

The Standard

OR FRONTIER GAZETTE.

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Price 15s. in Town

SAINT ANDREWS, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 23, 1842.

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To the Editor of the Standard.

"Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
"To teach the young idea how to shoot."
"To pour the fresh inspiration o'er the mind,
"To breathe the enlivening spirit, and to fix
"The generous purpose in the glowing breast."
Tutor.

Sir,
My last letter contained some hints on the
importance of education; this will relate to
the time and manner of it.

In the first place, it may be observed, that
education should begin at a very early period.
This by some may be thought a trite remark,
but it is a matter of regret that the triteness
of it is not greater, and the necessity of mak-
ing it, less. Few know how early, instruction
with advantage may be commenced, or how
much culpable neglect and delay parents in
general permit. In the intellectual as in the
natural world, early cultivation is attend-
ed with the greatest success. If the twig be
not bent, the tree cannot be inclined without
labour and difficulty; and if the former be
bent in a wrong direction, no human power
can straighten the latter. The infant in a
short space, may learn a troublesome and in-
jurious habit, to unlearn which much time
and exertion are requisite; and impressions
received, when in the first dawning of reason
appear, cannot easily be effaced, and frequen-
tly, are never completely eradicated.

Education should begin with the exercise
of judgment and memory, even before the
first rudiments of speech have been acquired.
It must be remembered however, that at this
period, the kind and method of instruction,
should correspond to the age and capacity of
the pupil; and however trifling it may appear
it is notwithstanding, instruction, and should
be advanced with unremitting care. Ideas
of right and wrong, however limited, are
among the first lessons to be communicated
to the mind, and the consequent habit of
doing the one, and avoiding the other, ought
to be among the first fruits of instruction.
As the pupil increases in age and capacity,
other kinds of knowledge which need not
here be specified, may be added, and strict-
ness of discipline, with the degree and time
of application, increased; and when the age
of five or six years, is attained, a foundation
of fundamental knowledge and discipline,
will have been laid, that will ensure ease and
success to the student in every branch of his
subsequent education.

Upon this subject Lord Brougham has given
the following opinion: "I assert that we
begin much too late in the education of our
children. Whoever understands their tem-
pers, their habits, their feelings, and their
capabilities, as well as the extent of their capacity
of receiving instruction long before the age of
seven. The child is, at three and four, and
even partially at two and under, perfectly
capable of receiving that sort of knowledge
which forms the basis of all education; it
is not enough to say that a child can learn
a great deal before the age of six years.
The truth is, that he can learn a great deal
more before that age than all he ever learns
or can learn, in all his after life. His atten-
tion is more easily roused in a new world;
it is more vivid in a fresh existence; it is
excited with less effort, and engraves ideas
deeper in the mind. His memory is more
retentive in the same proportion in which
his attention is more vigorous; bad habits
are not yet formed, nor is his judgement
warped by unfair bias; good habits may
easily be acquired, and the pain of learning
be almost destroyed; a state of listless-
ness has not begun to poison all joy;
nor has indolence paralyzed his powers;
or bad passions quenched or prevented
useful desires. He is all activity, enquiry,
exertion, motion; he is eminently a curi-
ous and learning animal, and this is the
common nature of all children, not merely
of clever and lively ones, but of all who are
endowed with ordinary intelligence, and
who, in a few years, become through neg-
lect the stupid boys and dull men we see."

The first steps in the process of instruction,
consist more in preventing bad habits, than
in communicating positive information; and
this is by no means the least important part
of the business. Neglect scarcely fails to do
injury; for the child that is left to form his
habits chances may direct, will invariably form
some bad ones, and often many. Hence the
evil of idleness to children; and indeed idlen-
ess to them is only another name for mis-
chievous employment. Their general occupa-
tion, or exercise, or amusement, should be
regulated by sound parental discretion. It
is not expected that a young child can be
kept constantly employed in work or learn-
ing. This is impossible, and if it were pos-
sible, would be pernicious. But the hours
of relaxation and play, should not be devoted
to anything hurtful to the mind, any more
than to the body; and bad companions should
of all things be avoided. With regard to
more substantial and profitable employment,
it may be observed, that a portion of every
day should be devoted to the acquisition of
some useful knowledge, or to producing some
good impression upon the mind. The mind
should be taught to be active and persevering
in all its pursuits, or rather its natural activi-
ty and energy, should be properly stimulated

and brought into action. The mind itself is
naturally active and lively,—all then that is
necessary, is to direct this native energy to
proper objects and in a proper manner, in-
stead of allowing it to waste itself upon noth-
ing, and to degenerate into inactivity, or
fivosity, or vice.

