

ORPHANS' FRIEND.

Wednesday, October 19, 1877.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

(CONTINUED.)

The storm spent itself on Friday night, and on Saturday morning we gave an entertainment in the Methodist Church of Princeton. The attendance was large and curiosity was high; but no one proposed a collection. The officers of the Lodge were—well, bashful, perhaps. Easy drive to Selma, though we had to ford a deep swamp and cross two bridges literally floating. One small bridge was washed away, but the water was not very deep. Messrs. Watson, Hood, Dr. Vick and others, were very kind, and we were soon distributed. We met in the Baptist church, and had room to seat the people. This is an excellent house, and can be made warm or cool at pleasure. On Monday we took a long ride to see a little girl, reported white, living with negroes. She proved to be a deserted child and the daughter of a Scuffletown girl, of the Lowrey blood. At Smithfield we found them waiting for us. And noble people they are. Rev. Mr. Brown prayed for the young and requested a collection. The colored people drop down their contributions from the gallery. The children are also loaded with presents. Now we cross the noble Neuse on a covered bridge, and are soon rolling over the hills to Elevation. We stop to dine, and the citizens invite us to spend the night. Here we find a splendid spring and a comfortable church. Mr. Lynn Adams, of Raleigh, has been preaching here, and an Engineer (Mr. Peters, of Philadelphia) has an appointment for to-night. There seems to be a rage for "lay-preaching." Our deliberate opinion is that "lay-practice" would accomplish more good. But brother Adams hath a song and a sermon, and so hath brother Peters.

READING ALOUD.

The three "Rs" once mentioned by an ignorant pupil, "Reading, Riting, and Rithmetic," are still taught in all our schools; yet many young ladies and gentlemen who have received diplomas from our best colleges and seminaries, cannot read a newspaper article without torturing their audience with poor reading. The reason of this is apparent; too little attention is paid at home, to children's reading.

Practice is necessary to make a fluent reader; in the best regulated schools sufficient time cannot be devoted to reading. Half an hour per day is little enough for each child to spend on this important branch, but in a school of even twenty, one will readily see the impossibility of allowing the half of that. No one would expect a girl to become a good musician if she spent on music, only the time allotted for her lessons. It is the patient practice day after day, hours at a time; persisted in for years, under the guidance of skilful instructors, that makes her an accomplished musician. The same patient practice and skilful instruction is equally necessary to make a good reader. If mothers and older sisters wish the little ones to become fluent readers, they must require them to read aloud regularly and frequently, from well-chosen books. It is of great importance that they should understand what they read, and feel interested in it. A

sprightly little girl once said to her mother, "I hate for you to tell me to get a book and sit down." Her stock of books consisted of a pictorial primer, "The Life of Bunyan," "Tales of the Covenanters," and a few more of the same sort. No wonder that child had developed no taste for literature. "The Rollo Books," "Franconia Stories," and above all, "Parent's Assistant," will make reading a delightful task to children. Books will be their dearest possessions; and while improving their reading, they will be storing their minds with bits of useful information, and forming their manners by the excellent models to be found there.

True it will be considerable expense to supply suitable books; but they are not more expensive than music; nor is reading aloud, even simple childish tales, a greater annoyance in a family than the inevitable piano practice, where there are music pupils. Some Mothers will not be troubled with their children's lessons: they select good teachers, and think it unreasonable to expect more of them. But while a teacher does all that a teacher can do, it will invariably be found, that those children, who are the pride of the school, are the ones who recite their lessons to Mother or sister, before going to school. No school, however admirable its system, text books, and teachers can supply this home assistance. If it were always given to children while in the primary department, teachers in High Schools would not have so many indifferent readers, whose bad habits are of long standing and are therefore, in most instances, incurable.

MISQUOTATION OF TEXTS.

Whimsical errors sometimes are made in quotation from the Bible, and it may be that there are many 'household words' which are generally supposed to be in the Scriptures, which would be sought there in vain. 'We know a minister,' says the Religious Herald, 'who wrote a sermon from what he supposed was a passage of Scripture, and was surprised and somewhat confused on Sabbath morning to find that there was no such passage in the Bible, and hence that his sermon had no text. Another minister read before a number of his brethren, a discourse from the words: "Work while the day lasts." It was a carefully prepared production, and he was taken quite aback, when one of his hearers asked him why he did not take for his text, "Make hay while the sun shines;" for if the former passage was in the Bible, so was the latter.'

