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WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 1883.

THE CHINESE AGAIN.

We hear about the Chinese again, this time from the Edinburgh Scotsman, which describes them as the great multiplying, and spreading and colonizing race of the east. Until comparatively recent times, says the Scotsman, China was a world within a world. It was as nearly as possible self-contained, its Buddhistic religion being the only thing it is known to have borrowed from abroad. The Chinese knew almost as little about, and cared about as little to visit, the outer world as they would had it been a different planet. This is totally changed now. From the chief ports along the Chinese coast a constant stream of emigration flows, and has flowed for many years, with the result that next to ourselves they are now the greatest colonists in the world. And here are some figures to show how the Chinese are spreading themselves.

The climate of Farther India, Siam, Malaya, and the vast chain of islands, great and small, extending from Sumatra to Australia, suits the Chinaman admirably, and these are being gradually peopled by this oblique-eyed Mongolian race. Rangoon, in British Burmah, contains 10,000 of them; Singapore, the great commercial capital of Malaya, has 8000 out of a total population of 95,000. Java has 10,000; while the Straits Settlements, according to a recent traveler, "are now virtually Chinese colonies under the British flag." They are not merely numerous in the Malay archipelago, they are also influential, the commerce of those regions being almost entirely in their hands. In Australia they have obtained a footing, and can make fortunes at the gold diggings by working over again the refuse heaps of the European digger. That they are no mean competitors in the industrial race is seen in the restrictions put upon their entrance into the Australian colonies. They have made their way to all the chief groups of islands in the Pacific ocean, and have now become an influential element in the population of the Sandwich islands, where they are fast superseding the indolent natives. They have crossed to the New World, and are gradually spreading eastward from California and the Pacific slope.

From strikes and other evidences it is plainly to be seen that the great problem with ourselves is—how to employ all our people in something like reasonable, human comfort. Now, is the problem going to be made easier by allowing the Chinese to swarm in upon us by thousands and hundreds of thousands, to divide with our own people what employment the country affords? The reply must be—certainly not. All the employment there is in the country, from the highest to the lowest, is wanted for our own people—those of our own race, that is. Positively we cannot afford to share it with the Chinese. Let them try some far distant isles of the Pacific ocean, if they like, but they must keep away from Canada. All the room and all the employment there is here we need for ourselves. The above statement of facts as to how the Chinese are spreading over the earth, from a good authority, should arouse people here to take action in time against the plague that is coming. The Scotsman thus brings in an important quotation in its conclusion: "It is a great colonizing power that China has a very special interest for this country, the reason being, as was recently stated by Sir Rutherford Alcock, that taking their numbers and our own, it did not require to carry one's views very far into futurity to see that there would be eventually two races which would occupy the greater part of the world—one was the English speaking race, which had already filled North America and stretched into the Australian continent and the surrounding islands, and would very soon count up to 200,000,000, and the other was the 400,000,000 of Chinese.'"

To show that we have not attached too much importance to the English aspect of "assisted emigration," take the following from the Globe's London correspondence. He must be a poor reader of the signs of the times who cannot see that landlords and ratepayers are about to unite in a gigantic effort to shift the burdens of pauperism from the old country to Canada. The confidence men are coming down upon us and in great force, too:

The state-aided emigration agitation is growing in strength each week. It is being written about and talked about by philanthropists and politicians, and many of the leaders of the working classes are taking the subject up with interest. We are promised a big meeting on the subject to-morrow, which one of the promoters of the movement informs me ought to be followed by important and perhaps decisive consequences. But I am very sceptical myself as to the rapid solution of one of the most difficult problems that has ever been forced upon the attention of an English government. The Times on Monday had a very cautious article on the question. Serious difficulties, it pointed out, encompass the enterprise. Supposing 50,000 lettings were settled in the dominion with the aid of the government, a considerable number might be expected to turn out ineligible or discontented. But should the undertaking succeeds, no success, the Times thinks, could be more gratifying or remunerative. The profit to the dominion would be magnificent There is, however, a very important "but" in the matter, and it will take a good deal to convince most people that east end artisans long out of employment are likely to prove capable agriculturists, even were they assisted to settle as peasant proprietors on lands conceded by the Canadian government.