The prevention of idleness promotes the
contrary habits. Diligence is engendered
and nourished in proportion as idleness is
diminished: the mental faculties are accus-
tomed to a wholesome degree of labour, and
a desire for moral and intellectual improve-
ment is excited. These facts are so obvious,
and the duties arising from them so plain and
imperative, that it seems almost ridiculous
gravely to urge them; yet so little attention
is paid to them, that to most people, they
scarcely occupy a place in thought, much
less in action. Children are allowed to spend
the most valuable portion of their youth in
idleness: their energies never brought into
action, their desire of knowledge never stimu-
lated, they are accustomed to no mental
exercise, and consequently thank every exer-
tion a hardship; and in this state they are
committed to the care of a public teacher. If
to be added a stubborn disposition, and a
store of bad habits, the teacher's task is any
thing but enviable. None but those who have
learned from sad experience can form an
idea of the difficulty of managing a thorough-
ly idle boy, even with a good disposition, and
without bad habits, idleness excepted.—
It is a hard enough task to overcome bodily
idleness, where the agent is under the com-
plete control of the principal; but the mind
cannot be controlled in the same way; the
difficulty is tenfold. And notwithstanding
parents will complain of their children when
sent to school, do not learn rapidly, whom
their negligence has so completely riveted in
idleness, as to baffie the efforts of any human
teacher.

All will doubtless admit that the preven-
tion of bad habits, is a desirable thing; but
most persons will also contend that it is im-
possible for parents to pursue anything like
the line of duty here recommended. If they
cannot perform the whole could they not
perform a part? could they not have some
oversight of the actions of their children?
could they not exert some authority
in regulating their exercises, amusements,
and studies, and in making a selection of com-
panions? could they not devote some part
of each day to the more immediate task, or
rather pleasure of instruction? could they not
inspire some good motives, and excite some
inclination to follow the path of duty, and
virtue, and honor? Much certainly could be
done by every parent, more than what is done,
and because the whole cannot be satisfactorily
performed, is no reason for relinquishing
all attempts for the performance of duty.

While treating of this part of the subject, it
may not be amiss to refer to some of those
habits forced as it were upon children, and
which they would not have acquired, with-
out the unfriendly aid of those to whose care
they had been entrusted. Frightening chil-
dren into obedience, or without even that
pretext, by stories of ghosts and other super-
natural appearances, may serve as an exam-
ple. Such a practice cannot be too severely
condemned; and I had almost said, the per-
petrators could not be too severely punished.—
The effects are often lamentable in the ex-
treme, and are too well known to be here re-
peated.

Deceiving children is another practice, per-
haps more general, and of which the effects
are equally injurious, but in a different way.
They do not derange the constitution, nor af-
fect the mind with timidity, want of energy,
or imbecility,—but they are developed in the
incurable malady of a depraved character.—
Verbal deception gradually destroys a child's
regard for truth. He finds he looks for in-
struction, to differ, and his strong imitative
powers overcome judgement, and he diligent-
ly copies the example. No matter how trifling
the deception which has been practised,
may be, it still has some effect; and where it
is known how susceptible the young mind is
to acquire and retain impressions, particularly
bad ones, it surely can require but little
persuasion to convince every parent who will
consider the matter, of the vital importance of
speaking on all occasions, in our intercourse
with children, the plain unvarnished truth.—
I do not mean to say that it is justifiable to
speak untruth on any occasion, but it is cer-
tainly more reprehensible, where it betrays
youth into a vice from which perhaps they
can never escape. It is for want of consider-
ation that many parents indulge in the prac-
tice of deceiving their children by telling
them what they call 'fibs', but which are pro-
perly falsehoods. This is done for pastime
and amusement, without apprehension of bad
consequences, and after the lapse of a few
years they wonder how their children come
to sustain the character of notorious liars, and
not unfrequently repine at the disappointment
of parental hopes, and the fragrant of filial
ingratitude.

