THE BIRMINGHAM EAGLE.
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THE question that most concerns humanity is not how long this earth will last, but what can we do to make it better while it lasts.

SELF-RESPECTING newspapers should not encourage the use of their columns in the interest of indecency and should refuse to pay attention to such libels upon art and amusement as are the shows of the dance-hall order and their advertising schemes.

"TWO-THIRDS of the church members of this country are women," the infidel sneeringly remarks. Is there anything about that to be ashamed of? Here is another fact: Out of 45,000 convicts in our state prisons more than 43,000 are men.

REMEMBER that it matters but little what great thing we undertake. Our glory is in what we accomplish. No body in the world cares for what we mean to do; but everybody will open their eyes by and by and see what men and women and little children have done.

THE most marked social change wrought in our time is the extraordinary increase in the number of educated women who voluntarily earn their living by work. As history shall look back and weigh our time it will pretty surely regard this change as the happiest of all that we have made.

IF American citizens would contract themselves with moderate wealth and divide their time and energy between their personal affairs and public affairs, it would be vastly better for themselves and for the nation as a whole, but this they are not doing; and this is, therefore, a great national peril.

A HEALTHY woman is under no more actual restraint in the pursuit of laudable purposes of travel or other wholesome enjoyment than a man is if she only makes up her mind to consider herself primarily as a free-born human being and secondarily as a woman, instead of reversing the order as women usually do. A woman has only to make up her mind that it is perfectly proper for her to do any innocent thing that she has a mind to do in order to bring all harmless "good times" as completely within her horizon as they are within her brother's.

ONE seeming result of the decline of the old-time observance of the national holiday is that the rising generation of Americans are supposed to be losing one of the incentives to love of country through their loss of the imposing exhibitions of patriotism which were so generally made on each recurring Fourth of July by the authorities and by private citizens. We do not fully agree with this pessimistic view. Those who wish to forget the old traditions of daily newspapers which in those days reproduce on Independence day the glorious history of the past and thus revive the patriotism of young and old.

GOOD ventilation, clean clothes and pure air, should be provided for. Great care should be taken to so arrange for the light of the school room that the pupils' eyes shall not be ruined either by insufficient or by improperly arranged light. School children of this country, because of inattention to this matter of proper light, have many victims of myopia oftener than any other class. They are forced, often, to strain their eyes, the light being bad—insufficient, falling upon their books from the wrong direction; and myopia—shortsightedness—becomes almost universal among a large per cent of school children. This is too serious a matter to be treated indifferently by the custodians of our public schools.

IT is true that there is much to be said in favor of great institutions of learning—that is, institutions that are attended by great numbers of students provided they are adequately endowed. They can have larger and better libraries and cabinets and scientific apparatus, and they can generally command the best talent in their faculties. But, while this is true, it is also true that there are some drawbacks about numerously attended institutions, while the smaller ones offer some essential advantages. The student in the former comes in personal contact with the really superior minds of the faculties only to a limited extent. The most of the recitations, for the first two years at least, are made to tutors, and the student sees but little of the professors. The tutors are almost invariably scholarly and bright young men, it is true, but it can hardly be said that they are always the equals of the professors in the smaller institutions who come in daily contact with the students during the greater part of their course.

THE mother who compels her children to wait for a second table or to eat with the servants or servants whenever she has company, simply because those children do not know how to behave before company, is not only doing them a grave injustice, but is casting a serious reflection on her own knowledge of the amenities and proprieties of life. She denies them the opportunity to learn by observation and convinces her guests if they think about the situation at all that her children are ill behaved. Every-day manners at any table ought always to be company manners. Let the child be fully instructed as the proper way to eat and made to eat that way when the family is alone and there need be no fear of embarrassment when guests are assembled about the board. A keen observer once remarked: "I can tell almost exactly what the home life of a family is if I can have the children with me for an afternoon and during a meal. They may try to keep up company manners, but evidences of the real life will slip out the best they can do." Let the parents set a good example every day at the table and and the children will naturally follow that example.

A BELEAGURED CITY.

Detroit in the Hands of the Grand Army of the Republic.—The Citizens Satisfied.

The Old Soldiers Find Everything Ready for Their Reception and Entertainment.

Items of Interest From All Parts of the State Gathered by Wire and by Mail.

Detroit Invaded.

DETROIT, August 2.—Sunday night until the morning every train arriving in this city has brought hundreds of members of the G. A. R. and visitors to the twenty-fifth annual reunion now being held here. The city is thronged with the blue-coated veterans and their friends, and the martial spirit is abroad in the streets. The citizens of Detroit have thrown open their houses and have gone into the business of receiving and entertaining the visitors in a wholesale and hearty manner. Her streets are gaily decorated, the business houses are draped in mourning and literally covered with a mass of pictures, flags and bunting. Several magnificent arches have been erected in various parts of the city and all the houses are decked in holiday attire. Excellent provisions were made for the accommodation of