

## ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Wednesday, May 30, 1877.

### THE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

We are not very sanguine as to the benefits to result from our appropriations to Normal Schools. These schools will do good, but their value is liable to be over-estimated. Their object is to increase the number of competent teachers. What for? Our present trouble is that there is no demand for competent teachers, and hundreds of them have gone to other employments. Why then increase the number? The crying need is more schools, not more teachers. Thousands of boys and girls are growing up in ignorance, while many excellent teachers are out of employment. But a normal certificate may give employment to some whose normal instruction is insufficient for the school-room. A normal course is not fundamental. A six-weeks course is not even half of "Steele's Fourteen Weeks in the Sciences." No text-book can be mastered in that time. A few finishing touches and "the tricks of the trade" (in a good sense of course) may be acquired, but thorough scholarship can not be attained in a time so brief. But this is an age of short-cuts. Boys have no patience to learn sciences, arts or trades, and the land is flooded with "jack-legs" and second class work-men. Many will therefore imagine that six weeks in a normal school can be substituted for the old scholastic course, just as an ignoramus expects to be an expert book-keeper by spending six weeks in a "Commercial College."

We have seen some farmers so occupied with theories and methods of cultivation that they actually forget to plant and work their corn. Just so some teachers are expert in various methods, and are so busy illustrating the different ways of teaching, that they do not allow the students any time to learn the fundamental principles. Two thousand dollars (for a colored normal school) would have done more good if applied to thorough scholarship. Negroes are imitative and will teach just as they have been taught. They need a bridle to hold them in check and keep them from teaching till they learn more. They are too ready for short-cuts. Some years ago a man was in our State "professing" (nearly every humbug calls himself "professor") to teach arithmetic thoroughly in three hours. We examined some of his students and found that his was a mere superficial, short-cut system. Yet it was popular, and in some places the entire community was humbugged.

We believe in normal schools, in their proper places, as a part, and an important part, of preparation for teaching; but there is not and can not be any substitute for thorough and fundamental scholarship.

### THE WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

There is no natural boundary between Europe and Asia. Herodotus, Homer, and other writers have mentioned unimportant events as the causes of these wars; but hundreds of thousands of brave men are not going to kill each other on account of a few run-away women. A navigable river, or lake, or small sea is nature's high-way for mankind. Its tendency is to unite, and not to divide. But the Black Sea lies

between Europe and Asia. It is a part of the boundary between Russia and Turkey, and these great powers are not content with such a boundary line. Several Turkish provinces, lying towards Russia, have been restless under Turkish oppression; and to hold them in subjection, the Turks have been guilty of cruel inhumanity. Both nations now claim to fight in the name of religion, for the same reason that induced the Devil to join the church. Russia sends one army down the Danube to the West end of the Black Sea, and Roumania lying between Austria and the Danube revolts from Turkey and joins Russia. Hence a great battle may be expected near Bucharest, (accent on the last syllable) or the mouths of the Danube. But Russia sends another army down the Volga, through Circassia and Georgia, and attacks the Turks at Kars, near the East end of the Black Sea. So far no decisive battle has been fought. The armies are cautiously feeling their way. As the war is near the basin of the Mediterranean and the valley of the Nile, the great granaries of the world, it is not probable that there will be any real scarcity of bread during the present year, though speculation may increase the price of corn. The demands of her own commerce, her ownership of Gibraltar, and her stock in the Suez Canal, will induce England to protect the Mediterranean Sea and keep open the road to Egypt and India. How the war will result, and whether other nations will be involved therein, we can not tell at present.

### THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF JUNE.

Isaiah alludes to John the Baptist as "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." The great Fore-runner came, eating common food, wearing the cheapest clothes, and preaching true repentance and corresponding reformation. Even the rich and the royal were boldly rebuked for sin, and though the noble preacher's life was lost, his soul and the souls of those who hearkened to his faithful warnings were saved from eternal death. This year his Anniversary occurs on Sunday. In some places Friday will be celebrated, in some Saturday, in some Monday; but in most places there will be no celebration at all. It has been therefore suggested that on Sunday the 24th of June those congregations which have so often prayed for poor and needy orphans, be invited to answer their own prayers according as the Lord has blessed them with the means. Some churches and some individuals have already done their whole duty. Others have done nothing at all, and would be grateful for a suitable opportunity. Let the case be fairly stated. Let no pitiful appeal be made, and let no one be annoyed. If the Lord has done nothing for a man that man should not be urged to help the poor. But let every man consider what the Lord has done for him, and let his own heart and conscience decide what he ought to do for the needy and dependent orphans.