The new United States postal notes, which are to be used after Sept. 2 in transmission of small sums of money through the mails, are being sent out to the postoffices of the Union this week. They are printed in books, each book containing 500 notes, and perforated so that when notes are torn out the stubs remain to show the amounts for which they were issued. A note can be filled up by a postmaster for any amount not exceeding $5, at a cost to the sender of three cents to each note. The new notes, it is apparent, will prove one of the greatest postal conveniences ever devised.

Montreal is now beginning to reap the benefit of the glaring neglect that her citizens and press have paid to municipal matters. The slowness of Montreal's journals is in a great measure responsible for the jobbery that has been carried on in the civic departments for years. The road department, which for a very long time has been controlled by Ald. Laurent, seems to be in the worst state of all. The Montreal Post of Monday prints one of the most sensible articles we have yet seen on the situation. It is to be hoped that Toronto will profit by the lesson, and that her citizens will ever keep a watchful eye on the manipulation by the council of the city's funds.

The Canadian Pacific is building its own telegraph line in the Northwest, but wants American connections. The Great Northwestern, which is the Canadian name for Gould and Wiman, says that it holds the key, and only through it can American connections be obtained. A good deal of public interest attaches to the issue of this contention.

Uncle Sam's business agents in the treasury department allege that the old man is being systematically robbed by fellows who sell the cheapest kinds of whisky at enormous prices, under the names of "bitters," in various ways of dodge and disguise. The question determining between "bitters" on one hand and common "forty-rod" on the other, is a practical one with the officials just now.

It was announced recently from Pittsburg, that a syndicate composed of prominent Pittsburg and New York capitalists, including W. K. Vanderbilt, had been formed for the purpose of obtaining control of the coke productions of the Connellsville region. The object, it was said, was to establish an arbitrary selling rate for coke, and also to divert the business of the region to the Vanderbilt lines. Options on a large quantity of valuable coke property had been already secured, it was added. Later reports of railway movements by the Vanderbilt clique go to confirm this. If the coke ovens go the coke-using furnaces will go next, and after a while the railway men will own all. The question as to the subjection of merchants and manufacturers to the railway power is rapidly coming towards the front.

Mr. Mulvaney's new work, the History of Liberalism in Canada, has been purchased at a good round price and will be published by C. Blackett Robinson about December. It will be a book of between five and six hundred pages.

GAGE'S "CANADIAN READERS."

BY J. E. COLLINS.

Reading the bald praises of the above series of readers, advertised by and over the name of Mr. Gage, we have been led to make a close examination of the books to see if they be what some rival book houses have declared them to be, or if they be all that their publisher assert. The World has already described them as unworthy of a first-class publishing house, and far below the requirements of our schools in grading, selection, preparation and typographical execution; but as these were merely assertions, open to anyone to make of even books of the highest merit, we shall ask the reader to accompany us on an excursion through the series, and we promise to give him fun enough to repay him for his time. We shall first take a glance at "The Second Reader." The opening lesson is "Birds," and it contains the word "very" only eight times, though there are nearly three or four times as many words as that in the chapter. Proceeding on the very natural assumption that the little child is more familiar with the rate of a railway train's speed than that of a bird, the baby is told that some birds "can fly faster than a railway train can run." In little country villages, for example, birds are not known, while "railway trains" are numerous. Hence the aptness and value of the comparison. Then the infant is told that the parrot has "splendid *bright* colors." Now apart from the ornithological discovery here published to the world, one is struck with the elegance of "splendid and bright," since splendid comes from from splendeo, to shine. The truth is some thief has passed off on either Mr. Gage or the author of "Book II" some worthless southern bird for a parrot. Then at the end of this extraordinary lesson the following question is put to the child: "What kind of songs have birds with bright plumage?" although the information sought has not been vouchsafed in the lesson. The baby, of course, is supposed to know from intuition. The next lesson is "The Cow." Now although we have seen cows all our lives, still were we in complete ignorance of their profundity and philosophical ways till we got Gage's reader, "Book II." This is what Mr. Gage's cow does: "She quietly crops the sweet grass until she *thinks* she has had enough; and then she lies down on the grass, and *chews it over again*." All of which being stated more plainly means that a cow thinks, has mind, in short an immortal spirit; and that she crops a large quantity of sweet grass till she thinks she has had enough, then makes a pile of the grass she has cropped, or dentically mowed, then lies down on this "grass and chews it over again." Then how marvellously simple, and easy of grasp to the little child is not the next sentence: "Her breath is always as sweet as the breath of violets." The little boy, or the little girl, is driven to one of the following conclusions: that Violet is either the name of a little girl or a big girl, or of some animal with a sweet breath; or that a violet, to wit, a flower, breathes, and has a sweet breath—the latter view being precisely the one that Gage's readers wish to convey. Then comes an essay on "Food." First the little child, whom there seems to be a deliberate intention on the part of Mr. Gage to gull, is told how butter is made.

