

BLUE RIDGE BLADE.

J. H. HALLYBURTON, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE BLUE RIDGE BLADE.

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J. H. HALLYBURTON
Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

CASH IN ADVANCE.
 ne copy, one year \$1 50
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 " " three months 50

Produce will be taken at the highest market price in payment of subscription delivered at any point on the line of the W. N. C. R. R.

A failure to notify us to discontinue at the end of the year will be considered as a new engagement.

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The editor will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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ELOCUTIONARY ASPIRANTS.

Queer Persons Who Think They Possess Dramatic Talent.

(From the New York Sun.)

"There are some queer persons who try to learn elocution," a well-spoken professor said.

"It is really surprising to see with what persistence those who are positively disqualified will strive to acquire the declamatory art. Public school education is responsible for a good deal of this. Take a class of college boys; they are almost men. Their tastes and capacities are thoroughly marked. It is obvious that some of them have no aptitude for elocution. Their voices are inadequate; their action is irretrievably bad. Yet the curriculum requires that they should declaim regularly. No amount of natural disqualification relieves them from this duty. The result is that they only furnish sport for their companions, and go through the college course with only a perfunctory performance of this part of their duties. Of course, this in direct conflict with the most advanced thought on the subject of education. Both common sense and science dictate that it is a waste of time to try to teach some persons some things. Vast sums of money and long periods of time might be saved by refraining from attempts to perform the impossible in teaching.

"But there are some funny instances of persons of more mature years trying to learn elocution. Persons who have had little or no education in school, who can neither read nor pronounce, to whom a proper name is an insurmountable obstacle and a word beyond the commonplace a riddle, think they can be fitted to shine in elocution. These persons always trip up on pronunciation. They make the most ludicrous blunders without the faintest conception why they are laughed at. You may say that we ought not to try to teach such persons. You might as well say that a dry goods merchant should not sell unbecoming goods. Here is a young fellow who is doing moderately well in business. He goes into company and finds that elocution is all the rage. He sees others brought into prominence by readings and recitations. He thinks that he can make his mark, and he comes to me or some other professor to get instruction. I had a young grocer who took a notion to read Shakespearean pieces. He tripped over every unusual word, he absolutely fell down on the point of memory. It was only by dint of hard hammering that I could get him drilled into one twenty-minute reading. Finally I got tired of taking his money, and had to send him away.

"Then I had a fat, fussy little fellow, who took a notion to play Hamlet with a dramatic association. I told him frankly that his physique was not fit for the character. Imagine the melancholy Dane with a paunch! I had a big butcher once who wanted to play 'Claudio Melnotte.' He was better fitted to lug a side of beef than to toy with 'Pauline.' It seemed wrong to take his money, but I was afraid to tell him the truth. I believe the audience cured him at his first and last attempt. But the climax of absurdity was a little bantam fellow, who took a fancy for heavy parts. He wanted to play Coriolanus or Richard III., or other parts that required voice and action. I never saw him trying one of those characters without thinking of the fable of the toad and the ox. His tragedy was always very funny. When I first began teaching I used to try to get these fellows to listen to the truth. I got no thanks for my honesty, and only lost my customers. Now, when any one comes to me to be taught I do the best I can to teach him. I never get tired taking their money as long as they don't get tired paying.

Minus E.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* writes: You newspaper men have been publishing as something marvellous a string of verses in which the letter "E" is "conspicuous for its absence," as the phrase goes. Pahaw! That letter is very much over-estimated. One hardly misses the little joker if he gets used to doing without him, provided he is allowed to write as poets generally do, without sense, too. Thus:

John Knox was a sight of wondrous might,
 And his words rang high and shrill,
 For bold and stout was his spirit bright,
 And strong was his stalwart will.
 Kings sought in vain his mind to chain,
 And that giant brain to control,
 But naught on plain or stormy main
 Could daunt that mighty soul.
 John would sit and sigh till morning cold
 He might lamps put out,
 For thoughts untold on his mind laid hold,
 And brought but pain and doubt to mind,
 But light at last on his soul was cast,
 Away sank pain and sorrow;
 His soul is gay in a fair to-day,
 And looks for a bright to-morrow.

