



P U S H .

"In Union is Strength."

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Letter from John Ambrose.

DEAR EDITORS.—

I am very much obliged to you for PUSH, which supplied just the impetus needed to start me into writing an article on my reminiscences of the old Truro Academy, which I promised some months ago when spending a few days in your town; and to my great delight becoming a boy again amongst the few boys and girls yet remaining, who with myself enjoyed the many advantages and pleasures of that Academy,—notably my old friends, Dr. A. C. Page, William McCully and Jas. K. Blair, Esqrs. It was a delight not unmingled with tender recollections of those of our number in that time, who have since "gone over to the majority." Recalling them to memory, we might well say with Thackeray:—

Evenings there were
Happy as this,
Faces we miss
Pleasant to see;
Tender and true,
Gentle and just:—
Peace to their dust
We sing round the tree.

Dr. Page, in his letter to you, brings a lively scene before my eyes.

It is Friday afternoon, the time of the weekly issue of my paper, the "Academy Critic,"—so named because, as Assistant Teacher in the Academy, it occurred to me that the faults, foibles and failings sometimes observable even in a Truro seminary of learning, might be diminished by a little magisterial criticism, tempered with a spice of drollery. It is human nature to fear "the world's dread laugh," and there is a good deal of human nature—or was then—in the boys and girls of Truro

Well, the Head Master having started for home, the pupils one and all are gathered around the Editor, who—mounted on a box—reads the paper, and afterwards disposes of the copies by auction, for the benefit of his amanuensis, George Flemming, at that time the best writer in the school. Dr. Page has already told you that at that early day there was no printing office in Truro, and the "Academy Critic" was the first newspaper in "Derry Village." As a sample of its mode of correcting failings, I may mention that one of the girls invariably failed to write a composition, which was required from every pupil once a week by the Head Master, Edward Blanchard. The delinquent is among the surrounding