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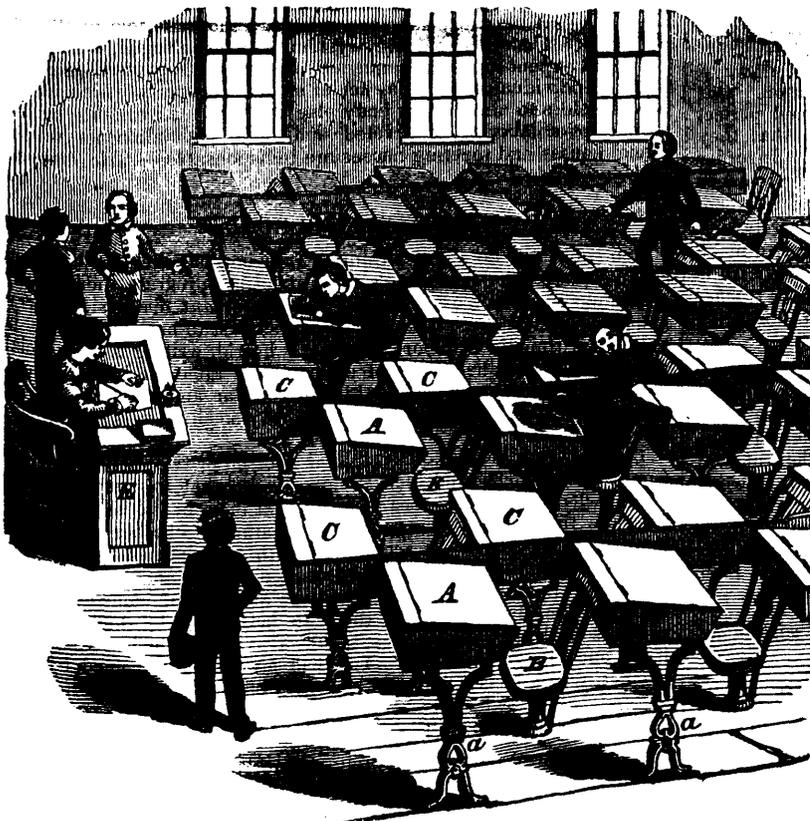
OUR SUMMER SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Ere this number of the *Journal* reaches our readers, the summer schools, in more than three thousand sections, will have commenced, and thousands of children may be seen daily wending their way over hill-sides and through valley towards

the section school-house. How often will the traveller see a happy group of little ones, with well-filled basket or pail, on the way to school! In itself it is a delightful sight; and if all our schools were what they should be, all the associations connected with the sight would be pleasant indeed. But we are sorry to say, that many a mother's entire in-position in which, perhaps, they are obliged to ~~leave~~ *leave* will ~~not~~ *not* lead to the packing of the dinner basket, and in getting the children off,—“out of the way. If they assert with earnestness “how glad they are that school has commenced,” too often the source of such gladness flows from the feeling that for the day their homes may be rendered a little more quiet,—their cares a little less numerous.

They will not, even in imagination, follow the dear ones to the school, and witness the repulsive appearance of the room in which they meet, or to behold the painful and health-destroying position in which, perhaps, they are obliged to sit for many hours daily. No; sad as the thought is, it is true, that but few parents will really know how much their children will suffer from the inconvenient and uncomfortable condition of the rooms in which they attend school. If they could only realize this, in its true sense, how soon would hundreds of the old school-houses find their proper level,—“in dust and ashes!”

But it is not our intention to address parents. We wish to have a few familiar words with the teachers. For them, as a class, we have a high regard: in many of them we feel a personal, friendly interest. We will confine our talk to the novices—those who are teaching their *first* school. You, dear friends, have passed the



INTERIOR SEATING OF A SCHOOL-HOUSE.—(SEE PAGE 72.)

Explanation:—A. A. First rows of desks; B. B. Corresponding seats; C. C. Second rows of desks; D. D. Separate partitions; E. Teacher's desk; a. a. Cast-iron desk standards.