

a fundamental error. Once upon a time learning was confined to the priests and monks, and when anyone raised his voice and said, "But the mass of the people should also know how to read and write their names," the priests and their friends retorted with this sneer: "What then will be the good of the priests' learning, if you give letters to the masses. You would have the country overrun with vulgar scribes." Education came, however, in time. Men and women came to be able to read books and reckon accounts; and it was much better that they should be able to do so themselves than to be obliged, if they received a letter, to call in the priest or the scrivener to read it.

The analogy holds literally true with respect to the medical science. We should be very sorry indeed to see our schools attempt to do more than endow students with a knowledge of the simple laws of health, of the general structure of the body, the functions and operations of the organs, the manner which careless dressing, tight lacing, sudden exposures to cold, violent exercise, lack of exercise, over-eating, intemperance, etc., act upon, and injure the system. Then there are a few plain facts known to observant nurses, with respect to treatment in simple cases, that should be taught; and a list of simple medicines that can be used without detriment in ordinary ailments should be familiar to everybody.

The very savages of the plains, in their own illiterate way, make a study of practical medicine; their knowledge of the healing herbs is wide and valuable, and in a case of sickness where there is no complication of disease, their treatment is almost as certain to be salutary as the skill of a learned doctor, plus half the Latin of Virgil and the whole table of Roman numerals thrown in.

We have said that a class will spend months in seeking to determine why Providence put these two horns upon the forehead of a beetle; and many a weary essay is there read on the probable origin of that minute insect which enters through the bark of the spruce, and blasts the tree. If the study of the latter fact could save a timber district, or save even one tree, there might, from the utilitarian point of view, be some justification for its study in common schools. But the career of the tree is not as important as the career of a human being. Yet the child never learns in school what effect repeated "colds upon the chest" has upon the lungs, and how the "catching" of colds and other diseases may be measurably avoided. How many boys and girls at leaving school know what the "pulse" that throbs in the wrist really is? How many know that it registers the beat of the heart, and that the fulness in each beat is the blood going upon its impelled mission. They all know that the first thing a doctor does is to feel the patient's pulse; but why he does so is just as much of a mystery as the fact that the larch tree turns its head to the east. How many children who learn in their chemistries that air is composed of hydrogen, oxygen and carbonic acid, are drilled upon the importance of keeping the windows of small rooms open, of sleeping in the purest possible air, and never with the head covered. The facts produced from the chemistry lessons would show the important part played by one gas, and the evil worked by the other. Each of the other facts already indicated might also be studied with immense profit; pupils would come to have a knowledge of the ordinary functions of their bodies; they would know what begets sickness and organic disease, and to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Then, in complex cases, plenty of which arise, the professional physician

might be called in. But it is really unjustifiable that a hundred times more importance should be given to the structure of a water weed or of a bug, than to the organism of the human body. We are aware that there is something taught upon hygiene here and there in the schools, but the thing is only a mockery. We express our acknowledgments to Dr. Playter, the editor of *Man*, for all that he has done to impress the importance of the matter that we have sought to discuss, upon the public and the proper authorities.

The visits of the Rev. John H. Vincent, D.D., to Toronto, always give unqualified pleasure and gratification to his many friends in this city. As the father of the great Chautauqua idea, his name is justly honored and revered by the thousands of members of that institution throughout the world. The personal power of Dr. Vincent is remarkable. He is truly a leader of men. His great force of character, strong personality, intense practicalness and persuasive eloquence are among the qualities which have placed him upon the high pedestal of public favor and esteem which he now occupies. The Chautauqua movement is becoming world-wide in its influence. Circles for the prosecution of the course of study prescribed by the head institution are now in existence in the remotest corners of the globe, including Russia, South Africa, India, China, Japan and the Sandwich Islands. Dr. Vincent's career, and the wonderful movement he has inaugurated, are marvellous examples of what a man "with an idea" can do for the intellectual and moral elevation of the race.

The temperance question as represented by Prof. Goldwin Smith is this week discussed in our contributors' department by Dr. McCully. The article is carefully prepared and some of the arguments are very strong. "Women Under Roman Religion," by Miss Brown, is concluded in this issue. Those who read the first paper on this question will be anxious to secure the closing article. The Rev. E. A. Stafford contributes this week an exceedingly thoughtful article on "Government by Party." He ably contends that the party system of Government is by no means the stupendous failure some would make themselves and others believe.

We had expected to have been able this week to announce our new competition, but as our arrangements are not quite perfected we cannot do so. The scheme we are now preparing will be still more liberal than that of its predecessors, and provides a handsome gift to every new subscriber to *Truth* or *Ladies' Journal*.

Our politicians, for motives sometimes other than worthy ones, raise such an outcry against "foreign importations" of any sort, that even a noble and humane work like that which Dr. Barnardo and his associates are carrying out is sometimes lost sight of. We commend the letter of Dr. Barnardo to the earnest attention of our readers.

Mr. Adam Badeau has been contributing a number of letters to the New York *Sun* descriptive of the social life of the English aristocracy. He affects to have found much vulgarity among titled folk, and relates a number of incidents in his own personal experience, which we should judge are less intended as rebukes to the manners of Upper-Tendom in England, than as a boast of his intimate friendship with certain Dukes and Duchesses, and other members of our "old nobility." Mr. Badeau's letters may be entertaining to those who desire to get a peep "over

the garden-wall of nobility," but all the same they are manifestly the work of a vulgar snob whose personal acquaintance with the class whom he describes, in all probability was obtained through an opera glass. We feel quite certain that if some Duchess had condescended to confidential communication with Mrs. Badeau he would have come across the ocean loaded to the eyes with reverence for her order. Criticism such as that which appears in the *Sun*, is the last thing to which he would have turned his genius.

