EDUCATIONAL.

Ingenious Method of Drawing the Curiosity and Attention of Pupils.

Valuable Hints from Various Sources—Long Distance Teaching in Australia.

CURIOSITY.

"Curiosity is as much the parent of attention as attention is of memory. To teach one who has no curiosity to learn, is to sow a field without plowing it."—*Whately.*

A Methodist minister, on being asked why that denomination indulged in such lively music, answered, that they didn't believe in letting the wicked world have all the good tunes. So it may be said of harnessing in that unconquerable attribute to human nature, that turned everything topsy-turvey in Edenic days, to help do the work of the school-room in reconstructing this same fallen humanity. It has the logic of the *similia similibus* theory for a foundation, and the favorable testimony of our best thinkers and teachers in the practice of it. Prepare the presentation of a new subject never so carefully, if it comes before the class as a set of affirmatives, they will accept it much in the spirit of the good deacon who slept all through the sermon because of his implicit confidence in the soundness of the preacher. Such an unquestioning acceptance of facts by a class is the death warrant of its interest and attention, and results as fatally to its enthusiasm as the calm sleep of a man freezing to death. Let the teacher put ingenuity to work, and devise some way in which a lesson can seem to contain some hidden thing that the children are to seek for, and if skillfully done, not much of a clue need be given before the class will be digging for it, under the sharp spur of curiosity, which, strange to say, has as much impelling force in boys as in girls, the popular heresy to the contrary notwithstanding.

A good principal once came into our school-room and gave a first lesson in decimal fractions. Taking a half-sheet of paper and a pair of scissors, he stood before the children and silently began cutting it into slips. Gradually the rustle of the school-room died away. Everybody wondered. As piece after piece of that mysterious paper fluttered down on the boys' desk in the front row, the wide-eyed children held their breath in suspense as to what it could all mean; and when he had gathered them all up again on a book-cover, making a restored whole out of the ten parts, he held it up to a hundred watchful eyes in a room so quiet that the ticking of the clock alone broke the silence. Not much difficulty in holding the attention of the class after that. To borrow our text figure, curiosity had ploughed the field, and the seed would fall on good soil. Each of these ten pieces were cut into ten others, and these in turn into ten more tiny bits, with the same impenetrable air of mystery. Of course explanations and blackboard work followed, but the class had been led by curiosity alone to walk pleasurably into that bottomless sea of infinitesimals, without knowing that they were in the very Styx of waters, or ever finding it out afterward, for decimals were carried with a furore that year, and the transfers from the little papers to the convenient meter measure, which, though it could not be cut apart was yet never confusing, was easily made.

It is surprising how much of this way of arousing attention can be introduced into school-work, when once we seek in ourselves for a variety of ways to accomplish it. Individuality has here a limitless field.—*Mrs. Eva D. Kellogg in Journal of Education.*

SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA.

Schools worked on the half time system are invariably over three miles distant from each other; but the distance varies from three to eight miles. The teacher in charge of two of these schools, in order to work them with some convenience to himself, is forced to try to obtain either lodgings or a residence midways between his schools; and, should a residence be attached to one of his schools, his salary is decreased by the amount of rent, either six eight or ten shillings per month. The teachers of full-time schools should place themselves in the position of teachers of half-time schools, and then grumble about having rent deducted from their salaries. If it be possible to obtain the required accommodation the unfortunate is forced to fall back upon the house provided by the Department, and every other day to perform a journey of from 8 to 13 miles, which, by-the-way, he is supposed to *foot*, as an allowance of a horse is granted only to the teachers of such half time schools as are more than seven miles distant by road. In what other branch of the government service are the servants expected to walk from four to six miles before commencing their duties? How fresh and fit for work a person feels after performing this journey, either on a hot or wet day, especially when enlivened with the feeling that another such trudge is to follow the school duties.—*Australian Schoolmaster.*

PUBLIC OPINION.

Never allow pupils to spell a word wrong; if they do not know it, train them to know that they do not know it.