We know an excellent man, who in his prayer, was in the habit of anticipating the day when 'the heathen would cast their idols and moulds to the bats.' Another—not a professor of religion, however, who used to protest, 'in the language of the apostle,' that such and such things, were 'Greek and foolishness.'

The sweet sentence of Sterne—"God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," is still supposed by many to be from the Bible. And how many there are who will be surprised to be informed that there is no such sentence in the Bible, as, 'God cannot look upon sin or sinners, with the least degree of allowance.' Instances of general and clerical error might be multiplied.—*Baptist Family Magazine.*

Davidson College opened with 70 odd students. Nearly forty of whom are new.

THE CULTURE OF INFANCY.

It is saying too little when we affirm that the greatest care should be exercised in the education of children. The Great Teacher has said in language so strong that it could not be stronger, "Except ye become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Are these words mere rhetoric? Who will deny that there is a depth of meaning here, equal to the importance of the subject? Some sage older than Socrates engraved on the temple of Delphi the sentiment "Know thyself." What this knowing self is, the great Nazarene declared, when he called a little child to him and said "Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones, it were better for him that a mill-stone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

If, then, children are of such great importance, how necessary is it that the teacher should be armed with the most perfect preparation, and the best and most appropriate instruction, to offer to these little ones.

Children are constantly preparing for coming life. Sometimes the boy is a farmer, his chair a plow, another chair, his horse; he utters his commands with all the authority of manhood. Perhaps Mamie's doll is sick, Johnnie is sent for, and with papa's hat and cane he comes along with the gravity of Esculapius himself, and administers his powders of sand and flour, while Mamie's countenance assumes almost maternal anxiety and distress. A few blocks and a box constitute a railroad train—and so in all the plays of childhood the creative faculty is extremely active. This disposition of mind should be especially noticed in the education of children.

Josh Billings says, "Would you train up a child in the way he should go, go that way once in a while yourself;" good advice, especially to those who are continually trying to teach children as they would grown up people.

Education is the harmonious development of all the powers of the mind. Suppose a gardener should prune a tree, with the exception of one limb; or a farmer persist in raising but one thing, year after year, it is evident they would not succeed. Is it not equally absurd to persist in cultivating only one of the powers of the mind in childhood, excluding all the rest? It is certain some faculties may be perfectly developed in childhood and among them is attention. Things high, low; soft, hard; hot, cold; near and far, are noticed. The uses of things are soon learned, as chair, cradle, broom, hat, door, and a multitude of others.

The imagination soon is vivid; the real world opens an ideal one. It soon learns to step from what it can see to what it can not see; from what it sees with the eye to what it sees with the mind.

Healthy childhood is active, restless, impulsive, devoid of reason, full of passion, eager for something new, loving stories, confiding, and even detecting humbugs with the quickness of thought.

There are two theories relating to the education of children. One is they should do nothing improper for older persons to do. They should be quiet, walk slowly, never ask questions, always go to church, keep awake while listening to a long sermon as incomprehensible to them as Latin. They must be made to do just

what they don't want to do. The boy must go to college, his tastes must not be consulted, he must study a profession even though he has no love or fitness for it. This is one theory.

The other declares that a child's habits should be studied, that God has made him just as he ought to be made. If he wants to play let him play, if he wants to laugh, let him; let him jump, kick up his heels, yell like a wild Indian, stand up for his rights, and knowing, dare maintain what he knows. It directs the impulses of his nature, curbing here, pruning there, but in all things letting his God-given nature, exactly fitted for God's intended work, have its full play.

In training childhood nature must be followed. We must make our school centres of mind culture, just as our gardens are centres of plant culture.—*National Teachers' Monthly.*

ANOMALIES OF ENGLISH SPELLING.

HOW THE ALPHABET IS TORTURED TO GIVE OVER FORTY SOUNDS.

One of the principal difficulties in learning the English language is the inexplicable manner in which most of the words are spelled, the twenty-six letters of the alphabet vying with each other to represent the forty or forty-two sounds of the language in the most bungling and disorderly manner.

Be the capacity of a child ever so good, yet he must spend years in learning these "curiosities of literature," while a foreigner can only master our noble language by a vast expense of labor, patience and time.