"The cream we skim and *shake* in churns,
And then it soon to butter turns,"

though the little fellow knows much better, as he has seen his mother making butter and observes she does not do it on the Gage plan. A little bit further down in the same lesson another cruel attempt is made to hoax the unsuspecting little one, when Mr. Gage or his executor announces that "Potatoes are the underground branches of a plant." In like manner we suppose apples are the overground roots of a tree. This will do to put in the edition now in hospital. Then the guileless little class is told without further explanation that "Sugar is the *juice* of a tall thick cane which grows in the West Indies." The statement will revolutionize the juvenile idea of juice. Then at the close of "Bose and Sam," page 21, "jumped" is printed as a dissyllable, while again is accented as follows, a-gain. But in nothing is the book so original as in the small-talk department; as witness this: "It is very *nice* to see a squirrel eating a nut." If, however, in the edition now passing through the hospital, Mr. Gage will employ the services of a nursery girl, to supply the small talk, the books will be a credit to his house. Another feature about all the Gage books is the absolute fertility in every department; fertility in modes of spelling, of pronunciation and of interpretation. Here for example: "He (the squirrel) lays up stores of nuts and acorns in all kinds of nooks, and holes and corners, and these he never forgets." The learner here is at liberty to construe the passage into meaning that the squirrel never forgets the "nooks, and holes and corners" where he has bid his nuts and acorns, or that he "never forgets" the "nuts and acorns." We dont know which is meant; does our reader? On page 40 of "Reader II." there is a valuable contribution given to natural history; for there the announcement is made that bats and butterflies are birds. Here is the passage: Mr. Gage and the editor are discanting on "kites." "Chinese kites are of very odd shapes; they are made like big *bats, butterflies*, owls, hawks *and other birds*." This, however, is of most concern to the sportsman, who needn't go to Muskoka any more, but may take his gun anywhere outside of the city and go shooting butterflies, as there are millions of them. To cap the climax of this lesson, it winds up with the stunning question, "Where is China," though the poor little children have not been told where it is. On page 44 Canada is pronounced Ca-na-da with the accent on the Ca. On the same page the ante and post-mortuary condition of bees is thus exemplified: "Bees often die in winter and to keep them alive the bee-keeper feeds them with melted sugar." That is to say, after the bees are dead "the bee-keeper feeds them with melted sugar" "to keep them alive." On page 48 there is a story about "The mother bear and her two cubs," and the scene is laid "in a far-off northern *land*," which said land afterwards turns out to have been a "sea covered with ice." And take this for the perfection of English; "But though the sea [that is, this "far-off northern land,"] was covered with ice, this white bear often found holes in it." That is to say, often found holes in the sea. What an interesting looking sea that must be! On page 50 we are told of some men who saw a she bear in the "quiet light." Up north probably the light is boisterous sometimes. The following illustrates what becomes a matter of taste sometimes; "The two little cubs were playing with each other in the prettiest way knocking each other down," etc. If somebody went and knocked down Mr. Gage and his north-sea editor for making such books would they consider the mode of punishment the "prettiest"? It makes all the difference whose ox is gored. Under the heading "Dogs," we are told that the "sheep-dog or collie *looks after* the sheep." Since guards was too near the mark, superintends was a word still better than "looks after." Suppose the physician puts superintends into the convalescent edition? On page 59 Newfoundland is pronounced with the accent on New. What the fifth wheel is to the coach in picturesqueness and efficiency, got is to many English sentences in which it is used. How beautifully Mr. Gage uses it in a query on page 79: "What has he *got* under his arm?" It only needs the addition of hadn't ought to and didn't used to to make the sentence perfect. On page 88 occurs a poem which the publisher himself may understand, though it is doubtful; and he is so proud of his little class that he sets it down for their edification. Fancy a little lisping child laying this to heart:

