

THE EDUCATIONALIST

Is published semi-monthly, by H. SPENCER, at the Printing Office, Main Street, Brighton.

TERMS:—FIFTY CENTS per annum, in advance. ONE DOLLAR at the expiration of three months.

COMMUNICATIONS of every kind, in any way connected with the Journal, to be addressed as shown in the form under these lines.

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Educationalist Office,

Brighton, C. W.

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OCTOBER 16, 1861.

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS.

Some of the readers of the EDUCATIONALIST are frequently making complaints to us that their Postmasters are charging them postage on the EDUCATIONALIST, which the Post Office Law forbids. This is a matter of injustice to us as well as to our readers, as we publish our paper as being free of postage, claiming the benefit of the Postmaster General's order, which was issued to the Postmasters in 1859. The Postmaster General has inspected our paper and has decided that it comes under the newspaper exemption law, which we trust will be sufficient authority. Those of our readers who are imposed upon by incompetent Postmasters will please point them to this note.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

September 28th, 1861.

Teachers' Convention met at Castleton, Dr. Gould in the Chair. Owing to the very severe state of the weather the members from a distance were prevented from attending; the number present was only about fifty.

Arithmetic was discussed by the Convention generally. Also the best method of securing the attention of a class under instruction, and of obtaining an early and regular attendance of the pupils at school,

in which Messrs. Scarlett, Gorman, McHale and Gillon expressed their views and illustrated their systems.

Writing was well illustrated by Messrs. Moore and Gorman with the merit of the different systems of teaching the angular and round hand styles.

Grammar, (Subject, *Stuffs*), led by Mr. Scarlett, excited considerable discussion, and was well maintained by Messrs. Gorman, McHale, Gillon, &c.

The Association will hold its next meeting at Warkworth, on Saturday, 14th of December, when the following gentlemen will lecture on the subjects annexed to their names.

1st. Grammar—Messrs. Bell and O'Sullivan. Subject—*Stuffs*, Lesson 21th, page 149, 4th Book.

2nd. Geography, Political and Physical—Messrs. McCoun and Gorman.

3rd. History—Messrs. John Massey, D. Perry and T. S. Gillon, (choice of subject.)

4th. Geometry—Mr. Scarlett.

5th. Essay by Dr. Gould on Perception.

Moved by T. S. Gillon, seconded by Mr. Gorman, that the thanks of this Association are hereby given to the inhabitants of Castleton for their liberal hospitality to the members during our visit to their handsome village.

Dr. Gould was then requested to publish in the *Educationalist* his admirable essay on "Mind and Matter."

T. S. GILLON,
Sec., pro tem.

MIND AND MATTER.

AN ESSAY READ BY DR. GOULD BEFORE THE TEACHERS' CONVENTION AT CASTLETON.

I intend, in the following brief essay, to make a few observations in regard to a medium that connects soul and body, commonly known as *spirit*.

That the organs of the senses communicate with the mind, through the mediation of certain mysterious filaments, or thread-like bodies, termed nerves, cannot be denied; but the manner in which this communication takes place—the process by which mind receives information from matter, and the subtle operations which enable matter to transfer impressions to mind, are points around which, as it appears to us, the great Author of our being has thrown an impenetrable veil.

It is true, that in consequence of certain discoveries relative to what the older writers termed "the nervous fluid," discoveries which almost go to prove that the "fluid" is of an electric or electro-

magnetic nature, a bold theory has been promulgated, namely, that these electromagnetic currents not only give an impress to the mind or soul, but are, in turn influenced by the agency of the immaterial principle, and that thus the communication between mind and matter is carried on; in fact that the link which unites body to mind is a mysterious agent which (Psycho or spirit) cannot be recognized as belonging to the material world.—

Where revelation leaves a subject untouched, it is, we humbly think, allowable to theorize from facts which science has laid open, but let us remember that however we may incline to a theory which seems consonant to science, a knowledge of the limitation of our intellectual powers should lead us to cultivate a spirit of humility and candor. It is something to approximate towards truth; let us, then, be content to leave much for a future revelation, which science on this earth can never unfold before us.

In considering the connection between the mind and the body, it is of the highest importance always to remember that the mind, or rather the being which thinks and wills, is the active agent. The body, with all its beautiful and wondrous adaptation, only supplies the means of perception and of acting. Nerve-matter is the evident medium and instrument of the being that perceives and acts through it. Late investigations in the physiology of man teach us that the body of man is composed of passive materials, that not one of its fifteen chemical elements possesses the least motive, formative power; that it is a form—a fashioned structure capable of receiving an influx of Life, and also an influx of Mind; that all the phenomena of life and mind that it possesses are to be referred to the forces that play upon it, through it, and in it, that it may be compared to the air as a form of matter that receives the light and heat of the sun; in like manner it receives the life and the mind of the soul; that the body is a machine; that it has points in it for the contact and influence of propelling forces. That all the parts of the machine are related to these points of influence; that as soon as these points of influence are destroyed, so soon does the body die; that the body is nothing but a recipient of life and mind.

It has also been established that the substantial man—the real man is not an arrangement of oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, sulphur, and phosphorus, but is the *soul* of man. This is the living part, the mental part, and the everlasting part; that the soul of man bears the relation of cause towards the body; that the life of the body is not from itself, but from the soul; that the soul is an immortal organization from substances a discrete degree higher than matter; that it has an interior principle, Life, which is linked backward to the Infinite, which pervades the soul, and which by mediums enters and vitalizes the body, and renders it mental; that the life of the soul is the force which organizes, preserves, vitalizes,