

swaying, and controlling them, often at will. Matter acts upon the surface, giving color and texture; and it also penetrates the substance with which it comes in contact imparting its own properties and qualities; so one mind acting upon another, gives direction to the habits and manners of the individual; and also extends its power and efficacy to the dispositions, propensities and principles.

These things being so, it follows that the morals and principles of children are formed by their associates and instructors.

An eye should be had to this in selecting schools for children. The young are not unfrequently poisoned in mind, and in morals, while attending school. Being, for the time, beyond the control of their parents, they are subject to whatever principles or practices may pervade the association; and it has too often been the case, that teachers, and other officers, in schools, and academies, have been most deplorably deficient in morals, and sound principles. And where this is the case, every thing that is corrupt and demoralizing in any of the pupils, instead of being properly checked and corrected, will be countenanced, and allowed to spread its contaminating influence throughout the community.

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### MEXICO.

Mexico is an extensive country, occupying the southwestern portion of North America, extending from the 15th to 42d degrees of North latitude, and possessing almost every variety of climate except the extreme rigor of the northern winters.— Much of the surface is elevated, and its broad plateaus or table lands afford grazing for millions of wild cattle and facili-

ties for the production of every kind of grain. It is rich beyond estimation, in mines of gold and silver. The race of men who occupied the country when first discovered by Europeans, were called Aztecs, not aborigines of the soil, but conquerors from the North, and possibly emigrants from Asia.

New Mexico is an infant settlement, formed on the upper part of the Rio Del Norte, in a fertile tract of land, but having a climate remarkably cold, considering the latitude.

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The floating gardens of Mexico, are a great curiosity. They are built on lake *Felzucu*.

The Mexicans, in making these gardens, plait and twist willows, and roots of marsh plants, or other materials together, which are light, but capable of supporting the earth of the garden. On this foundation they lay little bushes, and upon that the mud, which they draw up out of the lake. These gardens are, in some instances, about eight rods in length, and three in breadth, and have less than a foot of elevation above the surface of the water. They cultivate flowers and every sort of garden herbs upon them— In the largest gardens there is commonly a little tree, and even a little hut to shelter the cultivator, and defend him from the rain and the sun. When the owner of the garden wishes to change his situation, he gets into his little boat, and by his own strength alone, if the garden be small, or with the assistance of others, if it be large, he tows it after him, and conducts it wherever he pleases, with the little tree and hut upon it. That part of the lake, where the floating gardens are, is a place of infinite recreation, where the senses receive the highest possible gratification.