David A. Covington has been elected mayor of Monroe. His estimable father, when moderator of Brown Creek Association, was remarkable for his courtesy as a presiding officer.

### DR. HILL.

We know not how to be reconciled to the death of this excellent man. Earth loses many of its attractions when such a treasure is taken away. A few days ago we passed by his office now closed, in sorrow, and recalled an incident of his life of charity.

His pastor was going to preach a sermon on benevolence and follow it with a collection for the orphans. Dr. Hill had already made his regular contribution to the Orphan Asylum and had besides collected a liberal sum among his friends and sent it on. So, when he started to church, he put fifty cents in his vest pocket to have it convenient when the basket came along. But while Mr. Mangum was praying, Dr. Hill, on his knees, became dissatisfied. He opened his eyes, took his half-dollar and returned it to his pocket-book, and put a dollar in his vest pocket. But as his pastor was preaching that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" he took the dollar from his pocket and returned it to his pocket-book and put a larger bill in his vest pocket, and had it ready for the basket. The collection was liberal; for the small pox is not any more contagious than a good example.

### "CIRCULAR NO. 1."

Dr. Ledoux, of the University has issued a pamphlet of 16 pages pointing out to the farmers how they have been buying water and sand in the name of fertilizers. It is just as much the duty of a state to protect its citizens against swindlers as against professional thieves, and we are glad to see Dr. Ledoux entering so vigorously on his duties. He does not hide his meaning behind technical jaw-breakers; but his words are plain and his statements are instructive. We learn that "Double Refined Poudre" is more than half sand, and "Super phosphate of Bone" is nearly half sand and one tenth water. A man might almost as well put his money under a lottery wheel as to buy bogus guano. We are waiting for circular No. 2.

### PITY THE SORROWS OF A POOR OLD MAN.

If we owned a rail-road the venerable editor of the *Milton Chronicle* should ride, and, the conductors should lift their caps and "pass" him. He says:

It's now three years since an engine pulled our carcass, and during this whole time we've been working in more ways than one for the interest of the Colonel's roads. Probably we are too heavy for his loco-motives! But no matter. We may get to be a member of the Legislature some of these days, and we'll ride the engine down on a dead head ticket—you see it we don't.

A man who hanged himself in Nevada left a letter to a friend, in which he said: "I advise you earnestly to follow my example. You ought to know you are too mean to live. The world would be better without you, and it is your duty to die, and leave more room for better men."—*Ex.*

Many men are too mean to live as they are; but reformation, and not suicide, is their imperative duty. A man has no right to be mean, no right to kill himself; but every man has an inalienable right to reform his life and become a good and useful citizen.

### A Strange Offering.

A jug of Nash Brandy was in the altar of the old Catholic Church in Raleigh.

Senator Sherman has a little adopted daughter, whom he took from a New York Orphan Asylum, when she was a baby.

Remember that you are justly blamed for all the wrongs, mistakes and misfortunes, which you, having the power, fail to prevent.

If you meet a man going astray, and fail to give the needed warning, the wanderer is lost by your consent.

If you see some little boy or girl wasting precious youth, or starting on a career of crime, and make no effort to give a friendly admonition, or commend a better way, the sin lies at your door.

If you see people laboring under dangerous delusions, or mistaking the path of duty, and you fail to put the just and true before them, you aid the wrong, and refuse to defend the right.

If you see people bringing sorrow on themselves, or suffering misfortunes which might be turned away, and you fail to make an effort for their relief, your guilt is too manifest to be denied. Good people must do good, as well as be good.

The expected ball at Chapel Hill has imparted new impetus to dancing schools, and teachers of the "light fantastic" are in demand. If a man can find nothing else to do, and can not go to sleep, then we advise him to shake his foot; but we are very sorry for any man who has the misfortune to be reduced to that useless, unprofitable and difficult employment.

### ADDRESS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

#### THE UNIVERSITY NORMAL SCHOOL.

At the meeting of the State Board of Education, held in this city Thursday afternoon, the following address to the teachers of the State was adopted:

To the Teachers of the State and those wishing to become Teachers:

The General Assembly having authorized the Board of Education to establish a normal school for white males in connection with the University, in execution of this power and to accomplish "the greatest good to the greatest number," this Board of Education, with the concurrence of the trustees and faculty of the University, conclude to adopt the following scheme:

1. The school will be open not only to those desiring to become teachers, but to all those now engaged in teaching. Females are invited to attend also.

2. The session will be during the summer vacation of the University. It will begin on Tuesday, the 31 July next, and will continue for at least six weeks. The school will be held in one or more of the University recitation rooms or laboratories.