Deceiving children by actions, or exhibit-
ing to them a line of conduct in which de-
cent to others may be detected, lays the founda-
tion for that duplicity of character which

produces so many sad effects in after life.—
Many a promising child has by the influ-
ence of example, and example too not remar-
kably culpable, acquired a germ that by little
fostering, has branched out into a deadly and
wide-spreading tree, whose withering and
baleful shade renders barren the soil that gave
it nourishment. The actions of the knave
and swindler may often be traced to a very
trifling origin, perhaps to some deception
practised upon them in early youth, or to wit-
nessing occasionally their parents or seniors
attempting to overreach in a matter of slight
importance, and which could scarcely be cal-
led a crime. Children are close observers at a
much earlier age than most people imagine
and lamentable experience teaches us their
aptitude to follow bad example. They can
reason too when it suits their inclination, long
before they understand the logical connexion
of premises and conclusion. Who is there,
that has not when a child frequently convic-
ted himself, that because his parents, or teacher,
or Minister has done an action not quite
justifiable, that he may do the same and even
a worse act with impunity. The mischief
that is taught to children, is readily practised,
and they too often 'better the instruction,'—
A slight error in the example makes a serious
defect in the copy. Hence the unceasing vigi-
lance which should be bestowed in moral
communicating and cherishing the first moral
principles, lest a 'root of bitterness' be im-
planted, that will spring up, and plentifully
bring forth, fruits of trouble and misery.

The instruction of the young requires so
much close attention, and correct deportment
on the part of the instructor, that it is too often
considered an irksome, rather than a pleasant,
task. But what really valuable object do we
gain without labour? and what labour is more
productive than proper education? What
seed time well employed, promises so rich a
harvest? Besides it is want of practice and
familiarity that makes the duty so arduous.
Cold and unfeeling must that parent's heart
be, who could grudge the employment of a
small portion of his time to promote the best
interests of those who are dearest to him, and
who have the best claim upon his sympathies
and his exertions. It surely is for want of
consideration that more time is not devoted
to what is the most important business of life,
and what ought to be a delightful employment.
So much time too is squandered upon objects
of little or no consequence, or in the pursuit
of what is falsely called pleasure. None can
plead want of ability to instruct, as far as
this letter is concerned. The first principles
of moral rectitude, are too simple to require
in their enforcement much talent, ingenuity,
or literary information; and if some parents
are unqualified to communicate the ordinary
branches of knowledge to their children, it
should serve as a stimulus to renewed exertions,
that the lamentable defect may, with the
present generation at least, be entirely re-
moved.

Yours &c.

St. Andrews, Sept. 16th.

DISCIPLUS.

THE YEOMAN'S REVENGE.

The events of the following story occurred
in England, about 50 years ago, the principal
person concerned being well known to the
writer. The established rule of fiction,
when an ignoble love is brought on the stage
in conjunction with a high born mistress, is
to compensate for his superiority of rank by
an inverse ratio of superiority in all the
nobility of nature. If this rule is not strictly
adhered to in this instance, it is not our
fault, but that of the fact.

The sweetest creature of all Cheshire was
young Alice B—, the pride of one of the
proudest old families, and the delight of one
of its happiest and most splendid homes. It
was one of those families, of very ancient &
pure descent, and vast landed wealth, in
which though not within the highest ranks of
the latter. Her father, Sir Wilmot B—,
was a mighty hunter before the Lord—a re-
gular, glorious old fox chasing squire of the
most thorough breed, such as there are but
few to be found, lingering like the last roses
at the present day. With the finest pack in
the country, the places of the numerous re-
tainers in his hunting establishment were no
sinecures; and I rarely passed that the Hall
did not ring from foundation to roof tree with
the loud and long revelry that wound up the
sports and fatigues of a hard days hunt.

Next to the chase, his second passion was
his beautiful and lovely child. He could ne-
ver tolerate her absence, from his side or
sight for many hours at a time; so that from
her earliest years he had so trained her up to
a participation with him in the sports of the
field, that there were few better shots or bol-
der riders in all the country round than the
fair young girl, who, under all other circum-
stances, was everything that was deli-
cate, feminine, and refined, in womanly sweet-
ness and loveliness. See had never breathed
any other atmosphere than one of idleness and
happiness. The early death of her mother
had been the only grief she had known. She
had an independence of character and of
habits amounting sometimes to a wild wilful-
ness, which was almost her sole imaginabile
fault and to a proud contempt for the opinion

of the world, which was the most threaten-
ing danger that seemed to await her in life.
Romantic, generous to a weakness, with a
deep and impetuous tide of affections, not
only was there no sacrifice of which she was
incapable in obedience to the impulses of any
noble passion, but she would be rather like-
ly to find a pleasure in such a sacrifice pro-
portioned to its magnitude, and to the high
disinterestedness of her own efforts in making
it.