"I breathed a song in the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who hath sight so keen and strong
That it can follow the flight of song?"

And fancy the aptness of this for a guileless little child: it is on page 105:—

"Stay not for pleasure when she fills
Her tempting beaker up."

On page 126 occur two words at the head of the lesson, "bribed" and "warrior." "Now," said Mr. Gage and his editor when making this lesson, "it strikes us that there are in these two words the sum of four syllables; though where the syllables be is not so easy a question." At length they decided and here is how they did it. Two syllables in bribed—brib'-ed—and two syllables in warrior—war'-rior—so that no quarrel might arise between the two words. When some one told Mr. Gage that bribed had only one syllable, and that warrior has three, he flew into a rage and wouldn't believe him. On page 136 begins "Scripture Readings." How obvious to the little class must be the parable of "The Sower and the Seed," and how clearly they will be able to grasp Luke ix, 46-48! We do not object to the use of scripture extracts in the book, rather we highly approve of them, but no end is to be gained by befogging the child with parables, the application of which he does not and cannot understand. We have merely skimmed Reader II; and have pointed out perhaps its least defects.

Will our readers take with us a flying excursion through Reader III.? Before setting out we may say that so far as the grading of the book is concerned it is a sort of up hill and down dale, and is largely made up of the extraordinary doings of cats and dogs, donkeys, asses, lions, foxes, rabbits, horses, peacocks, ducks and hens. Lessons on all these we know are proper and highly adapted for children, but how disgusted will not the child become as he comes to look for the animal he meets in life to do the extraordinary things attributed to the same creature in the book. It is the mixing up of fable with fact about the strange doings of animals, that is pernicious; and that forms the chief feature in Reader III. In the lesson on "Tea, Coffee, Sugar," Mr. Gage evidently pressed into his service some editor that he caught in the barnyard; as witness these expressions: "The [tea] plants *are raised* from seed;" and on page 19, "The [coffee] plants *are raised* from seed and transplanted." On page 32 occurs this line of verse:—

"The frog has changed his yellow vest."

At the head of the lesson vest is defined to mean waistcoat; so that the child will mentally repeat:—

"The frog has changed his yellow waist-coat."