The relation of friendly sympathizer and guide rather than arbitrary ruler and governor, sustained in most cases by the teacher to her pupils, has secured the success achieved.—*N. S. Bishop, Norwich, Ct.*

Text-books are as essential a part of the appliances of the school-room as fuel and furniture, and in the nature of the case, there is no reason why they should not be classed in the same category, and paid for out of the same fund.—*Penn. School Journal.*

Fine school-houses are fine things, but fine school-houses are not fine schools. I have seen poor schools in good houses, and good schools in poor houses. Let us have both fine houses and good schools if we can, but if not both, good schools at all events.—*The Educationist.*

The sarcastic remarks in which a teacher now and then indulges in addressing an offending pupil, very naturally provoke that "impudence" and "disrespectful deportment" which are given in the reports made to me as the two most common causes for the infliction of corporal punishment, by a few of the teachers for whom the words of the good book should read: *Teachers,* as well as "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath."—*A. H. Phillips, Ph. D.*

Many prominent English physicians claim that there is an alarming increase of nervous diseases owing to overpressure in the schools. Rev. Edward Everett Hale, at the same time, urges the wisdom of keeping children in the schools only during one-half the year, suggesting that they be required to take a course of industrial education during the remainder of the year. The cause of education will certainly be benefited by these suggestions and criticisms from intelligent persons on the outside. Many measures have lately been undertaken to make the school-room attractive and to relieve the child of the feeling of oppresion while in the enforced suit of knowledge, and it is coming to be understood that a variety of employment is the best means of properly developing its latent faculties. "Over-pressure" occurs only when there is long application in a given direction. A child rarely needs rest; it needs change.

The public school teacher has a hard task. His patience is sorely tried. For that very reason it is all the more desirable that he should be restrained from inflicting corporal punishment on other people's children. It is said, and perhaps truly, that some boys can be governed only by force. In that case they are better out of the public schools. Their example is harmful to other scholars. The schools of this city bear practical testimony to the fact that whipping is not indispensable to good management and obedient, and well-disciplined pupils. We believe public sentiment is opposed to corporal punishment in the common schools, and that it ought to be abolished everywhere as a relic of barbarism repugnant to the intelligence of the age.—*N. Y. World.*

If there is one class of people in all the world that needs more sympathy than another, it is that class of children who have for a teacher a *chronic scold.* A man or woman whose milk of human kindness has curdled has no business in the school-room,—indeed, will find few places where his services are needed. The weak teacher will invariably try to cover up his weakness by finding fault with others.—*Mo. School Journal.*

The teacher should not talk too much, too much talking wearies the mind and dissipates the attention. There should be frequent questions to awaken thought and allow the pupil to develop knowledge for himself. Such an exercise will do more to attract and hold the attention than the most eloquent discussion of the teacher. Anything that arouses mental activity will secure attention.—*Dr. Edward Brooks, in Pa. Ed. Journal.*

The favorite writing paper of the Princess of Wales is a blue bank paper, with a fac-simile of her signature or Christian name in gold or bronze across the upper left hand corner, and the day of the week in the same style on the top line at the right. The Queen uses black-edged paper, with the address Windsor Castle, Balmoral, or Osborne on the top line in plain black and gold letters, and in the upper left hand corner "V. R." and the crown emblazoned in red, black and gold.

Tennessee has now sixteen coal mines in successful operation. It is said that the Sewanee coal mines are the best ventilated mines in the State, if not in the South. They have so many entrances, connected with each other, that the atmosphere in them is not only delightful, but the temperature remains the same all the year round. Miners wear the same clothing in the mines during the Winter months that they wear in the Summer. Twelve hundred and thirty men are engaged in these and the South Pittsburgh mines, and 600 more miners would be employed if they were to be had.