The Protean nature of the vowel sounds is familiar to all. A few amusing examples will show that the consonants are nearly as bad:

B makes a road broad, turns the ear to bear and Tom into a tomb.

C makes limb climb, hanged changed, a lever clever and transports a lover to clover.

D turns a bear to beard, a crow to a crowd and makes anger danger.

F turns lower regions to flower regions.

G changes a son to a song and makes one gone.

H changes eight into height.

K makes now know and eyed keyed.

L transforms a pear into a pearl.

N turns a line into linen, a crow to a crown and makes one none!

P metamorphoses lumber into plumber.

Q, of itself, hath no significance.

S turns even to seven, makes have shave, and a word a sword, a pear to spear, makes slaughter of laughter, and curiously changes having a hoe to shaving a shoe!

T makes a bough bought, turns here there, alters one to tone, changes ether to tether, and transforms the phrase "allow his own" to "tallow his town!"

W does well, e. g., hose are whose? are becomes ware, on won, omen women, so sow, vic view; it makes an arm warm, and turns a hat into—what?

Y turns fur to fury, a man to many, to to toy, a rub to a ruby, ours to yours, and a lad to a lady!—*Moses Patterson.*

The South Atlantic.—We learn that the Table of Contents for the first issue of this magazine is about made up, and that it will appear promptly on the 15th, the day advertised.

During the month of September there was shipped from the stations on the North Carolina Railroad 1,926,688 pounds of dried fruit.

From the whole eastern portion of the State we hear of great damage by the flood of last week, and from the state of the atmosphere we very much fear that the end is not yet.

Rev. Wallace Duncan, of Wofford College, S. C., has been elected President of Randolph Macon College in the place of his brother, Rev. Dr. James A. Duncan, recently deceased.

The North Carolina Annual Conference, Methodist Protestant Church, will convene in the town of Winston on Wednesday, the 14th of November, 1877. The annual sermon will be preached by Rev. G. A. T. Whitaker on Thursday.

Durham Tobacco Plant: We learn that a railroad from Durham to Chapel Hill is a fixed fact. We are indebted to a friend just from Raleigh for this important information. The road will be built by the company owning the iron mine at Chapel Hill, and is to be a wide guage.

Wilmington Star: Among the strange incidents of the war in the East is the eagerness the Russian soldiers show for the purchase of the Bibles sent for their use by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Over 60,000 Bibles have been bought by them since the Russian armies crossed the Pruth.

Printer's contest at State Fair.—For the fastest compositor first premium \$15; second premium \$5. Type to be used small pica, to be set solid, without paragraph or break lines; measure twenty-five ems; copy to be used, Constitution of the United States. Contest to be for one hour, and to take place in the general exhibition hall, on Wednesday, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock.

Wilmington Star: In the death of the late Rev. Dr. James A. Duncan, of Virginia, the South lost one of its greatest, possibly its greatest, orator. His elocution was superb, and he could tell what he knew better than any man we have ever heard. Rev. Dr. Read, Presbyterian, of Richmond, used to say during the war, when Dr. Duncan was stationed in that city, "When I hear that young man preach I always feel as if I were never called." The eloquent Southron was buried in Richmond. Bishop Doggett preached the sermon, which was every way appropriate and impressive. The faculties and students of Richmond (Baptist) and Randolph Macon (Methodist) Colleges were present.

ABOUT METALS.

Of the fifty known metals, vanadium is reckoned the most costly, and iron the cheapest, though really the most valuable of all. As estimated by commercial prices current, a pound of vanadium costs more than two hundred tons of pig iron. There are nineteen metals more costly than gold, though many of them are rare and practically valueless as far as applied to any practical use in their metallic state.

None of the metals are poisonous by themselves, probably because they are insoluble in their metallic condition. When metallic compounds are decomposed by electrolysis the metals are always attracted to the negative pole, and hence they are called electro-positive.—*National Teachers' Monthly.*

A pupil in an English school was asked in an examination paper, "Why is the tropic of Cancer so called, and why is it situated twenty-three and a half degrees from the equator?" The answer, constructed on a basis of purest logic, was: "The tropic of Cancer is so called from a Latin word, cancer, meaning a crab, because there are a great many crabs in that portion of the globe; and it is situated twenty-three and a half degrees from the equator because there are more crabs there than any where else." Another pupil, asked to define the word "butter," wrote out its meaning, "A female who makes butter."