On page 45 a pompous, overbearing baron is described as a "domineering *rascal*." A very interesting lesson is that on "The Goat," page 65. Since a large portion of our people are frequently exposed to attack from goats, and since it is well that the best means of defence in such emergency should be known, we gladly reproduce Mr. Gage's method of self-protection. "If," says Mr. Gage, "attacked by a goat with his sharp-pointed horns, [that is to say provided he does not bring the blunt-pointed ones into requisition.—J. E. C.] the proper thing to do is to seize him by the beard, when he becomes at once as tame as a lamb, assumes a downcast air, and bleats in a very pitiful tone as if he were asking for mercy." Mr. Gage does not say what steps are necessary should the goat approach from behind, as he often does, and attack the victim unawares. Then we are told that after the goat is killed his skin "makes *capital* leather;" we are also told that a goat's milk "though rather peculiar in taste is very nourishing and is *good for sick people*" Goats are described as "*splendid* climbers," which means that they are brilliant climbers, since splendid comes from a word meaning to shine. "The goat," also Reader III. tells us, "is able to fortell bad weather." This is malicious and unfair beyond description towards our weather prophets. Couldn't Mr. Gage furnish a goat to the observatory? Then they might do away with the entire meteorological system, simply fastening the goat on the top of the building. On page 74 a teacher is represented as saying, as she draws a figure on the blackboard, "Take your slates and make me a *square like this*." That is to say the teacher wanted the children to make a square square, not a round, oval, or three-cornered square, as there are a number of such squares. On page 78 we are told of a lot of persons exposed to a hail of "shot and shells;" and on the same page the word repetition has the accent on the first syllable. 'Ducks and hens" is an admirable chapter. We can only call attention to the danger with which people are menaced by ducks. "They [the ducks] are," says the book, "not particular as to their food, but *swallow almost everything* that comes in their way." Fancy bolting a canoe, or a yacht, or the editor of Gage's readers. We are told later on, on page 84, that ducks feed "precisely in the way in which the whale feeds." The word 'capital' is used on nearly every page, such as "capital leather" 66, "capital swimmers" 82, "capital oars" 85, and "capital memory" 94. On 86 we are told that feathers are useful for "*stuffing* pillows;" and on the next page the word "wastes" is made clear by being defined as "waste places." On page 94 we are told that horses "are also able to think;" on 95 that they "rob orchards," and on 97 "downy" is clearly defined as meaning "covered with down." The syllabication of ruddy on the same page stands thus; rudd-y. On page 102 a feeling chord is touched in speaking of the donkey. In the following quotation a philanthropy is breathed forth as if there might be some personal feeling in the matter: "The fact is that we have never given the donkey a chance, that we have ill-treated it for so many hundreds of years, that we have made it much worse both in body and in temper than God had made it by nature." On page 127 the cry of the peacock is said to sound," like the united mewing of about a thousand cats;" while it is also set up as a weather-prophet, for "the bird is said to utter a harsh scream upon the approach of rain, so that it serves to some extent as a guide to the weather." On page 141 an attempt is made to introduce the subject of "love" to the children, as witness these lines:

"And the waves have spread the sandy bed
That holds my love from me."

Reader IV we have not time to do more than peep into. On the second page of the opening chapter the word prize occurs five times; on page 19 we are told that the beaver strikes the water with his tail to give notice of approaching danger, though he does nothing of the sort; while in the "questions" on page 21 it is asked, "How do they [the beavers] use their tails in building?" On page 40 we are told "*our* hands are really our fore *feet*," a statement which taken in connection with our quoted passages referring to the donkey on page 102 of Reader III is suggestive. On page 43 we are told that elephants are "greatly hunted" for their tusks, and on 45 we are told that "the tusks are *made* out of ivory." We suppose in those eastern countries they have tusk factories; and after making a tusk—out of ivory—he people catch elephants and put tusks into them. On page 84 in which there are several perfect letters, important is spelt with two n's. On 86 we find this statement: "A poor prisoner who was shut up in a fortress once succeeded in making a spider so tame that it would come to him whenever *he called* it." This is a fib as any boy who calls a spider, after a year's taming, will find out. On page 105 there are some letters left standing in Moore's "Canadian Boat-Song," but the greater number are dropped out. On page 107 there are some unbroken letters to be found of those which have not also dropped out. On 108 we are told; "Foxes would have been long ago completely exterminated in the more level parts of our country, had they not been strictly preserved." The more level parts. That is we suppose out on our prairies; but we did not know that they had a fox law over there. Now we would say that "our country" referred to England, only that Mr. Gage has labelled his books "Canadian readers." The publisher in many places through his books seems to have called the blacksmith into requisition in setting the types; and frequently too in arranging the syllabication. In the word apparatus on pag 141 the accent is put on par; while on the next page huge quads glare up like a carpenters bench in a drawing room. On page 164 there is here and there a perfect letter, but only a very few. On page 172 this couplet adorns an extract from Dr. Grant's book;

"Where's the crowd that would not dare
To fight for such a lady?"