The superintendent of the New York Women's Protective Union gives an interesting account of the wages of women belonging to the union. Actresses of the ballet and utility get from $5 to $7 and from $18 to $30 a week. Milliners each from $6 to $18, dressmakers from $6 to $8. Housekeepers get from $30 to $100 per month. This includes board. Trained nurses earn $20 to $30 a month. Proof-readers make from $12 to $20, and copyists get from $4 to $12 a week. Saleswomen earn $3 to $12 a week. Teachers of languages earn from 25 cents to $1 an hour. Telegraph operators get $540 a year.

"I have," says a well-known New York Professor, "taught the art of riding in Germany, where the unemotional German lass is persevering enough, but lacks the fearless dash and energy of the American girl. I have traveled and observed the English women as they appear when on horseback, seen the Andalusian maidens cantering over the campagna on their bushy-tailed steeds, and watched the French matrons as they paraded past on high-stepping chargers on the Bois de Boulogne, but for graceful position and perfect ease in the saddle I will place the American girl against them all."

Chatting with Gen. W. T. Sherman the other day, he said a few pretty hard things of newspaper men, though he admitted that there were exceptions. To illustrate how his kindness had been abused at times, he said: "When the dispatch came to me about the Custer massacre I called the newspaper boys all in together. 'Now,' I says, 'here is the dispatch. I put you all on your honor to copy and return it to me.' Then I gave it out two pages to this one, two pages to that one, so they could all work at once. I turned my back, and whisk Jack Robinson the dispatch was gone. It never turned up, either, and it is in consequence absent from the place it ought to occupy in the official record."

The wild mustard in South America is like that spoken of in the New Testament in the branches of which the birds of the air may rest. Coming up out of the earth so slender a stem that dozens can find a starting point in an inch, it darts up a slender, straight shoot, five, ten, twenty feet, with hundreds of fine, feathery branches, locking and interlocking with all the hundreds around it, till it is an inextricable network like lace. Then it bursts into yellow bloom still finer, more feathery and like lace. At times it looks like golden dust. With a clear blue sky behind it, as it is often seen, it looks like a golden snow-storm.—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

The most sagacious sheep in North Carolina is an old ram that belongs to J. A. Adcock, in Sandy Creek Township. He cannot only distinguish the persimmon trees from trees of other growth in the pasture, but has learned how to get the fruit down from them. This he does by butting the tree. He gets off a suitable distance, stands on his hind legs, as if in the attitude of fighting, and strikes the tree a vigorous blow with his head. When he has shaken the persimmons off he quietly eats them and goes on his way until his appetite demands more. This wise old ram used to rob the apple trees in the same way.—*Henderson Golden Leaf.*

It is an acceptable theory that no man knows how to carry a baby, and that every woman does. The first proposition is correct, I guess; but the second is only partly so. Some of the girls were highly successful in the undertaking. They encircled the pulpy mass with their arms as though born to the service, snuggled it to their breasts, made pretty snoots at it, chirped it into good humor, and altogether performed instinctively like mothers. But there were others, of whom I was disgracefully one, who displeased the subject so thoroughly that it screamed, kicked, and endeavored to burst all the blood vessels in his puggy, purple face. I then and there vowed that I would defer the acquirement of culture in baby-tending until such time as the knowledge should become of practical value.—*Clara Belle in the Cincinnati Enquirer.*

The trouble with the average legislator is that he lets the thought and sentiment of his country get in advance of him, and then is surprised to find the difficulty of catching up.—*Chicago Daily News.*

Our State governments, as a rule, are faithfully and honestly conducted. The heaviest burden which falls upon the shoulders of our people is that of municipal taxation.—*Kansas City Evening Star.*

A bill is pending before the Alabama Legislature compelling persons carrying concealed deadly weapons to designate the fact on their persons by wearing a badge inscribed, "... I am armed."

Broken or Fractured?

