

A FALSE CRY.

"EDUCATED ABOVE THEIR STATION?"

A Wise Refutation of a Common Fallacy.—The Difference between True and False Education.

It seems strangely incongruous in this day of almost phenomenal intellectual activity to hear the complaint raised every now and then that our efforts to extend educational advantages to their farthest limit is doing harm, not to single individuals merely, but to a whole class—and that one of the largest.

of such expressions from the mouths of Catholic men and women. Yet those who suggest that less or perhaps no education would be a better thing for the daughters of the illiterate poor, deserve to be enlightened rather than condemned.

and unfortunately represents a state of things so common as to fill every thoughtful mind with anxiety. No wonder, then, that even among the learned and wise some have been tempted to depreciate any educational movement which seems to threaten an increase of serious a difficulty.

Both our objectors and the teachers whom they would call to account have failed to grasp the true meaning of the word education: for, in spite of much talking and writing to the contrary, forcing into growing minds a great conglomeration of facts, and, in the case of girls, in giving additionally an outward veneering of "elegant and useful accomplishments."

Some attainments they have, such as undigested facts in science; second, third, or fourth-hand opinions concerning the masters of English literature; more or less skill in putting in points and commas, and in sewing embroidery silks into velvet, and, crowning all, a great many rules in etiquette.

capable of doing active harm. But those people who talk about educating a poor girl above her station have not only, along with many others, misapplied the term education. They labor under still another misapprehension when they speak of a poor girl's "station."

tion is determined by the same laws as those which determine her brother's. Her station is upon that plane which she can reach and hold by her own abilities, and, consequently, it is hardly correct to say that a girl has any station at the age when she leaves school.

Her father's station is not necessarily hers, and she has yet to attain the one which, by right of ability and force of circumstances, will properly belong her. Now, if a girl's station depends upon her own abilities, native and acquired, and if true education means simply the full development of all her powers, how can there possibly be such a thing as educating a girl?

Her teachers will do well if they educate her up to her station. They can never hope to do more, and, unfortunately, as our schools go, they seldom do that much. But while our schools cannot, from the nature of things, commit the impossibility of educating a girl (be she poor or otherwise) above her station, some of them do unwittingly compass as full a measure of mischief as lies in their power.

in some of these numerous untraditional ways of which woman are daily catching surer glimpses. True, in spite of all this wise training, which is to make her a woman of cheerful action, of strong character, and firm religious convictions, our poor girl will still feel, as she feels now, an uncontrollable discontent, but it will be a faithful, not a paralyzing discontent—that sort of discontent which is peculiarly an American virtue, and which has inspired noble souls since the beginning of time.

It is that all of our educators were awake to these facts, as very many of them already are. It is time that they were seeking a remedy. Let not any Catholic stultify himself by such an absurd generalization as that education, in the true sense of the word, can be had for ANY HUMAN BEING.

Heaven never gave us our God-like powers to die in the bud. But let us frankly acknowledge the true state of the case, and let us all strive that the education our schools at present offer the daughters of our illiterate poor shall be suited to their needs, so that it may be truly called education, and not become a disturbing element in their lives rather than a promoter of either material or spiritual happiness.

will undoubtedly come at last. That it has not done so before in the case of some is to be regretted. We must not stubbornly shut our eyes to the truth and refuse to believe the plain facts before us. The blunders who have talked about educating poor girls above their station have undoubtedly been a very great mortification to those of us who take so much pride in calling ourselves progressive; but, nevertheless, like many other blunt people, they have done us good in, by trying to answer them, we have been led to seek the truth of the matter.

Let us, then, study to give our poor girls, and all our other girls as well, not less education but infinitely more; but let us endeavor to give them the true thing and not a base and useless substitute. B. N. TAYLOR, in Catholic World.

What's The Reason?

The cause of summer complaints, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera morbus, etc., are the excessive heat, eating green fruit, over exertion, impure water and sudden chill. Dr. Fowler's Wild Strawberry is an infallible and prompt cure for all bowel complaints from whatever cause.

As Usual.

Glasgow, July 15.—The Weekly Citizen says Andrew Carnegie has been inspecting the schools at Farnline, Roxbury and Hyregby, and it is believed, Mr. Carnegie intends to settle down as a Highland laird.

Mining News.

