

### VICTOR EMMANUEL ON POPULAR EDUCATION.

The *Official Journal* at Naples contains the following letter from his Majesty to the Lieutenant General:—

MY DEAR FRIEND,—On my arrival in this city I wished to be informed as to the condition and necessities of the least fortunate classes, and I was painfully affected on learning how little cared for have been the institutions for popular education. Instruction—the religious and civil education of the people—has been the constant thought of my reign. I know that by them the industry and the morality of the whole nation are increased. The liberal constitutions left by my father, and preserved by me, to be useful to all must be understood by all and benefit all. I am persuaded that you will be the faithful interpreter of my intentions; but in the diffusion of popular education, which I have much at heart, I wish to concur personally. For these reasons I dispose that, from my private purse the sum of 200,000 Italian livres shall be taken and distributed for this work of beneficence to the mind and soul. In the employment of this sum you will bear in mind the advantages which may be derived in a large city from the establishment of infant schools. You will, moreover, give proper directions in the provinces for the study of the important subject of the education of the people. I desire that the representative of the Government, the municipal authorities, and associations of citizens, may be by your efforts encouraged and aided in the promotion of this work of Christian and civil progress, to which, both as men and rulers we owe the most solicitous care.

VICTOR EMMANUEL.

If the secrets of every guest at a *dinner* were told, would any be found un- mixedly happy? Would there be one devoid of cares of their own or other people's, undisturbed by the absence of the right individual or the presence of the wrong one, by mishaps of deportment, difficulties of dress, or want of notice? Perhaps, after all, it may be best to have some one abiding anxiety, strong enough to destroy tedium, and exclude the pettier distresses, and most wholesome is it that this should be an interest entirely external.

The first of all virtues is innocence, the second is modesty; and neither departs without being quickly followed by the other.

**A NEW SUBSTANCE IN THE AIR.**—A scientific writer says that the theory of Mr. Clemson, head of the agricultural department of the Patent Office, of living organisms in the atmosphere here, which he made public in 1856, has been adopted by a French Chemist, named Barrel, and announced to the French academy.

Mr. Clemson's theory is that the air, like water, teems with minute living organisms; that there is phosphoric acid in the air, derived from the successive generations after generation of myriads of these organisms produced, living and dying in the atmosphere; that such organisms exist and are at work, assimilating from one to another, preparing food for more perfect organisms, from the microscopic point of life up to the most perfect animal existence. It is expected that this discovery will explain why the earth is increased in fertility by being broken up and exposed to the air. It contains meteorology with agriculture, and will, when fully developed, open a new page to the learned of the relation of the spots on the sun, the degree of fertility of the earth, and electrical changes of the atmosphere and magnetical condition of the earth.

**CURIOUS ANIMAL.**—Australia is a land full of natural wonders to us. Great tracts of that country are covered with balls of quartz, shot, as it were, from some lunar battery; the natives kill the jumping kangaroo by shooting the boomerang "round the corner;" and there is the *ornithorynchus*, which puzzles naturalists to classify by its paradoxical peculiarities. It appears to be a link between the quadruped, bird and reptile. Its body is something like that of a beaver; It has four short legs and is web footed, and on its little flat head it has the bill of a duck. These creatures live a great deal in water, their resorts are quiet creeks fringed with weeds, among which they search for food. They burrow in the banks of streams like moles; in disposition they are timid, playful and harmless, and have been made very amusing pets.

—*Scientific American.*

**ARISTOCRACY.**—I can respect the aristocracy of family—the consciousness of blood that has flowed through historic veins and throbbed under blazoned shields of renown. I can respect the aristocracy of enterprise that bursts all obstacles, and itself earns and holds with a modest self-exertion. But of all aristocracy, the aristocracy of mere vulgar, flaring wealth, and nothing else is the simplest and silliest.

—*E. H. Chapin.*

**LOVE OF APPROBATION.**—The greatest enemy that we have to combat in the education of children, is self-love, and to this enemy we cannot give attention too early. Our business is to weaken it, and we must be careful not to strengthen it by indiscriminate praise. Frequent praise encourages pride, induces a child to value herself superior to her companions, and renders her unable to bear any reproach or objection, however mild. We should be cautious, even in the expression of affection, not to lead children to suppose that we are not constantly occupied with them. Timid children may be encouraged by praise, but it must be judiciously bestowed, and for their good conduct, not for personal goodness. Above all things, it is necessary to inspire them with a love of truth; to teach them to practice it at their own expense; and to impress upon their minds that there is nothing so truly great as the frank acknowledgment—"I am wrong."—*Mad. de Lamphere.*

**Fossils.**—It is a curious fact that among all the fossils of extinct animals or plants, no remains have ever yet been found of man; tending to confirm the Scriptural assertion that this most perfect of organized beings was not produced until the earth had been replenished with the plants and animals that now flourish on its surface. The fact of this agreement between the Mosaic record and scientific discoveries is not only of intense interest, but strikes at the root of the Atheistic notion of the eternity of the world, by showing a succession of creations. By harmonizing the details of Genesis with those of geology, a finishing touch is put to the noblest and most delightful investigations open to mankind.

—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

**EFFECT OF SMOKING ON THE INTELLECT.**—In the September number of the *London Pharmaceutical Journal* for 1860 it is stated that, on dividing the pupils of the Polytechnic School of Paris into smokers and non-smokers, it is shown that the smokers have proved themselves, in the various competitive examinations, far inferior to the others. Not only in the examinations on entering the schools are the smokers of a lower rank, but in the various ordeals they have to pass through in a year, the average rank of the smokers has constantly fallen, and not inconsiderably, when the men who did not smoke enjoyed a cerebral atmosphere of the clearest kind.