

sent, expressed in writing, of his colleagues in office and of the local superintendent.

*The School Act of 1860 further enacts that—11. \* \* \** a continuous non-residence of six months from his school section by any Trustee, shall cause the vacation of his office.

*Mode of proceeding in contested Elections in School Sections.*

## 25. Each Local Superintendent of Schools—

(1) Shall, within *twenty* days after any meeting for the election of common school section trustees within the limits of his charge, receive and investigate any complaint respecting the mode of conducting the election,\* and according to the best of his judgment confirm it or set it aside, and appoint the time and place for a new election; and may—

(2) In his discretion, at any time for any lawful purpose, appoint the time and place for a special school section meeting.

**Erratum.**—An error appeared in the *Journal of Education* for September. On page 140, it was stated that the Prince of Wales received and replied to an address, in German, at "Berlin," instead of at *Petersburg*.

## IV. Miscellaneous.

### 1. THE ORPHAN'S DREAM AT CHRISTMAS.

It was Christmas eve—and lonely,  
By a garret window high,  
Where the city chimneys barely  
Spared a hand's-breadth of the sky,  
Sat a child, in awe—but weeping,  
With a face so small and thin,  
That it seemed too scant a record  
To have eight years traced therein

Oh, grief looks most distorted  
When his hideous shadow lies  
On the clear and sunny life-stream,  
That doth fill a child's blue eyes!  
But her eye was dull and sunken,  
And the whiten'd cheek was gaunt,  
And the blue veins of the forehead  
Were the pencilling of want.

And she wept for years like jewels,  
Till the last year's bitter fall,  
Like the acid of the story,  
In itself had melted all;  
But the Christmas time returned,  
As an old friend, for whose eye  
She would take down all the pictures  
Sketch'd by faithful memory.

Of those brilliant Christmas seasons,  
When the joyous laugh went round;  
When sweet words of love and kindness  
Were no unfamiliar sound;  
When, lit by the log's red lustre,  
She her mother's face could see,  
And she rock'd the cradle, sitting  
On her own twin-brother's knee:

Of her father's pleasant stories,  
Of the riddles and the rhymes,  
And the kisses and the presents  
That had mark'd those Christmas times,  
'Twas as well that there was no one  
(For it were a mocking strain)  
To wish her a merry Christmas,  
For that could not come again:

How there came a time of struggling,  
When, in spite of love and faith,  
Grinding poverty would only  
In the end give place to Death;  
How her mother grew heart-broken,  
When her toll-worn father died,  
Took her baby in her bosom,  
And was buried by his side:

How she clung unto her brother  
As the last spar from the wreck,  
But stern death had come between them  
While her arms were round his neck.  
There were now no living voices;  
And if few hands offered bread,  
There were none to rest in blessing  
On the little homeless head.

Or, if any gave her shelter,  
It was less of joy than fear,  
For they welcomed crime more warmly  
To the selfsame roof with her.  
But at length they all grew weary  
Of their sick and useless guest;  
She must try a workhouse welcome  
For the helpless and distressed.

But she prayed; and the Unsleeping  
In His ear that whisper caught;  
So he sent down Sleep, who gave her  
Such a respite as she sought;  
Drew the fair head to her bosom,  
Pressed the wetted eyelids close,  
And, with softly falling kisses,  
Lulled her gently to repose.

Then she dreamed of angels, sweeping  
With their wings the sky aside,  
Raised her swiftly to the country  
Where the blessed ones abide;  
To a bower all flushed with beauty,  
By a shadowy arcade,  
Where a mellowness like moonlight  
By the Tree of Life was made.

Where the rich fruit sparkled, star-like,  
And pure flowers of fadeless dye  
Poured their fragrance on the waters  
That in crystal beds went by;  
Where bright hills of pearl and amber  
Closed the fair green valley round,  
And, with rainbow light, but lasting,  
Were their glistening summits crown'd.

Then, that distant burning glory,  
'Mid a gorgeousness of light!  
The long vista of Archangels  
Could scarce chasten to her sight.  
There sat One; and her heart told her  
'Twas the same who, for our sin,  
Was once born a little baby  
"In the stable of an inn."

There was music—oh, such music!  
Of they were trying the old strains  
That a certain group of shepherds  
Heard on old Judea's plains;  
But, when that divinest chorus  
To a softened trembling fell,  
Love's true ear discerned the voices  
That on earth she loved so well.

At a tiny grotto's entrance  
A fair child her eyes beheld,  
With his ivory shoulders hidden  
'Neath his curls of living gold;  
And he asks them, "Is she coming?"  
But ere any one can speak,  
The white arms of her twin brother  
Are once more about her neck.