"Is the bone broken, or only fractured, doctor?" is an anxious question often asked apropos of an injured limb. Broken and fractured are synonymous terms in surgery, my dear madam—it is always a lady who asks this—but I think I know what you mean. A fully-developed bone is partly cracked—nearly always it snaps in two pieces—but the soft cartilageinous bones of children sometimes sustain what is called a "green-stick fracture," a name which almost explains itself, meaning that the bone is broken through part of its thickness, but not separated, as happens with the green bough of a tree. Many people have a totally erroneous idea, when an arm or leg is badly bruised only, that it would be better if it were broken. "Right across the muscle, too!" implies that an injury has been received across the upper arm in the region of the biceps, that being the only "muscle" which is honored by general public recognition. How many people know that what they call their flesh and the lean part of meat is nothing but muscle, the pulleys by which every action of the body is performed? Common mistakes lie in trying to "walk off" rheumatism, sprains, and other things which should be kept entirely at rest, and in squeezing collections of matter which have burst or been lanced with a view to hasten their healing by the more speedy emptying of their contents.—*Chambers' Journal.*

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.

"Did you ever think how fearfully and wonderfully we are made?" remarked a Hop Hollow minister to an agricultural parishioner on whom he was calling. "At the very outset of the process of absorbing food we meet with a marvelous instance of the wisdom of Providence. In the throat of every man, vibrating to and fro, is a little thing that separates the solids from the liquids as he eats, so that the one class shall pass down by one path and the other down by another, and there shall be no conflict between them."

"Haw! haw! haw!" roared the farmer.

"I don't see any occasion for levity," the clergyman said frowningly. "Tis a very serious subject, sir." "I know," returned the farmer, "but I was just thinking how like Jehu that little thing must go when a feller is eating rice and milk."

According to tradition, "sack" was the last word uttered before the confusion of tongues at Babel, therefore all peoples retain it. For instance, the Saxony "sacc," German, "sack," Welsh "sach," Irish, "sac;" French, "sec;" Spanish "saccus," Italian, "sacco," Spanish "saco," Greek, "sakkos;" Hebrew, "sak;" Swedish, "sack," and so on throughout the whole world.

A PRIZE. Send six cents for postage and receive free a costly box of goods which will help all of either sex, to more money right away than anything else in this world. Fortunes await the workers absolutely sure. At once address TRUE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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Morning express	7.35 a. m.
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Atlantic express	7.30 a. m.
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SMASH! SMASH!

CRASH! CRASH!

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Commencing Thursday Morning, Jan. 8, And continuing 22 days,

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Inaugurate a

GRAND SLAUGHTER SALE!

Stock must be reduced at once, as we take our semi-annual inventory February 1. Everything goes, see our price list:

Fine Black Cashmeres, worth $1.25, at 89c.
Fine Black Cashmeres, worth 90c, at 79c.
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All qualities equally low.

Venitian Cloths, Tricots, Serges, Ottomans, Swiss Cords, and all Fine Dress Goods get the knife.

Double fold cashmere at 13, 23, 33 and 43 cents, worth 25 per cent more money. Silks, velvets, etc., etc., all must go.

Cloaks. Cloaks.

The balance of our stock of cloaks at unheard of prices.

Look, Read, Remember.

SEE THESE PRICES:

Gents' gray underwear, worth 35 cts., at	19 cts
Gents' gray underwear, worth 50 cts., at	25 cts.
Gents' gray underwear, worth 75 cts., at	50 cts.
All wool scarlet underwear, worth $1.00, at	50 cts.
Ladies' all wool hose, worth 40 cts., at	25 cts.

Ladies' Muslin Underwear at any price to move. Lace and Embroideries way down.

LOOK AT THIS LIST. COMPARE QUALITIES AND PRICES.

Good Canton flannels at 5 cts., worth	$ 8
Good all wool twilled flannels at 15 cts., worth	25
Good all wool twilled flannel at 25 cts., worth	45
Good blankets per pair, at 99 cts., worth	1 50
Good blankets per pair, extra size, at $3.35, worth	5 00
Good comfortables at 69 cts., worth	90
Good table linen at 19 cts., worth	30
Good Turkey Red damask at 39 cts., worth	50

Everything in STAPLE DRY GOODS at prices to move.

