

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION.

PITTSBURG, August 8, 1883.

My dear Post:—Knowing your interest in matters pertaining to popular Education, I propose to send you a few notes of the proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Education, which is to convene in this city to-morrow. Desirous of settling myself in comfortable quarters, before the influx of strangers drawn together by the occasion, should render such a consummation some what doubtful, I have come on here a few days in advance of the time appointed for the meeting. I left Philadelphia on the morning of the 6th, by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which runs through an exceedingly rich and beautiful country. A stranger in that region, my attention was arrested by several features of the landscape that seem peculiar. First, I noticed the great number of noble trees, apparently relics of the primeval forests, that were scattered throughout even the cultivated fields, refreshing the eye with their verdure, and affording grateful shelter from noontide heats. In this country the value of an occasional shade tree is but little appreciated—would that it were more so. There, upon the hill tops, and in sheltered nooks, I could catch glimpses of comfortable farm cottages—not standing "out of doors" in unblushing nakedness, but modestly peeping out from beneath overhanging trees, and from the midst of embowering shrubbery; and finally my eye was attracted by the uniform appearance of the huge barns, that stood near them, suggesting ideas of wealth and comfort. However humble the homestead of a genuine Pennsylvania farmer, his barn—lofty, capacious, convenient—often built of brick or stone, while he himself dwells within an enclosure of logs, gives unmistakable evidence of thrift.

Two of the most annoying attendants upon Railroad traveling are the dust that buries you, and the smoke that almost suffocates you; on the Pennsylvania road, one of these annoyances is effectually obviated; throughout the whole length of the route the track between the rails, and even for some distance beyond them, is macadamized with coarsely broken stones, which effectually prevents any dust from being raised by the passing train. Whenever any method shall be discovered, of getting rid as effectually of the smoke and cinders from the locomotive, this will be a model road.

But I have forgotten the American Association. My object in writing previous to the meeting, is to give your readers some idea of the object of the association, and to enlist their sympathies in its behalf. In October 1849, a convention, called by gentlemen from almost every section of the United States, to devise plans for the advancement of popular Education, was held in the city of Philadelphia. This was followed by another, of the same nature, and in the same place, in August of the following year, at which time the American Association for the Advancement of Education was formed, and the Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter of Pennsylvania was elected President. The first annual meeting was held in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, and was largely attended. The second annual meeting was held in the city of Newark, New Jersey, Bishop Potter having been elected President for a second term. The meeting which is to convene to-morrow is the third, at which Prof. Joseph Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, is expected to preside.

The objects of the association are catholic, embracing the interests of education, in all its departments, from the primary school to the university, and if its plans can be carried out by the hearty cooperation of the friends of education, throughout the United States, I believe it will prove a great blessing to our country. In regard to its proceedings during the coming week you shall be duly posted.

R. L. C.

PITTSBURG, August 10th, 1883.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The third session of the American Association for the Advancement of Education, convened yesterday morning, at 11 o'clock, in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, (Rev. Mr. Bryan's) on Sixth street, between Wood and Smithfield streets.

The officers elected, of the Association, consist of the following gentlemen: President—Prof. Joseph Henry, LL. D. Recording Secretary—R. L. Cooke. Corresponding Secretary—P. P. Morris. Treasurer—John Whitehead.

The Standing Committee consists of the following gentlemen:—Dr. Asa D. Lord, Prof. W. M. Gillespie, Edward C. Bidle, Wm. D. Swan, William Travis, and Prof. Caleb Mills.

The Association was opened by prayer by the Rev. A. W. Black, of Allegheny city, Pa. The Secretary, R. L. Cooke, read the minutes of the preceding session, held in Newark, New Jersey. The minutes were approved.

Messrs. Copewaithe, of Pennsylvania, Sherman, of Michigan, and Andrews of Ohio, were appointed a committee on Credentials.

Messrs. Burrows, of Pennsylvania, Greenleaf, of New York, and Swan, of Massachusetts, were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

The following gentlemen were announced as members of the Association:—Rev. W. D. Howard, Rev. Wm. H. Paddock, F. R. Brant, D. N. White, L. Harper, Prof. James Thompson, H. M. Wm. F. Johnston, Hon. Charles Shaler, D. H. Bidle, D. D., A. W. Black, D. D., H. M. Clark, D. D., H. D. Sellers, M. D., Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Connor, Rev. Bishop Simpson, Rev. Dr. M. Mahon, and L. T. Covell, of Allegheny county; Rev. Alex. H. Larkey, of Jersey Shore, Pa.; J. S. Trovelli, Sewickley, Pa.; James M. McLean, Zanesville, Ohio; and James B. Richards, of Philadelphia.

