

HUMBUGS.

In these modern days the road to wealth has become so plain, with all the 'stumps and runners' cleared out, and mile posts and sign boards up at every fork and crossing, that it is really surprising that there should be any poor in the land. Take up any newspaper you will and you will find the most flattering proposals for "light and genteel" employment, with the very highest remuneration guaranteed, and all without capital on your part except, perhaps, a few postage stamps, a ten cent or twenty-five cent shipplaster, or, at most, a few dollars, to be forwarded in advance for the necessary blanks and instructions. From two to ten dollars a day, or seventy-five to two hundred dollars a month, is a mere bagatelle. It can be realized with scarcely any exertion at all, and if one should be industriously inclined and push the business in a business way, there is no telling how much may be realized.

These delightful openings for making a fortune in double quick time, without labor or risk of capital, are excellent baits for gudgeons, and many a one is enticed and caught by them. So fair is the bait and so numerous and varied the specious hooks its covers, that the only difficulty with the fortune seeker would seem to be, to know which to bite at. We warn our readers not to bite at any of them.

But the agency humbug is not the only one the advertising columns of the newspapers offer as an easy road to ease and affluence on the labor saving dodge. Farmers and mechanics are offered daily the most wonder-working inventions for doing their work for them. Catalogues of valuable money-making discoveries and inventions are as plentiful as blackberries, or, to express it more classically, "thick as leaves upon the brooks of Valambrosa." One proposes to tell how to make butter at four cents a pound. Another scheme proposes, for a six dollar investment, to teach one to make from \$1,000 to \$3,000 a day!! That's better than a California gold mine. And what is this mighty secret? Why nothing more than to make 'split-scutt' and 'forty-rod' whiskey by the skillful combination of a few poisonous drugs. One 'scientific' discoverer proposes, for a consideration, to reveal the secret for the destruction of pestiferous insects, another wants to sell, at a high figure, seeds of 'Japanese peas' that will sufficiently grease themselves in cooking, without bacon or lard, and leave a 'right smart skimming' for soap grease.

We advocate agricultural and mechanical improvements and inventions. Many very valuable ones have been offered to the public. But we advise the reader to be cautious in taking hold of, and spending his money for, every highly puffed article he may see advertised and certified to, in the flaring advertisements in the papers, or so beautifully delineated in colored pictures in the thousands of pamphlets and 'almanacs' with which the country is flooded.

Among the modern humbugs, none are more specious and plausible than those of 'cheap sewing machines,' wonderful fertilizers, improved seeds, and the thousand and one shapes in which the patent medicine man presents their

pills and bitters, salves, lotions and potions. There may be good in all these things, but we never take the long list of friendly certificates offered in their behalf as much evidence of it. Don't lay out your money for every highly puffed humbug that comes along, but save it to purchase really useful and meritorious articles. Remember that legitimate schemes, those which offer a fair prospect of profit, don't have to go begging all over the country by means of circulars and 'lifaluth' advertisements; there are plenty of persons ready to invest in any enterprise if common sense says there is profit in it.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The Board of Trustees of the State University will meet in Raleigh on the 16th inst., for the election of professors and to attend to other matters requisite to commencing operations at Chapel Hill next September.

At the last meeting of the Board a resolution was adopted appointing a committee, consisting of Messrs. Kemp P. Battle, B. F. Moore, W. A. Graham, Paul C. Cameron and John Manning, "to adopt such measures as they may deem advisable for raising contributions for the use of the University, on such conditions and limitations as may be agreed on with the donors."

The following article from the *News* of the 4th inst., informs us of the flattering success the committee has met with in its labors up to that date, and also contains a request from the chairman of the committee to which attention is directed:

"We learn from Mr. Kemp P. Battle, chairman of the committee for raising contributions for the revival of the University, that he finds the most gratifying interest taken in the subject, not only among the sons of the University, but all the friends of higher education. He is sending subscription papers out rapidly, and hopes soon to chronicle large returns. In a visit to Edgecombe last week, in a few hours he secured over \$2,000, and Capt. Fred. Phillips, who is acting as his agent, expects by the 10th inst., to raise the quota of Edgecombe to \$3,500 or \$4,000. Thus far have been handed in, most of them voluntarily, two subscriptions of \$1,000 each, fifteen of \$500 each, one of \$300, four of \$250 each, one of \$200, seven of \$100 each; aggregating about \$12,000. All of these subscriptions are payable in equal annual installments except one of \$1,000, which is in an eight per cent first mortgage—a first class security.