This is a rare opportunity to purchase dry goods for less than value. Such a chance will not be offered again, as all dry goods are sure to advance in prices within the next 60 days. We are offering our entire stock without regard to value.

N. B. An extra 10 per cent discount given each customer presenting this advertisement.

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GREAT BARGAINS IN STOVES.

If you want a good heating stove call at once. I don't want to carry any stock over and ...

WILL SELL AT COST!

You can get them for from $7 to $15, same as sold at $10 to $20. I have also a full line of cooking stoves at $11 to $40, which I will guarantee to give the best satisfaction. My

Stock of Hardware

Is full and complete, and my

Stock of Tinware

Extensive. I have two competent tinners and am prepared to do all kinds of

Repairing and Tin Work at Bottom Rates.

I handle all kinds of farming implements, second to none, such as the Deering twine binder, the best out; Eureka mower, which cuts from 5 to 7 feet. Sold 7 of them last season, which gave the best of satisfaction; also will have two other mowers. Reapers, plows, drags, horse hay rakes(self dumps and hand dumps), hay ladders, and a field roller which surprises every one who sees it in operation, at a cost of only $35. It will be an object to

EVERY FARMER

Who wants

Any kind of implement

to call on me before buying elsewhere, for I am bound to sell as

Cheap as the Cheapest.

I will warrant every one to give good satisfaction or no sale. If you want a good well pump, either of wood or iron, I have them on hand, lined or unlined, at prices from $2 to $7, made by the Toledo Pump Company, which have proved to be the best in the market. I am Yours truly

ARTHUR BLAKESLEE, Birmingham - Mich.

A Few Words from Whitehead & Mitchell;

Our Leaders and prices this week are as follows:

Dawson's Excelsior flour	$ 45	14 pounds granulated sugar	$1 00	Layer Valencia raisins	$ 12½
Dawson's Purity	60	20 pounds yellow C sugar	1 00	Cooking molasses per gal	40
Birmingham Mills	50	Kerosene oil	13	Home made sorghum	60
Van Every Mills	50	3lb box crackers	20	All other goods in proportion.	

GLOVES AND MITTENS. When we bought J. Allen Bigelow's stock we found on inventorying over $250 worth of gloves and mitts. We bought $200 worth, and rather than carry them over or any longer, and as we want the cash, we will sell the entire lot At COST. Never before was there ever known such a chance in Birmingham. Call and get a pair at wholesale. No checks punched.

Our credit check system proves that the people appreciate a discount for cash. READ OUR SCHEME: To every purchaser we present a card with figures amounting to $20 printed upon the face of it. On all purchases (for cash only), excepting sugar, we punch out the amount bought, and when the card is all punched out the bearer is entitled to one dollar's worth free; or, in other words, the cash buyer gets 5 per cent. off on all purchases from 5 cents up. Call for a check when you buy and always bring it with you when you purchase. Yours respectfully, WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

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RELIABLE. We would most respectfully announce to the public that we carry on the furniture and undertaking business of Kynast Bros. as before and when the services of an undertaker or funeral director are needed, it would be to your advantage to call on us, as our prices are surely the lowest, our equipments the best. We attend to the laying out of bodies, free of charge, when called upon, distance not limited. We furnish door crape, badges, gloves and folding chairs, free of charge, and one of the BEST HEARSES in the country, also free of charge. Our stock is complete, consisting of Wood, Cloth, and Metallic Caskets. Iron grave vaults furnished on application. Burial robes constantly on hand. Thankful for the very liberal patronage in the past, which shows us that honest and fair dealing is appreciated, we trust that our endeavor will merit a continuance of the same, we are Most respectfully, Oswald A. Kynast. Mrs. Karl Kynast. Successors to KYNAST BROS. Farmington - - - Michigan.

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I have the best facilities for furnishing Caskets AND Burial Cases Together with all Trimmings. I will attend to every part of the business in a satisfactory manner. All orders for Funerals will be attended to promptly, and the friends of the dead will be relieved of all care in the arrangements for burial. A good stock of coffins, etc. always on hand.

