

THE EDUCATIONALIST

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THE EDUCATIONALIST.

MARCH 16, 1861.

NOTICE.

In order to extend the circulation of the EDUCATIONALIST, we issue a few copies more than we have subscribers for, which we send to our friends, whom we will hold as subscribers unless the papers are returned before the next number reaches their post office.

PERSONAL.

We are now approaching the fourteenth issue of the *Educationalist* and although we have been favored with literary contributions from many of our friends, yet we would respectfully solicit many more of those who are interested in the success of our periodical, to favour us with articles on educational subjects. Our paper is issued for the benefit of the people generally, and there are many among our subscribers whom we have not had the pleasure of visiting that we should like to find among those who furnish us with original articles. School Teachers are particularly requested to send us their views on school organization, and other matters which merit discussion among the members of that laborious but honorable profession.

TO TEACHERS.

The publisher will take pleasure in announcing in the EDUCATIONALIST, free of charge, the times, and places of holding Teachers' Associations, in any part of the country.

AN EASY MODE OF DOUBLING OUR SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR THE "EDUCATIONALIST."

May we respectfully solicit our friends to try it? The plan is simply this—let each subscriber obtain another subscriber in his own locality, which can easily be accomplished with a little effort, if he will only try, and thus while the divided effort will be light for each of our friends, it will double our number of subscribers, and thereby add an increased stimulus to our energies to make the *Educationalist* what every friend of educational progress desires it should be. Persons subscribing can be supplied with back numbers from the first of January; a few copies can be furnished from the beginning of the publication.

FORM OF THE EARTH.

The first impression produced upon the eye of an observer, who has not carried his enquiries farther, is that the surface of the earth is a flat plane interrupted only by the inequalities of the land.—But this impression is erroneous as we shall presently see. It is well known that if a voyage were made upon the earth, continually preserving one and the same direction as nearly as circumstances will permit, we should at length arrive at the place from which we departed. If the earth were an unlimited plain, this could not happen. It is evident then that whatever be the exact form of the earth, it is a body which must have such a surface that a traveller or navigator can completely surround it in one continuous course.

A more conclusive proof is found when the moon passes directly behind the earth, so that the shadow which the earth projects behind it in the direction opposite to the sun shall fall upon the moon, we invariably find that shadow to be, not, as is commonly said, circular, but such exactly as one globe would project upon the surface of another globe. Now as this takes place always, in whatever position the earth may be, and while the earth is revolving rapidly with its diurnal motion upon its axis, it follows that the earth must either be an exact globe, or so little different from a globe, that its deviation from that figure cannot be discoverable in its shadow. We may then consider

it demonstrated that the earth may be regarded as globular in form. Perhaps some may think that the inequalities which exist in the shape of mountains are incompatible with the globular figure of the earth. Now let us see the real extent of this presumed deviation from the globular form. The highest mountain on the surface of the globe is little more than 5 miles above the general level of the sea. The entire diameter of the globe is about 8,000 miles. The proportion then which the highest summit of the loftiest mountains bear to the centre diameter of the globe, will be that of 5 to 8,000 or 1 to 1,600. Now if we take a 16 inch globe the hundredth part of an inch will correspond to 5 miles. Now if we take a narrow strip of paper so thin that it would take 100 leaves to make an inch in thickness, and paste such a strip on the surface of the globe, the thickness of the strip on the surface of the globe of 16 inches would represent the height of the loftiest mountain on the earth.

MEMORY.

Without memory the judgment must be unemployed and ignorance must be the consequence. Pliny says it is one of the finest gifts of nature. Although there is something calling in that sad, inevitable word, the past—although in looking through the thronged rolls of history and reading of all the dead passions, the fruitless anxieties, the vain unproductive yearnings of beings that were once as full of thrill life and feeling as ourselves, and now are nothing, we gain but the cold moral of our own littleness—still the very indistinctness of the distance softens and beautifies the objects of a former epoch that we thus look back upon; and in the far retrospect of the day gone by, a thousand bright and glistening spots stand out and catch the last most brilliant rays of a sun that has long set to the multitude of smaller things around them.—*Anonymous.*

TALENT AND GENIUS.

Talent shows me what another man can do; genius acquaints me with the spacious circuits of the common nature. One is carpentry; the other is growth. To make a step into the world of thought is now given to but few men; to make a second step beyond a first, only one in a country can do it; but to carry the thought on to three steps marks a great teacher. Aladdin's palace, with its one unfinished window, which all the gems in the royal treasury cannot finish in the style of the meanest of the profusion of jewelled windows that were built by the genii in the night, is but too true an image of the effort of talent to add one verse to the copious text which inspiration writes by one or other scribe from age to age.—*The Dial, U. S.*