

DISCOURAGING CHILDREN.

It is somewhere related, that a poor soldier having had his skull fractured, was told by the doctor that his brains were visible. "Do write to father," he replied, "and tell him of it, for he always said I had no brains." How many fathers and mothers tell their children such things, and how often does such a remark contribute not a little to prevent any development of brain. A grown-up person tells a child he is brainless, or foolish, or a blockhead, or that he is deficient in some mental or moral faculty, and in nine cases out of ten the statement is believed; or if not fully believed, the thought that it may be partially so, acts like an incubus to repress the confidence and energies of that child. Let any person look back to childhood's days, and he can doubtless recall many words and expressions which exerted such a discouraging or encouraging influence over him, so as to tell upon his whole future course of life.

We knew an ambitious boy, who, at ten years, had become so depressed with fault-finding and reproof, not duly mingled with encouraging words, that even at that early age he earnestly longed death to take him out of the world, in which he conceived he had no abilities to rise. But while all thus appeared so dark around him, and he had so often been told of faults and deficiencies that he seemed to him self the dullest and worst of boys; and while none of his good qualities or capabilities had been mentioned, and he believed he had none, a single word of praise and appreciation carelessly dropped in his hearing, changed his whole course of thought. We have often heard him say that "that word saved him. The moment he thought he could do well, he resolved that he would"—and he has done well. Parents, these are important considerations. Sometimes encourage your children without an if. Do not always tell them they can be good, if they will do thus or so. Sometimes tell them they can and they will do well, and that there is nothing to hinder them.—*Amer. Agriculturist.*

SAN FRANCISCO.—This is probably the fastest town occupied by the fastest inhabitants, now existing. Men, women, horses, dogs, cats, and rats—there are 100,000 rats for every human being—are running up the street and down the street as if a battalion of devils were after them. A horse and cart run over a man, and the driver don't even stop to see the result. A pile driver smashes a man's foot to a jelly, he is jerked out, and the pile driver would smash another the next minute if an opportunity offered, for its progress will not be arrested a moment of time. If you were crossing at the intersection of two streets the chances are ten to one but what you are run over by at least four somethings. Every thing is done in a hurry. They buy, sell, marry, and divorce in a hurry. There are six hundred divorce cases now awaiting the decision of the Legislature.

The stores, places of amusements, and resort are the most beautiful and superb I ever saw or imagined. One window of a jewellers store contains more valuable ornaments than would buy any Washington St. shop out. Snuff-boxes \$1,000, watches \$4,000, goblets \$5,000, cane heads \$600, and so on. There is a drug store one beautiful assorted mass of gold, silver, glass and marble; gold, silver, and pearl spatulas, with a gate stands.

Mantua-makers have waxed models representing the most beautiful and voluptuous women, dressed in the most costly and magnificent manner so perfect that, five feet off, you could not tell them from models with blood coursing through their bodies. Gold dollars are thrown into a window as something to be looked at simply. I think I saw about half a peck in one window.

A dentist has for a sign an immense coral tooth,

looking as if it had been extracted from the gum of a Titian. A hatter had twenty or thirty elegant hats suspended in the street before the door, merely to indicate what can be produced within. There they must remain until they get rusty, when their places must be filled by others.—*Washington Sentinel.*

THE DECIMAL SYSTEM:

ITS NATURE, PRESENT POSITION, &c.

An important reform proposes so to improve the subdivision of our Coins, Weights, and Measures, as that every ten of a lower denomination shall be equal to one of the next higher.

The consequence of this would be that our Arithmetic would be very much simplified, and might be taught in about one-fourth of the time now required for that purpose. And thus the children of the poorer classes instead of acquiring but a smattering of arithmetic, insufficient for comfortable and ready calculation in ordinary transactions, or in those situations which they would otherwise be fitted for, might, under the new system, become perfectly familiar with the needed Arithmetic. In keeping books and accounts, as well as in making calculations, a great saving of time and labor would be effected; and all classes would be greatly benefited by the introduction of the simpler decimal system.

For, were that system adopted, all our compound and complicated rules and tables, our compound additions and multiplications, our compound proportions, reduction, and practice, which now perplex the unlearned, and are so tedious even to the educated and to men of business,—would be all swept away, as no longer necessary; and the calculations of ordinary business be reduced to the common and fundamental rule of simple addition, subtraction, and multiplication, or division.

For example.—Let any one, under the present system, calculate the price of 23 animals at £7 9s 9d. each, and it will be found that the answer costs some trouble and liability to error. But, if our monies of account were decimalized, and there were ten farthings in the penny, ten pence in the shilling, and ten shillings in the pound—the whole would be a matter of multiplication, thus

	£7 9 91
Multiply by	23
	23973
	15982

and the answer £183 7 9 3 or £183 7s 9 3d.

Or suppose we buy 7 qrs. 9lbs. 3oz., at £3 7s 7d. per oz. Let any one calculate the cost by the present compound system, and then compare the operation with that under the decimal system, viz:—

	£3 7 7 1
	693
	11313
	22739
	26397

£2990 4 0 3 or £2990 4s. 0 3d.

and he will see that what is a tedious or compound calculation under the one system, becomes a matter of simple multiplication under the other.

Though much to be desired, then, for our weights and measures also, as well as for our coins—it is proposed, for the present, to confine the Reform to the decimalizing of our money accounts, as embracing the largest portion of our ordinary calculations; but this will no doubt soon be followed by its application to our weights and measures, when experience shall have shown its great advantages.