

discovered by the light of nature originated from St. John's interpretation of a passage in the gospel of Plato," etc., etc.

Taking these samples as they stand, it is not very difficult to see how they have come about. "Aborigines" looks and sounds a good deal like Alleghanies; and it does not seem to me as either the strangest or the funniest thing in the world, that a child should get the two mixed up, especially under the galling fire of a written examination. And so "conjugate" and corrugate are ever so much alike, and "ipecae" and epicure are not strangely different, when considered as mere words, which is all that either of them can be to most of the children in the schools.

And so "leopard" and shepherd sound very much alike, and "magnanimous" means generous, which in the synonyms is set down in the same row with bountiful, which is probably what the poor child was feeling for when he or she made this blunder. So surpassed was what was meant for "survived;" and nearly every other word blunder in the whole list can easily be traced.

You have seen blunders such as these, made by pupils who had the *very best* of teachers, have you not? I have many, many times. To be honest, I have had the like happen to me, both as pupil and as teacher. Haven't you?

Because some one does not know just what you and I know, that is no sign that that some one is a fool; and yet how prone we are to set such people down as foolish, especially if we can trip them up on something we are especially pat on.

Is it human nature that makes us like to do this, or is it the devil? Surely it is not the spirit of the Master in us that leads us to be guilty of such graceless actions.

And it is so easy for us all to go astray where we do not know.

There was once a doctor of divinity driving through the woods, and pondering a sermon as he went. His horse shied, and ran his buggy against a stump, and broke a shaft. The D. D. was at his wits end. He could argue out the salvation or damnation of a race, to a fraction of a unit, but to mend a broken shaft, that was too much for him.

Just then a little negro boy came along, and to him the D. D. said: "My boy, you doubtless observe the unfortunate predicament in which I am placed. Can you suggest anything to relieve the perplexity of the situation?"

To whom the colored youth replied: "Lord, I do'n' kno' nuffin' bout dat, Boss; but I reckon I ken men-

dat shaft!" And he whipped out his pocket knife, cut a sapling, which he cut down the middle, then took off the halter-strap and put the shaft into splints in five minutes.

As he was working away, the doctor said: "Now Samuel, I am a much more erudite person than you are have had far greater advantages; and yet you can mend that shaft, and I cannot. How do you account for that?"

And the boy said: "O, Lord, Boss, dat's easy 'nuff. Some folks knows more'n other folks, jes' natcherul!"

And that's just it! Neither the boy nor the man were fools! But each was strong in his own way. When will we learn, in our public schools, to examine the D. D.'s in theology, and Sambo's on splinting broken shafts? When we do that, no one will write a book on the blunders of examination papers, for there will be no blunders to write about. Meantime, let us be merciful before we "get gay," lest we prove ourselves to be more foolish than the supposed fools we laugh at.

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

Before school closes each teacher in charge of a school library should see that all books are called in and the library secured until school re-opens. The library book and catalogue should be left where the next teacher, if there is to be a change, may have ready access to them, in order that he may see where his responsibility begins. Books loaned during the vacation are much more liable to be lost than during other times. If any books need repairs it would be a good time to have it done, and the vacation is also a convenient season in which to look around with a view to adding to the library.

This is the time of change, and there is one advantage teachers have now that they did not enjoy formerly. They have the whole vacation in which to locate themselves, and have not to pack up at short notice, and perhaps then lose considerable time. Most teachers are aware that unless their agreements specify that the contract is to terminate in June of that year, that it does not terminate until the end of the year, but I would strongly advise any teacher who feels that his services are no longer agreeable to the district not to insist upon the strict letter of it, and not to render his position uncomfortable and injure his reputation as a teacher, perhaps, by remaining. Above all things do not apply in a district where you *know* there is to be no vacancy, and do not offer to teach for less than your predecessor.

There seems to be some misapprehension among teachers and school officers regarding notice to quit.