On page 204 the blacksmith editor airs his Latin by announcing that *convinco* means, I conquer. In Browning's poem, pp. 211-214, a lot of trivial, easy words are explained, but nothing is said about the pronunciation of Ghent, or Duffeld. To capture "holy church" an unutterable chapter is given on "Niagara Falls" by Archbishop Lynch. An Irish bull of the highest type adorns the opening page: "Presently *sinking down* into the depths of his own nothingness, *he stands* absorbed and entranced," in "Aphorisms from Shakespeare" several quotations supposed to be lucid and terse are given. How enlightened a small boy or a little girl would feel by getting this off "by heart." "Time and the hour run through the roughest day." Commentators of Shakespeare have wrestled with this quotation for nearly 200 years; and it is not understood now. How suitable for an *enfant neif*. On page 254, superstructure is set out in black letters at the top, and has the accent on su. On page 274 we read, "In 1879 the Marquis of Lorne came to represent his royal mother-in-law." This statement is timely now, as the country had been under the impression that the marquis came here in 1878. On page 282 ignore gets a new quantity. Mr. Gage pronounces it with the accent on the first syllable. On page 284 Saskatchewan is introduced to the world without a "o." On 289 the monosyllable spare flourishes with an accent. On page 295 employed is introduced to the world without a y; and title is pronounced tit-tle. On page 299 the class of innocent children are furnished with several scandals about the separation of Byron's father and mother, and the domestic affair between Byron and his wife. That surely is eminently suitable for children. On 301 we are told that James Russell Lowell was born in 1809, and was appointed United States minister to England in 1880. He would be a robust minister in his seventy-first year. At page 317 we have a list of "words often mispronounced;" and we are told that the correct way to pronounce casualty is, kazk-u-al-ti; while on 320 the word zoology is pronounced zo olji. These original touches heighten the authority of Gages "Book IV" as a pronouncing guide.