No publication will be made of the subscriptions until after the 10th of June, when the reports will all be in.

Mr. Battle requests that those who are willing to help the University, to whom he may not send subscription papers will communicate with him at once.

He further requests that newspapers desiring to aid the revival of the University will please copy this notice."

This looks like putting the University on its legs again, and we hope to see it enjoying, at an early day, a degree of prosperity beyond anything in the past.

THE FIRST COW.—The first cow that ever grazed upon the territory now embraced within the limits of the United States, was brought from England to Jamestown in Virginia, about the year 1609. So says the *Massachusetts Poughman*.

THE SEWING MACHINE.

Travel where you will in this fair land of ours—along the sandy plains or on the mountain top—on county road or neighborhood mill path—you will not go many miles without meeting or overtaking a neatly painted and splendidly labeled sewing machine wagon. They go everywhere and the agents are so persevering in their efforts to supply their wares that, according to the newspapers, they, with insurance agents and lightning-rod men, have almost become proverbial bores. There is one thing to be said in their favor, however, and that is, they have pushed their business with such success that few families, able to purchase, are now to be found without a sewing machine, and we don't think any family is any worse off for buying one.

But this has not been the case many years. There are now living many unmarried females who deny the soft impeachment of being old maids, who can remember the time when there was not a sewing machine in all the country—when the watch-dog never barked at a sewing machine agent from January to December. The various inventions and improvements in this indispensable adjunct of house-keeping have been the work of a few years past. "The introduction of the sewing machine, by which the slow and tedious process of hand sewing is so largely done away with, is due entirely to American ingenuity and enterprise."

It is true that some steps in this direction were taken in England as early as 1755, when a patent was granted to Charles F. Weisenthal for a machine for "an improved method of embroidering." This was simply a needle pointed at both ends with the eye in the middle, by which it could be pushed through the fabric without being turned. In 1770 a patent was granted to Robert Alsop of England for the use of shuttles in embroidery for the purpose of securing the stitches. At various times, from 1770 to 1851, patents were granted for improvements on the above, but none of them contained the principle of the machines now in use in this country, for joining seams by a regular stitch.

The first American patent on sewing machines was granted, February 21, 1842, to James Greenough, of Washington. This machine made what is called 'the shoemakers' stitch,' and had the eye in the centre. In 1843 patents were granted to G. R. Collins and B. W. Bean. But these machines 'merely basted.' The first practicable machine ever patented was that of Elias Howe, Jr., September 10, 1846, though it had been invented and worked some years before. He afterward considerably improved his first invention, but from some cause failed to excite sufficient attention to it, either in America or Europe, to enable him to raise the capital necessary to its general introduction. But he afterward received large amounts in way of royalty on his invention from other patentees, most of which was exhausted in law suits in maintaining his right, so that he is said to have died in comparatively indigent circumstances.

Howe's invention was the beginning of an era of inventions and improvements in sewing machines, and the number has increased with each succeeding year, so that between the year 1846 and 1871 the number of

patents for inventions, improvements, modifications and new arrangements of the parts of sewing machines, reached, according to the Patent Office Reports, nearly one thousand, and nearly as many applications have been rejected. Thirty-seven patents were issued in 1857, seventy-two in 1858 and the same number in 1859. The number averaged about fifty each year until 1869, in which year they reached eighty-eight.

Many of these patents have never been successfully brought before the public, but a sufficient number have for all practical purposes. If the inventors, however, will only go on until they shall have perfected a machine with a hopper to it, in which the goods may be placed and the works adjusted to the particular size, &c., of the garment to be constructed, with clock-work attachment to run it, so that it will turn out a dress, sacque or wrapper while the "guide wife" goes to milk the cows, or fry the pan-cakes for dinner, they will, doubtless, reap a rich remuneration and have the thanks of all female christendom. Perfection in this line has not yet been reached.

