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The  
Wollestock Gazette,

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THE WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE,  
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## WRITING.

In a great many instances, the cause of poor writing is due to carelessness on the part of the writer. It is of course true, that some people are naturally good writers; while others, no matter how hard they may try, can not get into the way of writing well. But this is no reason why they should not write plainly; and we venture to say, that a large majority of the mistakes made in type setting (no better example suggests itself to us) are caused by the illegibility of the writing, which is furnished the printer to decipher. How often do we see men, well educated, many of them holding high positions in our schools and universities, who nevertheless write very bad hands. Truly! it is a fact much to be regretted. One should remember that this is the 19th century, and the fashion of writing in an illegible manner, which existed a few centuries ago, has long since been exploded. If people will take the time to write plainly, their writing will gradually improve, as legibility is one of the most essential qualities of a good hand. Now, we do not by any means class ourselves with good writers, but consider it a duty to call the attention of our readers to the subject.

WE have several articles left over from this month. In the meantime correspondents will please be patient.

For the GAZETTE:

## SENSATIONAL LITERATURE.

In nothing is the high pressure under which the present generation is living more noticeable than in the style of literature needed for the mass of the reading public. The style of writing has changed so completely that if some of the leading writers of the last generation could be brought to life again and given a modern novel to read, or a modern sensational newspaper to look over, they would start in amazement at the wonderful flights of fancy which are now indulged in, even in recording ordinary, every day events, or horrible and atrocious crimes. The sensation reporter of the day is a genius after his own peculiar manner, he is an epitometical novel writer, and crowds into a report of a column, or a column and a half as much agony, as many adjectives, as much harrowing pathos, as many telling situations, and more exclamation points than would have sufficed to furnish material for an old fashioned three volume novel. How he glories in a murder, with what gusto he enters into all the horrible details, and gloats over the most barbarous and atrocious portions. He fairly howls with delight over an execution, and "does up" the unfortunate victim with monstrous headings, and embellishes the effusion, if possible, with a miserable caricature which is misnamed a picture. The sensation reporter must write in the most flaring style, he must be an adept at verbal ornamentation, must be prepared to go into ecstasies at a moment's notice if given a ball or other pleasurable entertainments to write up, or must be gloomy, pathetic, or witty if given a murder, a suicide, or elopement, or anything else out of which he can make, that which most editors are ever so anxious for, a good sensational article. He is no respecter of persons, and he will "do up" his bosom friend if he can only make a good article out of him. The sensation reporter is not a bad fellow, he generally enters into his work *con amore*, but he very seldom has any personal feeling with reference to the victims he holds up "as villains of the deepest dye," he simply fills a want in newspaper literature, a want which has grown out