"Reader V" is in many respects fearfully and wonderfully made. In the preface of this interesting book we are told that "Selections from noted Canadians have been continued." That is to say that certain Canadians chosen from among noted Canadians may have been continued—how is the rub—in the readers; or that selections of scalps, bones or clothing may have been made and continued in the book. On page 27 we are told to "Look at our chalk cliffs." Sure enough Now joking aside, if Mr. Gage has discovered any chalk cliffs about Canada it is not fair that he should keep the secret of their whereabouts locked away in himself. Of course, neither, in this case, can he refer to England, for No. V is labelled "Canadian." On page 31 were are told that one of the pyramids "covered as much ground as Lincoln's Inn Fields," a perfectly intelligible statement, inasmuch as there is not a Canadian boy, in Muskoka or elsewhere, who has not seen "Lincoln's Inn Fields." On 33 a lesson on the "White ship" contains this beautiful and classical sentence, "He [William] had to go to Normandy on business." On page 40 occurs a statement, marvellous at once for its clearness and its accuracy. It is this: "Pistoles: Spanish gold coins of the value of 17s." That is to say that several of them may, in the aggregate, be worth 17s. This however is not what Mr. Gage wishes to say; but rather that Pistoles are "Spanish gold coins of the value of 17s. *each*." As a matter of fact a pistole is not equal to 17s., but is just two cents short of 20s. Then from this out harbor is sometimes spelt with a u, sometimes without it; and the same variety is noticeable of color, favor, vapor, labor, honor and all words of this class; while in every case analyze is spelt according to Mr. Gage's plan with an s, as witness pages 38, 129, 134, 149, 155, 160, 166, 171, 179, and so on to the end of the book. On page 73 we are told that a columbine is a dove-colored plant, which shows that the range of columbines in the editor's pots is not very wide. On page 128 we are told something about costard apples: "These cost 1s. per 100 or about 12c. of our money." Here evidently Mr. Gage has pressed Mr. Rip Van Winkle into his service, as "our money" now is dollars and cents. Of course we ignore the supposition that "our money" means English money in a book intended for Canadian schools. Think of this for a sentence for a Canadian boy. It is on page 162: "We have no mountains which are five thousand feet high, and consequently there is no part of Britain which is covered with snow all the year round." At the foot of page 166 the word befall appears in italics with one l. Analyze is also misspelt on the same page. The truth is there is not in the whole series of books one perfect page. On page 183 the Canadian boy is thus lucidly informed of the middle-age state of Rome: "During the middle ages Rome * * sank to the size of a fifth-rate English town." It would never do to compare it to some Canadian city, for the boy then might understand it, which would be unpardonable. On 192 we are told that "since 1870 the seat of the capital has been removed to Rome." Now Florence was the seat or place of the capital; hence we are to understand that Florence was removed to Rome. How did they ever get it there? And when they got it there how did they stow it away? On page 242 there are only two misspelt words, colonize and colonized. On 256 Mr. Gage rashly says: "Exactness of statement is the high intellectual virtue of perfect temperance." Conversely we suppose that inaccuracy of statement is the high intellectual virtue of intemperance. Then with this alternative staring us in the face we turn to page 258 and read: "We spent £150,000,000 a year on alcoholic drinks." Mr. Gage must have contributed largely to the expenditure if he meant that "*we*" have spent that much; of course assuming to give a Canadian book to the schools he does not refer to England. On the next page we read: "Captain Webb swam across the English channel and *employed* no stimulants"—to row him, or tow him, or float him we suppose is meant! This whole chapter on temperance looks as if after being put in type it was shaken in a bag; and that then the impression was made. See this for a beautiful sentence: "What is not seen is much more, and is much more terrible," which may also be said of the remainder of the lesson. On page 278 fertilizing is put at the top, in large letters, and is misspelt. On pages 280 and 281 the same word is also misspelt. On page 287 civilizing is misspelt. On page 291 we are told: "The two most famous things in Egypt are the Nile and the Pyramids;" and it only requires Gage's readers to make the third. On page 292 civilizing is again misspelt. On 296 we are told that "fiction" is 'made-up story." That is an intelligent definition for readers who have been told the Origin of Rivers. On page 315 recognize is misspelt; and on page 334 recall is misspelt. The most interesting announcement in the book is made on page 343. Here it is: "Since *Bismarck* came into power, under the present emperor of Germany, * * *she* has been growing more and more compact." That is to say, Bismarck is a woman after all, and "she" is becoming "more compact." Surely Mr. Gage does not mean to insinuate that she laces, for that is now become vulgar. Further down on the same page we are told, "Now we have only to cross the little German ocean to be at home again—in England," revealing that after all it is about England Mr. Gage's reader has been talking all the time when he says "our country," and not about Canada. That is commendable and right. What do Canadian boys want to know about Canada? It is in England they are interested, for there their future is, and there they are to earn their bread. On page 348 Mr. Gage shows that variety is the spice of life; for the word harbor occurs four times, and it is spelt twice with a u and twice without it. On page 350 a statement of unusual importance is made to wit, that New Westminster is "the capital of British Columbia." Now the British Columbians themselves as well as all of our geographies have been under the absurd impression that New Westminster is not the capital, so that Mr. Gage's statement is timely and necessary to set them right. On page 373 we are told this: "Under the Manitoba act two sections * * *has* been set apart for the purposes of education," from which we see that the verb agrees with its nominative only—sometimes. With all these excellences and hundreds of others which we have not the space to mention, it is not to be wondered at that "Gage's Readers" met with the approbation of the Central committee. It is to be hoped that the chosing of school books and all other important educational affairs may never be taken out of the hands of a body so honest and so capable.

