life by reporting the debates in Parliament.

He was very young at this time, but he was a mere boy when he reported that he had been the thing learned. He continues:— I went into the gallery of the house of commons as a parliamentary reporter when I was a boy not 18, and I left it—I can hardly believe the inexorable truth—nearly thirty years ago; and I have pursued the calling of a reporter under circumstances which many of my brethren, and my brethren's successors, can form no adequate conception.

I have often transcribed for the printer from my shorthand notes important public speeches in which the strictest accuracy was required, and a mistake in which would have been to a young man seriously compromising, writing on the palm of my hand by the light of a dark lantern, in a post-chaise and four, galloping through a wild country, through the dead of the night, at the then surprising rate of fifteen miles an hour.

The very last time I was at Exeter I strolled into the castle yard there to identify, for the amusement of a friend, the spot on which I took an election speech of my noble friend, Lord Russell. It was in the midst of a lively fight kept up by all the vagabonds in the vicinity, and under such pelting rain that I remember two good-natured colleagues, who chanced to be at leisure, held a pocket handkerchief over my notebook, after the manner of a state canopy in an ecclesiastical procession.

I have worn my knees by writing on them on the old base row of the house of commons, and I have worn my feet by standing to write in a preposterous pen in the old house of lords, where we used to be huddled like so many sheep.

Another story. The following letter, addressed to the editor of the Phonetic Journal, shows that Pitman's system of Shorthand, entitled Phonography, can be learned by a "navy" with ease.

At the age of fifteen I made a bold attempt to learn Taylor's shorthand. For nearly two years I worked very hard, but it was of no use; I could write a little, and that was exceedingly proud of it, but the pride fell when I was trying to decipher what I had written. Shortly after this I gave it up, and gave my whole attention and time to the plough,—I was then a ploughboy.

At seventeen I commenced to learn Taylor's shorthand, sitting with folded hands at the dinner table. Then looking disdainfully over the dishes set before him he snarled: "Good gracious, Maria, how many times do you want me to tell you that I don't hanker for cabbage and corned beef more than for three times a week!"

Let not anyone say that he cannot govern his passions, nor hinder them from breaking out and carrying him to action; for while he can do before a prince or a great man, he can do alone, or in the presence of God, if he will.

Charity of speech is as divine a thing as charity of action. The tongue that speaketh no evil is as lovely as the hand which giveth alms. To write no one harshly, to misconceive no man's motives, to believe things are what they seem to be until they are proved otherwise, to temper judgment with mercy, surely is quite as good as to build up churches, establish asylums, and to found colleges.

Writing the St. John Election. The writ has been issued for a new election in St. John, N. B., made vacant by the resignation of Sir Leonard Tilley. Nomination on 17th and voting on the 24th inst. Sir John did not wait eight months for issuing the writ on this occasion. Having bought the constituency, he intends to file all he can out of it before it has time to change its mind.

Sarnia Observer. Eight inches of snow fell at Devil's Lake, Dak. yesterday.

It was with absolute certainty that one cried out: "It is a book agent! Now a book agent's existence. She was zealous, as well by nature, as by self-assertion, were too much for their victim, though well. She had never caped the clutches of everything, from "The Journal" to "The Cases." On this occasion sitting, reading, by the view of the front porch, and, hearing consciously looked of clamoration.

No sooner had she my book and shaw my, she retreated a "How do you know, Helen, advanced that it is a book agent? Now Helen was a est girl in Elmdale, of her own, and a book agent, though the modern spirit seeking whom they prettier than ever, bodice, slightly o sleeves coming to ti were finished with with a skirt of the draped close to the all its graceful outline. "How do you know, Helen, advanced that it is a book agent? Now Helen was a est girl in Elmdale, of her own, and a book agent, though the modern spirit seeking whom they prettier than ever, bodice, slightly o sleeves coming to ti were finished with with a skirt of the draped close to the all its graceful outline.

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They're all ill! "Didn't I see I coming out of Mr few minutes ago? Mr. Moore was next door night ways can see for you cel under his arm Helen took no there was the books, or maps, intruder's arm."

"Never you m "You just stay h him in five minu Helen, settling fant nod, and maid to go to the and stood brav ing it effectually The tall figure displaying a rail shaded by dark "Well, I m enough," thoug Just then the toully: "Mrs. Cone! Helen said course he got t that's one of she answered, "Yes, sir! "Is she strange the strange mer of a smile "No, sir!" before. The smile crept around continued: "Well, rea with Miss Co "Gracious got us all. Why did you do All this whing: "I n here—" "Never u more short more defiar possible, it "and don't lat she a her, with face. The you "He m thought H dent as of "All? pause; "I de stand; bu which giveth alms. To write no one harshly, to misconceive no man's motives, to believe things are what they seem to be until they are proved otherwise, to temper judgment with mercy, surely is quite as good as to build up churches, establish asylums, and to found colleges.

Fun and Fancy. Little Bertha: "Yes, mamma, I took three bonbons out of the drawer." Mamma: "That was very naughty, my dear; but I will forgive, because you confessed." Little Bertha: "Then give me the other, mamma, for I really took only two."

"What are your views regarding the Chinese question?" asked a reporter of an almond-eyed Englishman in the sun. "Three centes colles; ten centes shirtee; 5 centes cutf," was the answer.

"Are you married?" asked the judge of a man who was arrested for vagrancy. "No, I am not married, but my wife is." "No trifling with the court," "Haven't you any more trifling with the court?" "I was married, but got a divorce, my wife got married again, but I didn't, so I am not married, but my wife is."

Reproachful mother to a five year old delinquent: "Now, Mary, when you say your prayers tonight, you must tell God that that naughty thing you said to mamma today." Mysterious five-year-old: "No, I needn't." Mamma, taken aback: "No, you needn't! Why not?" Five-year-old, triumphantly: "No use. He heard it."

"For what we are about to receive my Lord made us truly thankful," devoutly murmured Deaconbury, sitting with folded hands at the dinner table. Then looking disdainfully over the dishes set before him he snarled: "Good gracious, Maria, how many times do you want me to tell you that I don't hanker for cabbage and corned beef more than for three times a week!"

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