Associate Members—Rev. John Mortimer, Allegheny; Rev. P. Ferguson, Erie, Pa.; Jacob N. Dinsler, Ohio; M. Gantz, New Castle, Pa.; A. D. Campbell, D. D., Pittsburg; Rev. Isaac M. Cooke, Beaver, Pa.

The special thanks of the Association were returned to the Trustees and Directors of the Third Ward Public School, for the liberal offer of their Hall for the use of the Association.

The motion was afterwards amended, and the use of the Hall accepted. This was owing to the Church being engaged during the latter part of the week.

Bishop Potter arose and said that it became his duty to retire from the office which it has been his honor to occupy for the last two or three years.—Combined with the pleasure he felt in being relieved from the onerous duties of the office was the great pleasure of introducing Prof. Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington City, as his successor. It was not necessary for him to say to any audience of gentlemen who Professor Henry was. That was not the place for the exchange of courtesies and compliments. But they had associated themselves together for the accomplishment of objects with which Professor Henry's name had become honorably identified. He had ever been a practical laborer for the advancement of science. He had the sympathies of the laboring classes. It would not be deemed uninteresting by the audience to state when the speaker first heard of him. He was at that time living in the privacy of an artisan. His leisure moments were devoted to the acquirement of knowledge, early arresting the attention of intelligent citizens by his solitary studies. From the work bench he went to the Academy.—During that time he began to illustrate to the world, the knowledge he had acquired. He was soon

advanced to a Professorship at Princeton, and more recently to the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington City—the only national institution for the diffusion of knowledge, in this country. In his position of administrator of the affairs of that Institute, he was the associate of those eminent persons who filled the executive offices of the country, and stood before them as the exponent of American Physical Science. The speaker was proud of him in that capacity, and he was still more so that with increasing fame, he did not forget the responsibility he owed to the seminaries of the land, and to those young spirits whose ambition may be to tread through the same unobtrusive paths.

May the labors of the members of this Convention always be associated with such men, men whose lineage is traced back to the masses, and who are looked up to by the people with confidence and respect.

The Reverend Bishop then formally introduced Professor JOSEPH HENRY, of the Smithsonian Institute, as incoming President of the Association.

Professor Henry, after speaking of the eulogium bestowed upon him by Bishop Potter, as the partial praise of a dear friend, proceeded to give a short account of his career in life, apologizing for his apparent egotism. At the age of eighteen he commenced his education in a log school house; he left school, and was apprenticed by his mother to a watchmaker. His employer failed in business, and he (the speaker) was thrown upon the world. At this time he was cast into company of a very deleterious character, and became intimate with literary young men; books were thrown in his way, but, happily, by the impression produced on his mind by a single work, he resolved to devote his life to the acquirement of knowledge. He went to the country, and commenced his new life in the character of the pedagogue. In a short time he left the school for the academy; but was compelled twice or thrice to return to teaching. This course was continued until he had received an education. He was then employed as a private tutor in the Van Rensselaer family; next as an engineer; then as principal of the Albany Academy. He was then transferred to a Professorship at Princeton; and he remained until called upon to preside over the institution with which he was connected at Washington City. This was a simple statement of the history of his life.

Professor H. thanked the Association for the honor they had conferred on him. He would gladly have declined it, had his sense of duty allowed him to do so. His time was mostly occupied by his duties in Washington, but yet he hoped some good might be worked out of his selection, and that the members would not be entirely disappointed in any hopes they may entertain. The Professor stated that at the close of the year, he would embody his views in the annual address incumbent on him by the Constitution.

Prof. Henry concluded by congratulating the members of the Association on the prosperous condition of the cause in which they were engaged. He also adverted, in closing, to the great good that could be accomplished by the meeting together of men from all parts of the country, and by the exchange of ideas in regard to the mode of education which should be pursued. He requested them to be brief in their remarks—the cause in which they were engaged was a holy one, and idle remarks would be injudicious as well as injurious. The gentleman was frequently interrupted by applause.

The hours of meeting adopted, were from 9 A. M. to 12 M., from 3 to 5 P. M.; and from 7 1/2 to 9 1/2 o'clock P. M.