Mining experts note that cholera never attacks the bowels of the earth, but humanity in general find it necessary to use Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for bowel complaints, dysentery, diarrhoea, etc. It is a sure cure.

An Ancient Custom.

On the evening of the 20th of June, the Feast of St. Peter and Paul, the gates of the Basilica being closed, the Holy Father, accompanied only by two secret chamberlains on service, his master of the chamber and almoner, descended by the secret passage into the Vatican to the tomb of the Apostles, there to recite the Office and engage in devotion according to custom.

A Faithful Servant Gone.

Visitors to the London Oratory which will in future miss the Irish verger who was conspicuous in the sacred building or the last nineteen years. Honest, upright, brave, Michael Hourigan has gone to reap the reward of his well-earned life, and leaves no more earnest son of the faith behind him. He was sixty-four when the call came and found him ready to meet it. R.I.P.—Catholic.

Guiding a Young King.

To the Pope was assigned the delicate duty of selecting a confessor to the little King of Spain. The Holy Father has chosen for the responsible position one of his own prelates, Mr. Merry, son of the Spanish Ambassador in Vienna. The choice of a spiritual guide to his god-child has been prudently made, and wins unequivocal praise beyond the Pyrenees.

Off For the Pribilofs.

Vancouver, B.C., July 16.—Sir George Baden Powell and Dr. G. M. Dawson, the English and Canadian Behring sea commissioners, arrived here today and left at 5 p.m. on the steamer Danube for the Pribilof Islands, where they will begin their investigations into the seal question. An address was presented to the commissioners by the owners of the sealing fleet of Vancouver. In reply Sir George said he felt at liberty to make the announcement that Canadian vessel owners would be compensated for any losses sustained.

A Prophetic Statesman.

LONDON, July 15.—Lord Salisbury speaking at the United club today said he believed the danger of church disestablishment was considerably removed, and if it was to be an electoral reform, the Conservatives did not dread it. The demand of a one man vote was unreasonable, but the question of women voting demanded consideration. The abolition of the illiterate voter might be necessary.

of the illiterate voter might be necessary. He declared that home rule had not effected any lodgment in England, that it had been supported in the past by American gold and was now backed by a clerical conspiracy.

Lord Salisbury also said he could not tell when the next general election would take place. He would not deal with political meteorology beyond saying he had no fear of the future.

Regarding a revision of the electorate Lord Salisbury declared that any change in this direction ought to be associated with a redistribution of the seats in Parliament. The Conservatives had no cause to dread the result. Ireland, Wales and North Scotland were greatly over-represented, while England, especially London, was greatly under-represented, and a redistribution of seats must be to the advantage of the Conservatives.

BAGPIPES.

Reflections on a note by the Death of William Ross, Piper to the Queen.

Mr. William Ross, first piper to the Queen, has gone over to the majority. For many years the deceased fought gallantly in the Black Watch regiment, and for thirty-seven he piped it to her majesty. Royalty has not forgotten him in the "Court Circular," where a "touching notice" of Wully (as he was named privately) informs the public that his death has caused the Queen "much grief." The dead piper has also led to another notice, not touching, but informational. This is a little essay by a London journalist, on bagpipe playing. It is an interesting little history, which shows the pibroch to have sounded not only over Highland mountain lochs, but also in other parts of the habitable and floating globe. According to this authority the Greeks had the first of the bagpipes, as of many other things, good and bad. The Germans, the Poles, and the Spaniards were also pipers, and of old the Italians used to descend from their mountain heights at Christmas time to send shrill melody through the streets of the Eternal City. Ireland, land of song and music, had a bagpipe of its own, believed to have been the softest and most melodious of all such pipes, and for the playing of which instruction books were at one time published. The Scotch Highlander, however, stands pre-eminent as the piper; and perhaps, pace the Greeks, it was an ancestor of Wully Ross who could have boasted of being "the piper that played before Moses." Many stories of the Scotch bagpipe exist. Generally they relate of incidents of war. At the battle of Quebec, in 1760, the strains of the Scotchman's inspiring pibroch rallied the wavering Highland soldiers. The pipes that played "The Campbells are Coming," we all have heard, gave the Highlanders courage to hold out until the relief of Lucknow was effected. Doubt has been thrown on this story; but for this neither the pipes nor Jessie Brown can be blamed. The best anecdote of bagpipes is that told concerning the instating of two.