She had a brother about two years older
than herself who was at Cambridge—a young
man of a less high and noble natural mould
than Alice—proud and passionate, yet with-
al affectionate and not ungenerous, though
possessed of a morbid jealousy of his family
dignity, as also of his sister's charms and
claims to the most splendid rank and distinc-
tion in society, whenever she should conde-
scend to bestow the priceless treasure of her
heart upon any of the applicants who had
thronged to aspire to her hand. A very re-
spectable old maiden aunt, the baronet's only
sister, as stiff as buckram in a straight-lacing
of etiquette and propriety, though kind heart-
ed and simple, completed the family at the
Hall.

But there was another person whose intima-
cy made him almost an inmate there,
though occupying a peculiar and somewhat
equivocal relation to the family. It was a
young farmer, whose property very consider-
able in extent, and held in his family for
many generations, adjoined the B—estates,
the successive owners of which had frequen-
tly in vain attempted to purchase the former,
but had always met with a peremptory refusal.

The Fletcher farm happened to occupy a
situation in which it seemed a very inconve-
nient intrusion on the completeness and sym-
metry of the lands surrounding the Hall.
Whether from this cause, or from any other,
a certain ill feeling seemed to have subsisted
for two or three generations between the
great people of the Hall and the yeoman; the
latter themselves at the head of their own
class in the country round, were probably not
less proud than the former—towards whom,
from the immeasurably social distance that
separated them, they looked up with a kind
curious though hopeless jealousy, which was
almost a family hostility, angry and even bit-
ter, though smothered and without ostensi-
ble excuse. There had been several displays
of ill-will between them, on some of the
various occasions created by the relations of
such close neighborhood; and the superiority
with which the pride and power of the
B—s had borne down the haughty and
weaker party in such collisions, together
with the contempt with which the dogged
independence set up by them was treated had
rankled down deep on the side of the latter.

This had been especially the case with
the father of the young Edward Fletcher
above alluded to, now the present owner;
and almost from his infancy the latent germs
of this malignant poison of hereditary bad
feeling had been planted among his earliest
associates and impressions.

However, no trace of their existence was
apparent to any eye, nor indeed to the con-
sciousness of the young man himself, at the
period here referred to. On the contrary,
notwithstanding the wide disparity of birth
and social position, circumstances had brought
him into a close intimacy at the Hall, which
seemed to have obliterated even all recollec-
tion of the old feud, if so it may be called,
of former years. About eight years before,
he had happened, at great peril to his own,
to save the life of the young heir of B—,
while swimming, by an extraordinary effort
of courage, strength and self-possession, hav-
ing plunged into the water with all the en-
cumbrance of his clothes. He was then less
than fourteen years old, being about a year
the senior of the boy he so gladly rescued.
The feat was witnessed by Sir Wilmot
himself, as also by the little Alice, who al-
ready, child as she was, was the frequent com-
panion of the latter in his rides, herself mount-
ing on a little pony specially trained for so
gentle a service. The bold young farmer's
son, his own brave and handsome face glow-
ing with the excitement of the moment, and
his stout frame easily supporting his slight
and now insensible burthen, had borne the
boy he saved in his arms, the palid face of the
latter drooping upon his own ruddy cheek,
till he delivered him into those of the distract-
ed father himself,—from whom, as also from
the beautiful girl who shared all the intensity,
first of despair, and then of rapture, that mar-
ked the moment, he received such demon-
strations of gratitude as would well have
trampled and repaid—so felt the delighted boy
—a hundred fold greater efforts and dan-
gers.