The following conditions in regard to membership of the Association, were explained by the Secretary, Mr. Cooke:

All persons enrolled as members of either of the National Conventions, held in the city of Philadelphia in the years 1849 and 1850, shall be entitled to the Constitution, and on paying an admission fee of \$2.00. Also, in like manner, and on the same conditions, all delegates from Colleges or Universities, incorporated Academies, Normal and High Schools, from State, County or other Associations, established to promote education, provided that no more than three delegates shall be received from one Association at the same time.

All other persons who have been nominated by the Standing Committee, and elected by a majority of the members present, may become members in like manner, and on the same conditions. Those belonging to the above named classes, shall be eligible to all offices of the Society.

Distinguished Educators and Friends of Education in other countries, may be elected Corresponding Members by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Associates for the year.—Any person recommended by the Standing Committee shall, on paying the sum of one dollar, be admitted a member for the year, but shall not be eligible to any office.

Life Members.—Persons entitled of a right to be members, or elected as proposed by the Constitution, may constitute themselves Life Members by paying at any one time the sum of twenty-five dollars, and subscribing to the Constitution, and Rules. They shall be eligible to all offices, and shall be entitled to receive all the published transactions of the society, free of charge.

Regular members paying one additional dollar, annually, shall be entitled to receive the transactions in like manner, free of charge. The omission to pay for one year, shall forfeit the privilege to receive the transactions free of charge; and the omission to pay for two successive years, shall forfeit membership. Membership may be resumed, however, by resuming payment—but not the privilege to receive the transactions as aforesaid.

The association adjourned, the regular hour for that purpose having arrived.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association was called to order at 3 o'clock. After the transaction of some uninteresting business, Bishop Potter arose and remarked that there were present in the room, two men distinguished in their own country for their devotion to the cause of letters and learning. He referred to Professor Wilson, and Mr. Dilke, appointed by the British Government as Royal Commissioners to the industrial exhibition in this country. He called upon Prof. W. to address the association upon the manner of

Prof. Wilson responded to the call, and gave an interesting account of the manner such institutions were conducted in England. In 1845, the speaker, with other gentlemen, entered into an enterprise of this kind. The ground selected was poor—this ground was selected in the scientific culture of land might be made more visible. It was at first thought, that the institution would in a great degree, aid the tenant farmers; that it was peculiarly adapted to the education of that class. But little encouragement was received, and the course of instruction had price of tuition were changed, in order that the higher class of pupils should be attracted to the institution. The change was successful, and the institution placed on a sure footing.

The institution had attached to it about seven hundred acres of land. Each scholar previous to admission, was required to pass an examination and a partial acquaintance with Mathematics, Latin and Greek, and the natural sciences, was necessary to other students, of established character, and with other implements, of established merit were on the farm, which, together with the use of steam, in connection with the machinery, gave the pupils an opportunity of learning of great practical advantage to them. The knowledge they acquired of the working of the agricultural implements, was obtained from practical observation. They were required to participate in the work done on the farm. The collegiate term is three years, and each year, the tasks of the student are increased. There are in the institution departments for the study of chemistry, of natural history, Botany and Geology; there

was also a veterinary department with a hospital for the reception of diseased stock;—the students were required to pay particular attention to this branch, as one of the most important acquirements to a farmer. By attention in the lecture room, and by the practical carrying out of the lessons received, in the treatment of disease I stock, the student became acquainted with the disease of cattle and the cure. Another important department was the instruction given in regard to physical laws, as applicable to agricultural implements and farm labor. The fifth department was devoted to general engineering purposes—such as measuring land, making roads, and applying the knowledge of surveying to obtaining a knowledge of the situation of land, and its applicability to drainage.

The speaker occupied the chair of agriculture; and it was his duty to see that the students applied to the farm labor, the knowledge which they acquired in the lecture room. These lessons in botany, chemistry, geology, engineering, &c. were brought into practical use on the farm. If one student had a particular inclination for any particular branch of farm labor—he was assigned that department with all its responsibilities. If one wished to take charge of the cattle, he could do so; another of the feeding department, and so on.

In England, there were not more than ten of these schools, but in Ireland there were over twenty; and they were working a great deal of good. In that country, students were admitted at fourteen years of age, but were required to work part of the time, on the farm, for their tuition. There was also a department in the Institutions under the charge of a Chaplain, to regulate the habits of the students.