What a sad spectacle it is to see so many of the boys of our country, growing up without learning any trade, or preparing for any occupation by which they may make an honest and independent living when they come to be men. Our people depend too much upon chance and fortuitous circumstances for the means of livelihood, ignoring the fact that a man will generally succeed best in that calling for which he has prepared himself by a course of study and training. For this state of things parents are much to blame, and they often entail an untold amount of suffering upon their offspring by the foolish notions justling into their minds even from early infancy, and the indulgence shown them in allowing them to follow their own inclinations in what they will or will not do. A boy baby is born and straightway the fond parents dub him George Washington or Benjamin Franklin, and their whole course of his after treatment shows that it is only a matter of time for him to become the father of his country or to set about bottling lightning for medical and scientific purposes. Put him to plowing! O no! that would cramp his genius. He is too much a prodigy to learn to join planks or lay bricks, and so, not knowing exactly what big thing he is to do, he does nothing in particular, but grows up in habits of indolence, and, finding no country particularly in need of a father, and the supply of electricity on hand sufficient for all telegraphic purposes, he continues to feed on "dad" and waits for "something to turn up." Finally, conscious shame at his own worthlessness drives him to look round for something like employment, and finding something easy and shady, he pitches in without the first previous qualification for the business and usually succeeds in making a failure.

Is the picture overdrawn? We would fain hope so, but can not believe it. We see too many youths, whose parents are not sufficiently wealthy to insure their sons and daughters against the necessity of labor, growing up without acquiring habits of industry and without any settled purpose in life, to allow the idea that we have drawn the picture in colors too high. Our advice to every girl and boy is, learn to

work. Choose some useful occupation—some trade—and then set about qualifying yourself for it. If afterward you find you have a genius and talent for something higher, the world will find it out and open the door for you to enter upon it. It is a shame and a disgrace for a man or a woman to get a living from the world and do nothing for the world to pay for it. And don't depend upon making a living by your wits alone, lest you fail for want of capital.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

"I can't read." We hear this expression frequently from full grown free white men, who have been raised, perhaps, in the neighborhood of school-houses, and in a country where two spelling books can be bought for the price of one plug of tobacco. We don't believe that more than one in ten of those unable to read, are devoid of that necessarily accomplishment because they could not, but because they would not learn at the proper age, and nobody compelled them to do it. Hence we are in favor of compulsory education. Perhaps a large majority of children would keep from school and never look into a book, at least to study it, unless they were forced to do it, either by the loving persuasion or more potent arguments of their parents. But when parents, from ignorance, carelessness or parsimony, fail to exert the necessary influence over their children to induce them to learn, there ought to be some power exercised over the parents to force them to do what is so necessary for the good not only of the child, but of the community also. And when there is no parent, then the State ought to become the guardian of the child and attend to its welfare in this respect as it does in taking care of its property, if it has any.

DEACON M.'S PRAYER.

A young lady was taking a pleasure walk, one summer day, in a deeply shaded woodland, and being weary, sat down to rest on a secluded mossy bank near the summit of a hill. Presently she heard a voice, as of one engaged in earnest conversation, and on advancing a step or two, she saw good Deacon M.—coming leisurely up the hill, the reins hanging loosely over his horse's neck.

"What can he be talking about so earnestly to himself?" she thought; but directly she heard the voice of prayer, and the words which God's providence caused to be especially impressed upon her mind, were these:

"O Lord, have mercy upon the dear youth of this place."

The good old man rode on; but the voice of prayer was heard after he had disappeared from her view in the depths of the forest.

The young lady was struck with the thought, "Is this the way Christians go about the towns and mingle with the world? Do they pray thus for our souls? I have hardly ever prayed for my own."

From that day and hour she began to pray, and became herself the first fruits of a glorious revival. The good deacon's prayer was answered even while it was being offered.

Don't despise or treat unkindly a little boy or girl just because they do not wear fine clothes, for many a warm, brave heart has been found wrapped up in ragged clothes.