of the feverish, unhealthy appetite which has been engendered in the public mind by constant perusal of sensational novels. Our grandfathers were content to have facts recorded in the newspapers without any garnishing, but the present generation must have their facts highly spiced, therefore, the sensation reporter is a necessity growing out of the public taste. There are dozens of papers in the States which exist almost entirely on their "sensations," and if any crime of more than ordinary interest is committed, the circulation of these papers is largely increased, because the public think they will get the horror served up rather more horribly in these papers than in tamer sheets. Sensational novels antidote the sensation reporter, and indeed it is the former which has occasioned the necessity for the latter. Novel writers began early to drift from the path of mere story tellers, and commenced embellishing their narratives with striking situations, wonderful escapes, etc; but it was not until serial stories came into fashion, and the cheap weeklies began to make their appearance, that the sensation writers commenced to come out in full force. With the penny magazines, and their weekly installment of stories, came the necessity for more spice in the intellectual food, it was found that more thrilling incidents, more diabolical plots, more mysterious circumstances and other ingenious devices must be introduced to keep up the interest from week to week. A climax must be reached, not at the end of the novel, but every week, and when the imagination of the author could conceive no more "telling situations," then the story could be finished in any quiet humdrum style. But gradually the straining for situation became greater and greater until now the story serves simply as a thread on which to hang any quantity of impossibilities; murders, forgeries, burglaries, suicides, and every variety of crime chase each other with kaleidoscopic rapidity through the pages of the sensational novel, and the story either ends at last in a sort of general firework display, or quietly fizzles out like a burnt pin wheel, it makes a few revolutions in darkness and then is taken from its peg, and the reader is ready for another string of impossible circumstances. The main objections to purely sensational novels are that they unfit the mind for good wholesome literature, and work alarming and incalculable mischief upon the youth of our country. In the sensational novel little or no attempt is made at character sketching, there is no effort at teaching a moral lesson, it is simply an endeavour to introduce a few personages, make them go through a series of wonderful adventures and hair breadth escapes, and then march them off the scene again, just as a troupe of acrobats, bound on the stage, go through a series of unnatural contortions, make their bows and disappear. These books can have no good effect, indeed their effect is highly injurious to the mind, for they leave nothing to think over with pleasure; we never get on intimate terms with the characters in a sensational novel; we never feel as if we knew them well, and looked on them as friends; we simply gaze at them and their marvellous performances in wonder and astonishment, and when they are gone we scarcely regret them, for we were never really interested in them, but only in their wonderful gyrations. We can feel as if we had known Mr. Pickwick personally; little Nell is to us a sweet little angel whose loss we mourn, but whoever felt, after he had finished a sensational novel, that he had known the people he had been reading about, or had any desire to know them. We by no means wish to entirely expunge the sensational element from our novels, all our best writers of fiction are to some extent sensational writers; it is necessary to a limited degree to sustain the interest in three or four hundred pages of printed matter, but with them sensation is a secondary consideration, and introduced merely to assist the pleasant progress of the story. With the genuine sensation writer, the story, morality, character sketching and even good English, are all minor considerations scarcely worth a thought, and the only aim is to crowd as many horrible incidents and marvellous circumstances as possible into the smallest space. Sensational literature is undoubtedly the taste of the day, and is hourly gaining popularity; and it is well worth our while to reflect for a moment on the effect which it will have on the coming generation. Already it is an old and well worn saying that "there are no children now;" and there are not, not in the sense in which they were known a generation or two ago, they are simply little men and women. There is no doubt but that a great deal of this quick growth of children is due to the class of literature on which their minds are fed; watch any group of boys or girls of ten or twelve years of age who happen to be studious and see what they are reading: Indian tales, which would make Fennimore Cooper shiver in his grave, love stories and romances, where under a thin film of so called morality, subjects of the most delicate or indelicate nature are handled without gloves.

Look at this and cease to wonder that boys and girls are getting to be only little men and women. It is often asked, what will the coming man be like? we are not prepared to say what he will be like, but whatever he is, depend on it that the formation of his character will, to a great extent, have been influenced by the present deluge of sensational literature.

G. H. HAYES.

DEAR WOLLESTOCK :—

So much has been said about the cramming that is done in our public school, that I, a pupil, would like to put my finger in the pie too. Rather presumptuous on the part of a young scholar, when so many older and wiser heads have discussed the subject, but still, perhaps what I say will shed a light, though faint, upon it.

Well, I think there is not one bit of cramming done in our schools, save what some lazy pupil may do him or herself, just before an examination, to bring up back work, and as a result, ten chances to one, the mark received is pretty near the fatal *nil*.

Let us take any school. Some of the pupils are bright, quick and industrious; to them study is a pleasure. Others are industrious only; they find it a little difficult to keep up, but still they do it. Others again are lazy; won't study, "can't study, lessons too hard" Of course they don't keep up at all. Still again some have a wonderful natural talent for one thing, others for another study, but the teacher, poor thing! he or she is expected out of the above mixture to have, at the terminal examination, a school of bright pupils, all well up in every subject which comes under the grade taught. If not, the censure, which in almost every case the pupil ought to receive, is laid upon the teacher, and parents say: "Some how so and so does not get my children along at all quickly. I can't understand it." A little investigation would show that "my children" probably are used to attending every amusement they wish, in short of spending all their time at every thing but their lessons, and here is where the cramming comes in. After an evening of pleasure lessons are thought of, when the body and mind alike are wearied with excitement, then it is that "We have so many lessons, more than are fair," and like expressions are heard. To these scholars only (if they are scholars) does the idea of cramming or too much work, come, and I think every true student will bear me out in this statement.