Since writing the above a copy of Gage's Primer I and II has come into our hands. The first part is called the *first* primer, that is to say, the first first, since primer comes from *primartus*, meaning the first. This, however, is of little consequence. That with which we are most concerned is the phonetic perfection of this paragon of a book. In the preface, this wicked little book says: "Only one power of single letters is used" from page 7 to 19 inclusive." Yet on page 12 we find the word "what," in which the a is supposed to have the same power as in cat, ear, and hat Perhaps that is the Gage way of pronouncing what—giving it the ditch-water sound. Then on page 18 we find another word with the same power of a in it as a in cat, to wit, the word "path." Mr. Gage perhaps prefers this bog-wash sound, though none of the dictionary makers do or any one who speaks English correctly. On page 18 occurs another word, the a of which Mr. Gage assures us has the same power as the a in cat, to wit, the word "after." Now Worcester and all correct pronuncers of English give this after "a" the intermediate sound; but Mr. Gage is bent on the dish-water sound. What a paragon of phonetic excellence this little primer of fibs is! The whole book is made in a dull, soggy, flat way, as will be at once apparent when we say that there is only one interrogatory in the whole book, and that is on page 29. The interrogatory would make the book too lively and child-talk like, and natural; hence it is discarded for "sterner stuff." On page 12 the word "Oh" appears, the o, Mr Gage telling us, having the same power as in fox, ox, etc. On page 17 occurs the word "to," in which, Mr. Gage also declares, the o has the same power as in ox.

Primer II is also fully up to the standard of the Gage perfection. In the preface we are told about "the *sense* attached to each picture." Now, there are only five senses, and which of these has Mr. Gage attached to each picture? Is it smell, or sight, or hearing, or taste, or touch? The public ought to know. On page 21 Mr. Gage has a new way of syllabling "father." This is how he does it: father, and it occurs twice on the same page. Elsewhere in the book (30 e. g.) it is father. The children are to toss up for which method they are to adopt, we suppose. On page 25 money is syllabled in this original and intelligent fashion: mo-ney. And here, pp. 45, 46, is English for you, "He went in quickly and found his darling baby very sick. He ran for the doctor, and he said she had a fever." Who said it? The father or the doctor? On 52, sea-shore is hyphened with a dash and looks very beautiful. On page 63 Alice appears, in one place, as a monosyllable, and in another place as a dissyllable. We ought not to close, perhaps, without saying that nonsense should not be taught even to the smallest child. On page 12 primer I., we are told, "The sun sees my boy." There is enough to say without filling the child up with such absurd stuff as this. If there was any penalty attached to the leading astray of babes and children, we might have better books from Gage & Co.

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Cobourg Local	4.00 p.m.	8.00 a.m
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Chicago Day Express	12.15 p.m.	6.20 p.m
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	Leave.	Arrive.
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Station—Union depot.

LEAVE	St. Louis Express. To the North, West, Southwest, South and Northwest	7.10 a.m
	Orangeville Express	7.00 p.m
	Picton Express. To West, South, Northwest, West and Southwest	11.00 p.m
	Express. To the West and North	4.50 p.m
	Through cars, Toronto to Detroit, on 11.30 p.m.	
ARRIVE	From Orangeville, Elora and Fergus	9.20 a.m
	And Express from Orangeville	10.20 a.m
	From St. Louis, Toledo, Chicago and Detroit	10.15 a.m
	From St. Louis, Toledo, Chicago and Detroit	3.45 p.m
	From Orangeville, Elora and Fergus	6.35 p.m

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	Leave.	Arrive.
New York Mail	8.35 p.m.	4.05 p.m
N. Y. (Central) & Erie Express	8.55 a.m.	12.30 p.m
London, Local & Detroit Express	7.15 a.m.	11.10 p.m.
Susp. Bridge & Detroit Express	6.10 p.m.	10.15 a.m.
Detroit & Chicago Express	12.30 p.m.	10.20 p.m
New York & Chicago Express	11.30 p.m.	7.45 a.m.
Mixed from Hamilton		3.10 p.m.
Hamilton Sunday Train	1.00p.m.	4.25 p.m.

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MIDLAND.

Station, Union Depot.

	Leave.	Arrive.
Through Mail	7.00a.m.	9.15 p.m
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STAGES

ESLINGTON STAGE.

Leaves Bay Horse hotel, Yonge street, 11.10 a.m .50 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6.20 p.m.

Arrives 8.45, 9.55 a.m., 2.30 and 6 p.m

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Leaves Bay Horse hotel, Yonge street, 3.30 m.

Arrives 10.30 a.m.

Mail stage leaves Clyde hotel, King street east 3.30 p.m.

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Leaves Bay Horse hotel, Yonge street, p.m.

Arrives 11 a.m.

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