Livery Dpartment. First-class Single and Double Rigs. I have recently purchased for my Undertaking Business at considerable expense ...ler's Improved Ice Caskets for preserving the dead. This method keeps the ice from direct contact with the remains and does away with the old way of embalming, poisoning and mutilating the body. ... O. BEATTIE.

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You will find the largest and most complete Stock of New Goods in everything pertaining to Footwear at MERRITT & HARRIS, 143 Saginaw Street, Pontiac - - Mich. Our 1-10 off sale has cleaned out our old stock and we have filled up with Boots and Shoes in endless variety and at prices to suit the times. Give us a call and be convinced that our stock is the largest, our prices the lowest and our styles the best in the county. MERRITT & HARRIS.

"I am well Advertised"—RICHARD III., ACT iv., SCENE 4.

THE BEE-HIVE

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To The Readers of the Birmingham Eccentric:

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Cuts are the order of the day—I mean in prices. Various baits are held out to attract and draw customers. The BEEHIVE indulges in no freaky whims, but all the year around SELLS THE GOODS THE PEOPLE WANT AND AT POPULAR PRICES. Never mind the quotations; we always discount them, no matter what the figures are. The largest stock of General Dry Goods, Carpets and Dry Goods in Oakland County. One scale of popular prices. Call and be convinced. Your trade solicited. The only fine Show Rooms up stairs in the city.

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BRUMMIT, AGAIN.

It is about a year now since I wrote an advertisement. Not because I have nothing to say, but because I am vain enough to think that the citizens of this county know that so long as I am in business I shall always make the BEST PHOTOGRAPHS for as low prices as they can be made for properly; and just here I want to tell you something. I attended the Photographer's Convention at Cincinnati in August, and had the opportunity of seeing the finest collection of Photographs ever brought together in the world, and I am proud to say that my LARGE pictures compare favorably with the very best made, and are equal to pictures made in large cities for from $50 to $100 each. I wish particularly to speak about these pictures. I have a method of making life size pictures which does not appear to be known generally, and I can make a picture life size and put a handsome frame around it for $15, which is a great deal less than it will cost a Photographer to make such a picture by the ordinary method. I see every little while agents from other cities soliciting orders for copies and they often succeed in getting a good many orders from people who, strange as it may seem, will give an order to a perfect stranger and pay half as much again as they can get better work for here at home. It is about as though I should send to Toledo to buy a crock of butter or a spring chicken, but such is life.

I have just had painted by the best background painter in the United States, six new and beautiful backgrounds, and I bought some new accessories at Cincinnati, and I really think that there is not a more complete gallery in Michigan.

Now about BABIES' PICTURES. If there is a baby in this county that I can't make a picture of, if I have the chance, I am just aching to see that baby. The babies all like me and I like the babies, so bring them along and just let me show you how quick I can make a picture.

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A golden opportunity to save money.

All cloaks regardless of cost.
30 pieces short lengths colored silks, measuring from 3 to 10 yards, at about half price.
Remnants in all wool dress goods, plaids, and flannels at your own price.
All wool hosiery at less than cost.
Table linen, towels and napkins way down.
In fact, for the next 60 days we propose to reduce prices in every department.
Finest assortment of black goods in the city.

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Dr. Weare's Sure Cure For Heaves. Accomplishes what its name implies, and no medicine is equal to it for Epizootic. A trial of one 25 cent package condition powders, or a 50 cent sure cure for heaves will produce greater results than four times the expenditure in any other remedy and convince the most skeptical of their real worth and reliability. Remember that these remedies are put upon the market as the best in the world. They are used by the most prominent Livery, Sale, Transportation and Express stables in Chicago, Detroit and other places. FOR SALE BY, WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

FOR SALE. Thirteen full blooded American registered MERINO RAMS. JOHN H. SNOW, Birminghm, Mich.