Talking to some school boys on the subject they all said that as far as they knew, and they are earnest students, there was no such thing as cramming in the schools. "The lessons," said one, "are sometimes hard, but never beyond a fellow if he has worked steadily through the term."

I do not know whether I have succeeded in making myself clear, but I think what I have here said will find a response among the boys; and I feel I can speak for the girls, as I am a

SCHOOL GIRL.

#### A FEW PLACES OF INTEREST IN BOSTON.

A description of all the interesting places in Boston and vicinity, would fill a large sized book, so the writer will only endeavour to describe a few of the most noted.

The first thing a stranger desires to see, is the monument on Bunker Hill. This structure is the most conspicuous object in its vicinity on account of its situation and great height. Near the monument is a small building through which the visitor has to pass, register, and deposit a dime before he can enter. Here we were shown the signature of the Prince of Wales, and those of lesser dignitaries. Passing into the monument, we reach the top by a winding stair. The writer remembers counting the steps, but does not remember their number; it takes fully five minutes to ascend, so the reader may guess. Once at the top however, a magnificent view is obtained. The whole city, with its suburbs and harbour, lies beneath us. It is said, however, that this view is surpassed by that from the top of the State House, on account of the latter building occupying so much higher ground.

Down stairs can be seen some interesting relics, one being a cannon shattered by a British shot. Near by is a tablet purporting to show the spot where the first American was killed in the Revolution. Another shows the death-place of General Warren.

There are many public squares, etc.; the chief being of course the Common and Public Garden. The Common, as it dates from 1640, has an interesting history. At first it was used as a drilling-ground for the militia, until 1812 it was the usual place for executions, and until 1880 it was a pasture. Originally it was of small extent, but its boundaries have been enlarged from time to time, and now it comprises 48 acres, including a large pond. Children are allowed to roam all over it,

and certain portions are set apart for the game of base-ball.

The most conspicuous object on the Common is the Army and Navy monument, one of the most handsome and magnificent in America. From a base 38 feet square, four pedestals project, sustaining four statues representing the soldier, sailor, peace and history. Between these are four bronze reliefs, two of which represent the departure for war, and the return, (the latter containing forty figures). The main shaft, of granite, rises from a pedestal between the statues. At its base are four figures to represent the north, south, east and west, while crowning all is the statue of America, eleven feet high.

The Public Garden is only twenty years old, but is one of the most beautiful on the Continent. It was formerly only a marsh, covered by the tides; now however the bright flower plots, shady trees, winding walks, and placid lake, form a most enchanting scene. The Garden contains many fine statues, the principal being that of Washington, on horseback. Another very interesting statue (on Park Square) is the Emancipation Group, President Lincoln unshackling a negro slave.

The Museum of Fine Arts on Art Square, near Trinity Church, is well worth a visit. It contains numbers of fine paintings, a large amount of statuary, a great number of Grecian, Roman, Cyprian and Egyptian antiquities, and many Japanese, Oriental and Indian curiosities. The mummies in the Egyptian room were of great interest to me. After an Egyptian died, we are told, his body was embalmed, and afterwards wrapped in fine linen, sometimes 1000 yards in length, between the folds were placed numbers of ornaments, gold or silver. Over this was fitted a stiff form of linen cloths, tightly cemented together. The faces were then painted, if a woman, yellow, a man, red; thus they have been preserved for thousands of years. There are many specimens both of the body wrapped and unwrapped, and of the ornaments and coffins.

There are numerous other places of interest, such as the State House, Post Office, various churches, Longfellow's residence in Cambridge, Public Library, Athenæum, and many historical spots.