Then they all come round her greeting;  
But she might have well denied  
That her beautiful young sister  
Is the poor pale child that died;  
And the careful look hath vanish'd,  
From her father's tearless face,  
And she does not know her mother  
Till she feels the old embrace.

Oh, from that ecstatic dreaming  
Must she ever wake again,  
To the cold and cheerless contrast,—  
'To a life of lonely pain?  
But her Maker's sternest servant  
To her side on tiptoe stept:  
Told his message in a whisper,—  
And she stirred not as she slept!

Now the Christmas morn was breaking  
With a dim, uncertain hue,  
And the chilling breeze of morning  
Came the broken window through;  
And the hair upon her forehead,  
Was it lifted by the blast,  
Or the brushing wings of seraphs,  
With their burden as they passed?

All the festive bells were chiming  
To the myriad hearts below;  
But that deep sleep still hung heavy  
On the sleeper's thoughtful brow.  
To her quiet face the dream light  
Held a lingering glory given;  
But the child herself was keeping  
Her Christmas-day in Heaven!  
—Dickens' *Household Works*.

### 2. THE MAGIC LANTERN, ITS USES AND CONSTRUCTION.

(See page 188.)

At this season of the year there is no kind of amusement for the long winter evenings more instructive than this ingenious instrument with its appliances. It was formerly used only for exhibiting the grotesque and ridiculous, in a so-called magical manner—hence its name—but is now considered of sufficient educational importance to be used in our colleges and schools to illustrate various branches

of knowledge. The magic lantern is remarkable for the simplicity of its construction; and a short description of it will be given explanatory of the manner in which a few magnifying lenses can be so applied as to become an object of interest and instruction. It is a refracting optical instrument, and consists of a dark lantern with a funnel or chimney on the top, the funnel being bent for the purpose of intercepting the light in letting out the smoke; it contains a powerful Argand lamp (see engraving Fig. 3) the light from which is reflected by the concave mirror (e) upon the convex lens (d). This further concentrates the light upon the slides on which the picture is painted, fig. 2.

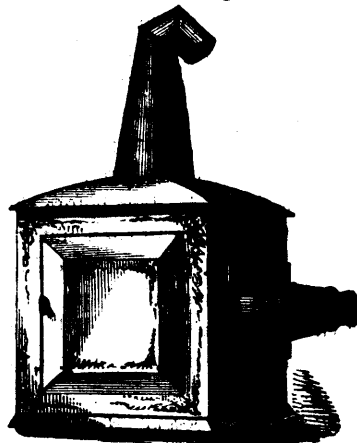


FIG. 1. MAGIC LANTERN.

This picture is inserted in an inverted position in the opening (b); the rays from the illuminated object then enter a sliding tube c, a, with a double convex lens at the end of it (a) and reproduces the picture on an enlarged scale on the screen (f). The sliding tube c, a, can be adjusted to the proper focus, and by this means the picture can be produced, on the screen, of any desired magnitude. To enlarge the picture, it is only necessary to bring the lens closer to the slides and remove the screen to a greater distance; this will, however, diminish its brightness, as the greater the surface over which the light is diffused, the more faint, in proportion, will the picture be.

The slides are usually painted with highly transparent varnish on glass; but by the aid of photography, photographic views of the most beautiful description have been prepared for the lantern, some of which can now be procured, with all the necessary apparatus, from the Depository in connection with the Educational Department.

There are two ways of exhibiting the magic lantern: in the first the lantern is placed in front of the screen; in this case the picture is seen by aid of the light which is reflected from the screen, after having been projected upon it by the lantern. Care must be taken that no light penetrates through the screen, since such light would be lost and the picture made proportionally more faint. The best sort of screen, in exhibitions of this sort, is one of white paper pasted on canvass and stretched on a frame, or what is still preferable, a white wall may be used with better effect. When the magic lantern is used more for amusement than in-



FIG. 2. SLIDE WITH MAP.

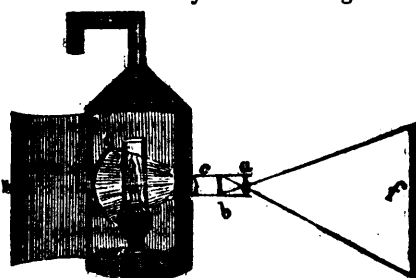


FIG. 3. SECTION OF LANTERN AND SCREEN.

\* *The School Act of 1860 further enacts that—*

13. It shall be the duty of a local superintendent of schools to receive, investigate, and decide upon any complaints which may be made in regard to the election of school trustees, or in regard to any proceedings at school meetings; *Provided* always, that no complaint in regard to any election or proceeding at a school meeting shall be entertained, unless made in writing within *twenty* days after the holding of such election or meeting.