And so on *ad infinitum*. So, you see, a fellow can write with ease without E's (if you will forgive a cheap pun).

Jews.

A writer in the *English Contemporary Review* states that there "are more Jews in Berlin than in the whole of England, or in the whole of France. The Mayor of Berlin is a Jew, so was the late President of the German Parliament. Two-thirds of the Berlin lawyers are Jews; the whole of the so-called Liberal press is in Jewish hands; and the bankers, financiers and leading shopkeepers of the capital are of the same race. In the watering places and health resorts of Germany the people who live in the best hotels and most luxurious villas, drive the finest equipages, and wear the most extravagant raiment, are Jews."

PREVENTION exceeds cure every time. Always keep Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup convenient; take it time and you will be free from Coughs, Colds, etc. Sold everywhere. Price 25 cents a bottle.

Deer-Hunting With Daniel Webster.

In the winter of 1843-44 deer were quite plenty in Plymouth woods. Daniel Webster was then at Marshfield. Word was sent to him that the Kingston gang was going on a deer hunt the day before Thanksgiving, with invitation for him to join us, and all were to meet at the old flaxing place at Smelt pond at sunrise, sharp. By 8 o'clock his honor appeared with a gentleman friend; and Samuel and Waldo F., Uncle Thomas B., and my father and myself. We all had old-fashioned king's arms, percutious, except Mr. Webster and his friend, who had double-guns. It was a fine, frosty morning and our party lively.

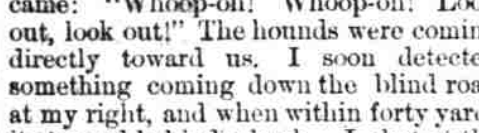
The king's arms were loaded. Samuel and Waldo were to take the hounds and drive Watson's valley. Uncle Tom was to drive over and take Nick's rock stand. The rest of us were to hurry over to the Carver road and string out at the guide board crossing. We had scarcely reached our places before we heard the welcoming voice of the hounds in full cry and soon the thundering echoes of two king's arms at the head of Watson's valley, and then echoing down the valley came: "Whoop-oh! Whoop-oh! Look out, look out!" The hounds were coming directly toward us. I soon detected something coming down the blind road at my right, and when within forty yards it stopped behind a bush. I shot at the fellow I saw, when almost immediately two deer came out of the bushes at my left and crossed the road within a few yards of me. My father, who stood on my right, and Mr. Webster and friend, who stood at my left, all fired and one deer fell. I ran into the woods where I had shot, and, not finding anything, returned, to find that Mr. Webster and friend had jumped into their wagon and ran their horse to West Pond road to intercept the other deer at the crossing, as the dogs had gone on in track of the other. Father advised me to hurry on and he would stay there with the dead deer, and wait for Sam and Waldo to come up. Uncle Tom had come up and kept on in his carriage toward West Pond, and while he was driving the deer came within gunshot, and he shot at it from his wagon. The deer, slightly wounded, now came back directly toward the guide-board crossing again. I, hearing the dogs, hurried back. The deer jumped into the road some ninety yards off and we all fired. The deer fell, but gained his feet and bounded away, falling at every jump. Running up the road we all chased it except father, who remained, and running the old mare overtook and shot the deer. We now had a joyful lunch, washing it down with something good from Mr. Webster's lunch basket. Then we concluded to start for home, as it was about 2 o'clock. We decided that Mr. Webster and his friend had shot the buck and my father had shot the doe. Mr. Webster gave us \$1 each, and he and his friend took the buck, which was a nice one, and father gave the other two men 50 cents each and took the doe, as three of us were at my father's. I, feeling a little dissatisfied at my first shot, took one of the hounds and went up the blind road where I first shot. The hound, snuffing around, soon found a large red fox dead within ten feet of where I shot at him. We now took our bells from our wagon boxes and returned home jingling, as was the custom if successful.—*Cor. Forest and Stream.*

Fast Talkers.

When Gambetta delivers a speech he pronounces 230 to 240 words a minute. An ordinary speaker pronounces only about 180 words in the same time Lord Macaulay used to pronounce 330 words in a minute.

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