

completed by the time he reached his destination. After a slight remodelling, it was sent to a Chicago publishing firm for their approval. He never received any returns for it, and the first knowledge that he received that the words had become in the least popular, or ever been used, was while on a visit soon after to Columbus, Ohio. On calling on a young lady friend in the city, he requested her to sing for him. She complied by saying she would sing him a sweet little song she had just received, and she remarked the strange coincidence that the name of the author was the same as his. She thereupon, to his great amazement, sang "Nelly Gray." The song was famous, and it is said the publishers received \$30,000 from its sale, while the obscure author received nothing but six printed copies of the song. Hamby died in obscurity and poverty. His remains lie today in an unmarked grave in the little village cemetery at Westerville, Ohio, the place that gave him birth.—*Adapted from N. E. Journal of Education.*

THERE are few books that are known so well as Webster's Dictionary. Its low price, accuracy, completeness, and its great practical value have made it the popular court of appeal. The latest edition keeps the dictionary abreast of the times. New plates add to the attractiveness of its pages; and incorporate necessary changes and additions; the gazetteer and biographical dictionary have been revised and corrected to date; and to the weight of fulness and authority there is added new up-to-date matter that greatly enhances it as a work of reference.

The British Colonial Office is urging the South African authorities to prevent the indiscriminate slaughter of elephants. Unless prompt action is taken, it is said, the elephant will soon be as scarce in Africa as the bison now is in America.

A recent report says that the remains of working elephants have been found in the ruins of a burned city in Mexico. It certainly needs confirmation to make it creditable.

The ice in Greenland is melting more rapidly than it is formed. The edge of one glacier is said to have retreated eight miles in the last fifty years.

There is absolutely no ground for the belief that radium emits energy without loss or waste of any kind, and without renewing the supply. Lord Kelvin believes that waves of ether may supply the loss, the radium changing some unknown form of radiation into the forms which we recognize.

### Helen Keller's Address.

One of the greatest triumphs of human art over bodily defects is manifest in the power to speak imparted to Helen Keller. At the dedication of the Eye and Ear Infirmary she addressed a large audience, although early in childhood rendered deaf, dumb, and blind through severe illness. Her utterance was not as distinct as the speech of those possessing natural powers, but is improving, and it would not be strange if she became a popular orator.

This must in a sense be regarded as an educational triumph. She has been educated in spite of all her disadvantages. It shows that education is of the supremest value. The entire genius of those understanding such a case has been employed to educate her. Bear in mind it has not been simply to teach her to speak, but to educate her so that when she did speak she possessed ideas and comprehended the words.

This cannot but interest educators everywhere. What an effort to know! What pains to understand herself!

How many, with complete powers, make no similar effort? What joy she has in acquiring knowledge! She tells us, in her history, that when she comprehended that the three wooden letters, *d, o, g*, represented the animal she held in her lap, it gave her a joyful shock she has never forgotten. And, again, when she found that the letters could be put in other positions and represent other things, she was surprised and delighted.

She says in her address: "I am studying economics this year." If we should propound the question to many a teacher, Are you pursuing some study to further educate yourself? we should be met with a negative. In Miss Keller's place it is not needful she should study to fit her to incite study in others; she does it to meet the desire for light implanted by the Almighty. She declares she rises each morning with the hope she may learn something new during the day. Like the Roman emperor, she counts that day a lost one in which she has learned nothing new.

Again, she said in her address: "The welfare and happiness of others is essential to our own." Is not this the key to the reason we teachers engage in teaching? Is not this the distinction between the profession and business? Is not that the noblest profession that makes the happiness of others the first object of its prosecution?—*Teachers' Institute.*

Through the efforts of the Gaelic League, great progress is being made in the revival of the Irish language. At one place a meeting of teachers transacted all its business in Irish. An another a sermon is preached in Irish every Sunday, and Irish is taught in all the schools. In many places travelling teachers are appointed; and in Wexford a thousand pupils are in regular attendance at the Irish classes,