3. Normal teaching being not only a science but an art, it has been determined to place the conduct of the school in the hands of trained experts—men who have for years made normal methods a study and have had large experience in their practical working.

Accordingly Professor John I. Ladd, superintendent of the public schools of Staunton, Va., and Prof. L. H. Owens, formerly superintendent of the public schools of Petersburg, Va., now president of Deshler Female Institute, of Tusculum, Ala., have been chosen as two of the Professors of the University Normal School. At least one other Professor will be chosen who will probably be a resident of the State. Professors Ladd and Owens are distinguished as peculiarly skillful and accomplished normal instructors, powerful in inspiring vigor and interest in normal school exercises.

4. Regular exercises will be had daily in the following branches: Arithmetic, written and mental, grammar, analysis, geography, reading, orthography, phonetics, penmanship. Instruction will be given practically on school discipline, methods, organization, qualifications, legal relations of teacher, parent and child.

A daily drill in vocal music will be had. In addition to the regular daily exercises eminent men of this and other States will deliver lectures occasionally at night for the instruction of the students.

5. The trustees and faculty of the University will allow the use of their recitation rooms, laboratories, libraries, museum &c., and the Professors have, at the request of the board of education, agreed to cordially cooperate when desired in furthering the objects of the school.

### 6. There will be NO CHARGE FOR TUITION.

Dormitories in the University buildings will be furnished free so that those who bring their own bedding will be at no expense on this account. Table board, not exceeding \$10 per month, can be had in private families. Arrangements have been made by which those wishing to mess together can live still more cheaply than this. Facilities for cooking will be furnished to those who bring their own provisions and cooking utensils.

The railroad companies will grant half fare. Transportation can be had from Durham to Chapel Hill at from fifty cents to one dollar. The people of Chapel Hill promise to endeavor to make the sojourn among them pleasant.

### 7. EXPENSES PAID IN PART

Rev. Dr. Sears, agent of the Peabody Fund, so highly approves the establishment of the school, that he has placed at the disposal of the Board \$500. The Board adds to this \$500 more, making a fund of \$1,000, which will be used in defraying the necessary expenses of regular attendants on the school who are unable to pay, being applied first towards paying their traveling expenses and then towards the expenses of the Board. The object is to put those living far from Chapel Hill on an equality with those living near.

8. The foregoing offers, unparalleled in this State for liberality, affording opportunities which will not be met with in a life-time, are offered to all white males who are either teachers now or expect to become teachers.

### FEMALES.

Although the law requires that the moneys paid by the State shall be devoted to the use of males, yet females are cordially invited to attend all the exercises of the school free of charge.

All those wishing to become regular attendants on the school will send their names to Hon. Kemp P. Battle, at Chapel Hill, on or before the 20th day of June next.

Attendants on the school will please bring the text-books they may have relating to the studies above named. Deficiencies will be supplied by the Board.

Prompt attendance is greatly desirable but pupils will be received at any time.

It has been the aim of the Board to expend this gift of the Legislature in the manner best calculated to benefit that large but humble class of teachers whose noble calling it is to instruct the bulk of our people, to give them as far as possible all advantages to be derived from the University, making it the common property of rich and poor, and to inspire a more general interest in the great cause of education.

We earnestly appeal to every teacher and every man and woman in the State who desires to teach, to come forward and attend this school.

Should it prove successful, the Legislature will no doubt increase the appropriation, and with experience and enlarged means we may well hope to do a great work for North Carolina.

Z. B. VANCE.

Governor and Chairman Board of Education

KEMP P. BATTLE.

President of the University.

J. C. SCARBOROUGH,

Superintendent of Public Instruction and Secretary of Board of Education.

### WELL SAID.

The *Duplin Record* says (and the *Daily News* copies) the following:

### Education.

It is a lamentable fact that our people take so little interest in the education of their children. It is only an instance here and there, in which we see or hear of any one who is attempting to give his child a collegiate education. This, of itself, is a very sad state of things.

All ought to have the advantages of the rudiments of an education. The good of society demands it. The interests of our children, which ought to be above every thing else with us requires it, and necessity is a true friend to his own children, who does not help to sustain a school, and he is really an injury, rather than a benefit, to a community. But some say, "We are not able to send to school." We say, you had better save from the clothing and food which they use, enough to pay the tuition, than to neglect a matter of such vast importance to your children and the community. If every one does not do his part, all must suffer, and the community take a lower rank in the scale of intelligence and moral advancement and excellence.

Oh, thrice fools are we, who, like new-born princes weeping in the cradle, know not that there is a kingdom before them!