T. M. D.

#### READING ALOUD.

Many things of daily occurrence are in reality arts, though they are not so considered by most persons, but there is always an art where princi-

ples can be laid down and carried into effect. Consequently reading aloud is an art, and one in which improvement can be made by all, notwithstanding the fact that some have more talent for it than others.

The first thing to be learnt in reading is the proper articulation of the sounds expressed in words, that is a clear and distinct pronunciation of each syllable, in order that the word spoken may be clearly understood by those who hear it. Pronunciation, however, is more generally applied to words than to syllables; and great care should be taken to give the right accent and tone to each word, or the reading will be defective in its most necessary points.

To prevent monotony and give life and energy to a reading, the proper inflections must be observed; and the rising and falling of the voice must be regulated greatly according to the sense, (which should, if possible, be determined before attempting to read), or no correct idea can possibly be formed by those who hear it. In connection with this the pauses should be carefully noted, not only those marked in the book or paper, but also the rhetorical pauses, when a stop must be made for the purpose of giving expression and the right effect to the meaning intended by the writer. The few punctuation marks used in writing and printing do not always guide a reader in taking the true meaning without a minute's thought, but often quite different pauses are intended where the same stop is made use of.

Another thing in reading aloud is the correct adaptation of the voice to the sense of every passage, for often a low tone is followed by an earnest appeal, which requires a gradual rising of the voice. Again, the pitch of the voice must be regulated by the size of the room, as well as in conveying a certain meaning, so that all may be able to hear alike. One of the most important principles in the art of reading aloud is that of anticipation, the power of reading before utterance is given to the words, and this can only be acquired by practice. In fact all of the foregoing rules should be supported by practice if it is one's object to learn how to read, and certainly it is a desirable accomplishment, not only for his own pleasure, but for his own good, there being many situations in life, especially in a professional life, where a good reader is absolutely necessary.

W. C. C.

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## PERSONAL.

Albert E. Prince, formerly of the Grammar School, is in the office of the Provincial Building Society.

Charles Hare, late of the Grammar School, is now in Whittaker Bros.' insurance agency, Prince Wm. street.

Harry Robertson lately left the Grammar School to accept a position in Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison's office.

Gilbert T. R. Fraser, formerly of the Grammar School, is in the Insurance Office of J. S. Gray, Louisville, Kentucky.

Arthur Hennigger, a former member of our school, is employed in the office of the Topeka, Atchison and Santa Fee Railway at Topeka, Kansas.

Frank Hall, a Grammar School athlete, attended the sports of the University Athletic Club, held at Fredericton a few days ago. He reports that they were very creditably carried out.

Messrs. Stewart and Charles Skinner, students of the Grammar School, left Monday evening, May 26th, for a week's fishing on the North Shore. We hope they will be successful in having good sport.

Milton Herrington, formerly of the Grammar School, is at present in the drug store of M. V. Paddock, Esq., corner of Union and Charlotte Sts.

During the present month the Grammar School has been visited by Mr. Crocket, Chief Superintendent of Education, and Mr. Frith, the only Trustee whom we have had the pleasure of seeing for some time past.

At the regular meeting of the Grammar School Debating Society, held Friday evening, May 2nd, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, J. Sinclair; Vice President, Oscar Watson; Secretary, Thomas Dieuaide; Treasurer, J. King Kelly; Financial Secretary, James Milligan; Assistant Secretary, M. Austin.

The Grammar School Cricket Club has reorganized under the following officers: Captain, Oscar Watson; Sec'y-Treas, Frank Hall; Executive Committee, G. S. Sinclair, J. Hunter White, Fred Hartley.

## OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Classical* for May is a very good number, and contains lots of good reading matter, including a comparison between Thackeray and Dickens, and a poem entitled "A Summer Idyl."

The May and June numbers of the *Philomathean Review* are up to the old time standard, and contain several very interesting biographical sketches, including the life of Gotthold Ephriam Lessing, Charles Read, Rufus Choate, Rev. Edward Payson Terhune and Edward L. Molineaux, beside a variety of other reading matter, including the society, military, sporting, etc., and is a very good paper.