ASSY NORTH BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

These gentlemen had employed Highland masons and bricklayers to build certain dwelling houses in London. After a while the Highlanders began to fret, not over wages, nor the eight-hour question, but over thoughts of the aud hunc in Bonnie Scotland. Two pipers suddenly appeared on the scene, and like magic the excited masons and bricklayers, stimulated by the strains of their native music, plucked up courage and completed the building. The latter-day historian of the Highland bagpipes describes the instrument as a simple musical apparatus, consisting of a leather bag blown out like a football, and stopped by a valve, with three pipes or flutes, one called the chanter and two others the drones. While the Lowland "wise man" blew his pipes with a hollow, the Highlander keeps up the sound, steady by blowing through his mouth. The oft-quoted, wild-dance music in up and down of the Highland pipe while performing is explained by the necessity of walking to gather wind to his lungs, and to permit of the occasional use of his arm as a pump handle to strengthen the stream of air force required to inflate the pipe bag. The present is the first British sovereign who has maintained a piper as a permanent attendant of the royal household. Whether succeeding British Sovereigns will continue the pibroch musician is another matter.

matter. The author of the "skerrelling machine" is lost in antiquity, and a debating society might profitably discuss whether the cheering inspiration of the music in the Highlander, or its terrifying effect on the uncultivated Indian and African, has had the more to do with the success of battles won by Scotch soldiers. English soldiers have never discovered where the charm of the pibroch comes in. Perhaps, like the man in the comic song, "It's all very well when you know it, but you've got to know it first." For ourselves we prefer the so-called melodious strains of skerrelling pipes at a distance. And the greater the distance the sweeter in our ears sounds the music of chanter and drones.

A Hint for Farmers.

It is generally conceded that it is often advisable to get seed from a considerable distance, and especially that grown north of the locality where the planting is to be done. What is the advantage of the northern grown if not that nature is more constrained, and thus puts more vitality into seeds than she would under more favorable conditions? We can see this law illustrated by seeds grown in the same neighborhood.

Always, if possible, get seed that is as vigorous as possible, but grown on poorer land than your own. If you reverse this and take seed grown on extremely rich land and put it on thin soil it will not grow as well nor produce as well as that which for successive years has been bred to poor fare. We know of a case where a farmer who was planting beans in a field got out of seed when he had only a few more rows to plant. His wife found some of the same kind of beans which she had grown the year before for home use in a rich spot of the garden. All through the season these garden beans were inferior in growth to the others.

This must be a discouraging thought to a farmer who is allowing his land to get poorer every year. If he grows his own seed grain it cannot produce as much as it would if grown first on poor soil and then sown on land that is highly fertilized and cultivated. But even poor, thin seed may with good condition be developed into that which is plump and good.—Margville Democrat.

BANANAS AS FOOD AND MEDICINE.

Dr. John Douglas, of St. Mungo's College, Glasgow, has a letter in a recent issue of the Glasgow Herald on the banana. He quotes from Stanley's "In Darkest Africa," showing that "for infants, persons of delicate digestion, dyspeptics and those suffering from temporary derangements of the stomach, the flour properly prepared, would be of universal demand." During Stanley's two attacks of gastritis a slight gruel of this flour, mixed with milk, was the only material that could be digested. It is odd, also, as pointed out in Stanley's book, that in most banana lands—Cuba, Brazil, West Indies—the valuable properties of the banana as an easily digested and nourishing food have been much overlooked. Dr. Douglas has made some experiments in making banana flour. He concludes that it should be made from the ripe fruit at its place of production. In trying to make it from bananas purchased in Glasgow, he obtained on drying the pulp a tough, sweet mass like toasted fig, an appearance probably due to the conversion of starch into sugar. Bananas contain only about 50 per cent. of pulp, and of this about 75 per cent. is water. They would yield, therefore, only one-eighth part of flour.



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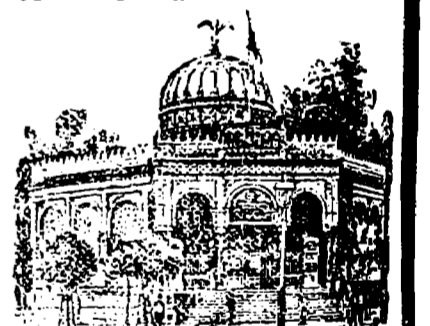
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