When the Brown Memorial Committee came to take account of their funds the other day, it was found that a sum of \$1,100 remained after meeting all expenses in connection with the statue erected to the eminent statesman in the Park. Out of this surplus sum the committee have decided to appropriate \$1,000 with which to found a Scholarship in University College to be known as "The George Brown Scholarship," a fixed sum, accruing an interest, to be annually awarded to the most distinguished student in the department of history and modern languages. The project, we are sure, will meet with approbation; for most fitting is it to connect perpetually with our great seat of learning the name of a man to whom our institutions and political morals owe so much.

Now and again one of our newspapers, or one of our platform orators, utters a protest against the state of the Canadian copyright; and when the protest is made we all say, "Yes; it is too bad," but nobody thinks of moving further in the matter. We shall not enter into a lengthy explanation of the law upon copyright, but state briefly its injustice. A Canadian author brings a book out in Toronto, Montreal, or any other city in the Dominion, sends a copy of the same to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, where it is registered. This registration gives him copyright throughout Canada. But it does not give him copyright in England; and any publisher there may take his book and reprint it, without being obliged to pay royalty. But once an English author copyrights his book, it is protected against piracy throughout every part of the British empire. If, therefore, a Canadian author desires to secure the English market, the only course is to bring out the book first in England. Mr. Edgar is a public spirited Canadian, and himself an author of no mean repute. Why should we not at the very next session of Parliament hear something from him on this point?

The population of Australia doubles itself every twenty years, according to its newspapers.

The Earl of Aberdeen has been appointed Viceroy of Ireland. It is stated that Mr. Parnell was asked to take a seat in the new Cabinet, and that he declined upon the grounds that he could not consistently take part in the administration of a system of government which he regards as grossly unjust to his country.

The *Globe's* Ottawa correspondent, a gentleman whose information is generally to be relied upon, states that there will be no allusion to Riel in the speech from the throne. But there certainly must be an allusion to the rebellion.

The rumour to the effect that Sir Ambrose Shea had been appointed Governor of Newfoundland, turns out, after all, to have been premature. The *Globe*, advised by its London correspondent, states that Sir Ambrose actually was appointed; but the *Times* and other leading papers pointed out that it

would be unwise at the present time, taking into account the state of feeling among religious bodies in the Island, to make the appointment. But what a cruel hoax it was, to perpetrate upon a man so worthy and so distinguished in the history of the colony!

The new Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Aberdeen—John Campbell Hamilton Gordon—is the 7th Earl, was born in 1847, succeeded to the title in 1870 on the death of his brother George, whose life was full of romantic passages, including a temporary disappearance, during which he passed as a common sailor. The late Lord Aberdeen succeeded to the title in 1864. In 1866 he embarked in a sailing vessel for St. John, N. B., and during the voyage volunteered to take the place of a disabled seaman. The occupation took hold of him, and he made several short voyages under the name of George Henry Osborne, was licensed as mate in New York in 1867, and as captain in 1868. In 1870 he shipped from Boston to Melbourne as mate of the schooner *Herd*, and on this voyage he was swept overboard and lost during a storm. During all this time the family knew nothing of his whereabouts, as letters he wrote to them had miscarried.

Prince Bismarck's hatred of the Poles is so great that Germans are forbidden to intermarry with them in those portions of the Empire where Polish sentiment seems to the Chancellor to be aggressive. If one were to read in a novel that such an edict had gone forth in the nineteenth century in an enlightened country and from an enlightened statesman he would be inclined to say that the author was an ass. But truth is ever stranger than fiction.

Cremation is becoming extremely popular in some parts of the United States; but Buffalo clergymen have organized a crusade against the practice. The chief objection to the thing, so far as we can see, is that it might beget a system of spurious pedigrees. One could put any label that he pleased upon a jar and palm the fraud off upon his visitors. He might have a vessel containing some pine ashes, and still have written upon it: "The mortal remains of John Robbins, who came to America in the *May Flower*, A. D. 1620." One cannot very readily perpetrate spurious legends upon tomb stones. O no; for this reason keep to the honest, old-fashioned plan of burying. We do not want everybody's great grandfather to be a U. E. Loyalist or a Pilgrim Father.

The "elements," according to one of our "funny" contemporaries, are getting into trouble. The first misfortune comes to the Manitoba blizzard. It blew the tail off a mule; but what became of the blizzard afterwards is not known; though it is presumed that it had the wind knocked out of it. The next sufferer was a flash of lightning. It had gone about setting fire to barns, splintering "monumental oaks," and killing men and cattle. It then struck a dynamite can. "That," says the *Hawkeye* man, "was the most surprised flash of lightning that you ever saw." It hit nothing afterwards.

Probably Mr. Shanly is clever enough as an engineer to see how the Sahara could be turned into a mighty inland sea, provided there were enormous coffers at his hand to help him to change the geography of our planet. He is credited with saying that he believes the scheme for connecting Prince Edward Island with the mainland by a submarine railway is feasible. The question is rather this, In the project a *canal* one? Mr. Shanly has a splendid reputation, but he must not talk nonsense.