The *Argosy* is a first-class number, and contains several good reading articles. In this number the editors, in a short account of themselves during their year of office, bid good bye to the public and their paper.

The *Premier*, from Fall River, contains a short account of the life of Sir Walter Scott and an account of Fall River, and that is about all the good reading matter that is in it.

We welcome among our exchanges the *F. H. S. News Letter*; we have received No.'s 3, 4, and 5, and it is a very good little paper; in addition to them we have received the *Acadia Athenæum*, the *King's College Record* and the *Dalhousie Gazette*. They are all very fair numbers, quite up to the average of college papers.

THE following are the answers to the enigmas which appeared in the April issue of the GAZETTE:—

1. A looking-glass.
2. A hole in a stocking.
3. It is matured by falling dew, (due).
4. A. G. E.
5. It is an assent, (ascent).
6. He makes notes.
7. The letter M.
8. Pupil.

To the Editors of the Wollestock Gazette:—

DEAR SIR:—I am glad to see that the Grammar School boys are taking an interest in clearing away the old stumps of trees and many rocks and other lesser rubbish, which for a long time have ornamented their playground. Now since they have made this much needed change in its appearance, would it not be advisable to erect a horizontal bar. A frame could be put up and the bar itself taken down whenever the boys were through with it.

PROGRESS.

For the GAZETTE.

**HOW TO COLLECT.**

The first interest of young naturalists usually leads to merely collecting specimens of natural objects. The work is undoubtedly an educator in a degree, and is necessary for the purposes of study and comparison; but too often a mere collection is the only result of first enthusiasm in natural science. If all young naturalists, who read this article, will accept a few hints from a fellow student, I think they will derive more pleasure and profit from their studies of "Auld Dame Nature," than they can obtain from a mere collection. I would ask all to have a compact note-book always in their pocket, and any natural object you see or are interested in note down under its appropriate head, also any peculiarities of the object observed, its color, size, form, motion (if animated), nature and structure, and if possible make accurate measurements of length of whole subject, and principal minor portions of same; observe food, and other habits of animal life.

If interested in vegetable life, observe the habits of each plant you collect; for plant life varies almost as much in its habits and peculiarities, as animal life. *Observe carefully*, take nothing for granted, have no guess work, and see if at the end of a year, in looking over your note books, you will not be surprised at the amount of information you have gathered. Do not neglect to consult good text books on the subject you have taken notes on, if possible, and do not be discouraged if you find you have made mistakes in your investigation. If you try this method you will be on the road to become a thorough worker in natural science, and a careful observance is what is most needed now in all its branches.

For the GAZETTE.

**THE ANTIOPA BUTTERFLY.**

Those interested in natural science, or even casual observers, have doubtless noticed, or watched with interest as the case may be, the early appearance of a large dark brown butterfly with yellowish bordered wings, which makes its appearance about the middle of April.

This butterfly, the *Vanessa Antiopa*, is one of the few Lepidopterous insects that hibernate. I have found specimens of this insect in mid-winter, sticking to the under side of stones and logs with folded wings, apparently lifeless; but upon being exposed to warmth, it soon gains its usual activity. The larval form of this insect is black with eight

dark red spots on the back, and covered with spines excepting the head, which is perfectly bare. It feeds upon the leaves of the elm, willow, and poplar. I have seen them in such numbers on poplars, that they looked like swarms of bees, and wherever they fasten on a tree, they completely denude it of leaves. There are two broods of this butterfly during the year, the second late in August, so that if any of our young naturalists fail to obtain a specimen in the spring, they are sure of one in the fall.

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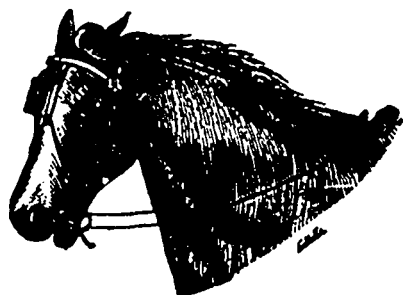
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