The consequence of this was that Edward
Fletcher became the constant companion and
playmate of George and his sister; he was
admitted to share their education, under the
guidance of an excellent tutor and masters
at the Hall; while from his boldness and
dexterity in all the sports to which the title
of the old baronet was chiefly devoted, he be-
came the peculiar pet and attendant of the
latter, a special ad-de-camp, as it were—
a service which the youth discharged with the

less unwillingness because, in addition to the
charms of the various sports themselves, it
threw him more constantly than any other
opportunities could have done, into the soci-
ety of Alice, who was growing up through
this period a perfect star of brightness. His
own parents having been dead many years,
he had no restriction at home upon the
course of his living to which he tacitly ran,
of almost habit at the Hall. Everything
went on smoothly and happily. In the easy
and affectionate familiarity of the relations
in which he lived with the family of which
he seemed all but a member, his own natural
pride and imperiousness of temper found
nothing to chafe or cross its grain. When
George went to college he did not accompany
him. Sir Wilmot never dreamed of such an
idea; and though for George, a gentleman,
and the heir of B—, and its baronetcy,
it was proper, as a matter of course, he would
as soon have imagined the propriety of sending a
colt of one of Edward's own plough horses to
Cambridge, as their young owner and destina-
tion driver. Besides 'Ned' was to himself an
absolute dispensable—especially in George's
absence—and so, nothing loth to remain in
his present relation to the one inmate of the
Hall who had long been all in all to his secret
heart, Edward remained behind; though the
proud ambition which was the second—per-
haps the first—passion in his nature, made
him a hard student at home, with the benefit
of the library of the Hall, in all the intervals
of time he could command, from the constant
round of the sports which were there the
chief employment of life.

It was, perhaps, a singular infatuation, but
such was the fact, that no thought of alarm
for the possible consequences of so close and
constant an intercourse between so hand-
some and gallant a youth and a maiden so
lovely in herself, and so ardent and generous
in her own affections, ever for a moment
seemed to cross the mind of either. Sir Wil-
mot or his sister, the presiding personage of
the Hall, so far as regarded the department
of female concerns and control. They would
as readily have imagined a similar inter-
course between Alice and the 'Man in the Moon,' as
conceived the idea that the young yeoman
who was made a quasi gentleman only by the
kind patronage of B—Hall, and who was
nowhere else known or recognized as any-
thing more than his father and grandfather
had been before him, would ever think
of raising so bold an eye as to aspire to such a
star still less that the star could ever cast
down on such an aspiration any other look
than a twinkling of contempt.

However, they did not think of either bold-
ness or contempt in the matter—they did not
think about it at all, any more than they
would concern themselves with speculations
on the possibility of that long prophesied
falling of the skies, at which as it well knew
so many larks are to be caught. What
would have been the rage of the old Baronet
—what the dismay of prim and stately Aunt
Edithy!—had they known that their Alice
loved the presumptuous peasant with all the
fervor of her tender and generous nature—
that she was to him the object of a passion
in which was concentrated all the fiery force
of his high-toned and energetic character—
may more, that far nearly a year from the
time to which this narrative refers, they had
been self-betrothed to each other, with all
the solemnity that vows can add to the sacred
meeting and mingle of hearts. But so it was.
How it had come to pass, I cannot afford the
time to tell,—nor would it much matter if I
could.

On the evening, after a morning of a most
glorious run, in which Edward Fletcher had
met with his frequent fortune of carrying off
the brush, while Sir Wilmot had returned
home with one of the fox's paws in his cap,
as a trophy and proof that he had got in at
the death, the former made his escape, at an
earlier hour than was often permitted, from
the table at which the Baronet dispensed a
flowing and rather uproarious hospitality to
the hunt of the day. The company breaking
up and dispersing about a couple of hours at-
terward, Sir Wilmot himself followed him to
Alice's parlor with a step steady enough, it is
true, for all practical purposes, but with the
habitual hale and hearty ruddiness of his
complexion flushed to a more than ordinary
hue, and his faculties not quite so clear and
distinct in their intelligence as they had
been before breakfast, as they probably would
be again to-morrow morning. As he ap-
proached the door he paused a moment to
listen to the beautiful effect of the mingling
of the two voices of Alice and young Fletch-
er, in one of the fine English duets they of-
ten sang together.

(To be Continued.)

The faith of the christian is strengthened
by his happiness, and his happiness by his faith,
he believes in God because he is happy, and
he is happy because he believes in God.

WHAT'S IN A NAME.—Call & Sells, is the
firm of tailors in the interior of Pennsylvania.
We knew a firm, that resided in the designa-
tion of Moon & Goss. They printed a paper
till Moon changed his politics, and then Goss
went off.