The statement of Prof. Wilson was listened to with deep interest. Mr. Dilke, of London, was called upon by Bishop Potter, and gave a short and interesting account of the efforts making by the British Government, to make the laboring masses more intimately acquainted with practical science, and the relation it bears to the every day labor of the artisan. A department of Practical Science and Practical Art had been established, and by the means of a comprehensive system of public lectures, on appropriate subjects, to artisans alone, a great good was being done. The masses are taking an interest in the lectures, and thronged them. An address, for instance, by an able lecturer, would be delivered on art, in connection with textile fabrics; another on iron manufactures; another on wood engineering, &c. Mr. Dilke stated that the sum of £150,000, remaining over from the fund of the Industrial Fair, of 1851, would probably be devoted to this object.

Bishop Potter followed in an address of great power, arguing the importance of paying greater attention to the education of men and boys, after they left school, and were engaged in the pursuit of a trade. By practical lectures, such as those spoken of, great good could undoubtedly be done; it would direct the minds of the artisan and laborer to habits of self-education. They could associate their studies with their daily toil; and a knowledge of the elements of mechanics and natural science, the character of the operative would be elevated. The lecture system, as at present in vogue in this country, never had any effect on the laboring man—our lecture rooms were crowded with fashionable people, instead of those most likely to receive benefit.

Prof. Halleman continued the subject, by alluding to the beneficial influence resulting and flowing from the Franklin Institute, in Philadelphia.

The President, Prof. Henry, also noticed the Franklin Institute, and related several instances where it had been instrumental in advancing, in a great degree, measures of vast public importance.

Prof. Wilson followed, in a few remarks, in which he dwelt forcibly on the importance of Mechanics Institutes, as a means of accomplishing the objects of the Association. In every town in England, the gentleman stated, of a thousand population, Mechanics Institutes were in successful operation.

Bishop Potter made a few remarks, in which he strongly urged on the citizens of Pittsburgh—the very seat of the industrial pursuits of the country—the importance of such an institution; of lectures to the artisan, and of other measures calculated to elevate the character of the working man.

At the request of Mr. Platts, of Pa., Prof. Henry consented to deliver an address, detailing the manner in which the cause of education was advanced by the Smithsonian Institute.

Last evening was selected, but owing to the annual address of Bishop Potter at that time, the period was changed.

An invitation from the Library Committee of the Young Men's Library, inviting the association to visit the rooms of the Institute, was accepted.

Mr. Admanson, a gentleman who has been in this country but a short time, from South Africa, delivered an interesting address on the geography and condition of the people of that country. Before he had concluded, the hour of adjournment arrived.

EVENING SESSION.

The President called the Association to order, at half past 7 o'clock. The first business was the annual address of the retiring President, Bishop Potter.

The Bishop commenced by stating that five years since, steps were taken to form an Association for the Advancement of Education; and that two years ago, in Cleveland, the present Association, was finally organized. The speaker then spoke in regard to the object of the Association, which, he said, according to the Constitution, was to promote intercourse among those who are actively engaged in promoting Education throughout the United States—to secure the cooperation of individuals, Associations and Legislatures, in measures calculated to improve Education, and to give to such measures a more systematic direction, and a more powerful impetus.

Another prominent object was to bring together the friends of education throughout the country, in order that they might smooth the difficulties which lay in the way of more general Education—this could only be accomplished by the formation of a National Association—an American Association. A body which should bear the same relation to the minor educational associations throughout the country, as the General Government does to the State Governments. The object had not been crowned with the success that was desirable; yet we should not despair. It is impossible that such unions should take place without benignant results. Free and earnest discussion could never be misplaced, where the interests of truth alone are concerned.

The time has now arrived for the Association to engage in earnest work. It has been suggested that a premium fund should be raised, to offer to those who should be successful in the Times—a work which should have existing difficulties. The speaker earnestly advocated the raising of a premium fund for such a purpose. He also adverted to other wants in the educational literature of the times.

The reverend gentleman then entered into an eloquent disquisition on the philosophy, object and means of education. For nearly two hours he seemed to hold the audience spell bound by his eloquence, and his sound and logical reasoning. In the course of his remarks, the present style of text books was discussed, and criticised in a pointed manner. The Reverend Bishop, after devoting consideration to the subject of the literature of the day, concluded by eloquently expressing his desire for the success of the Association.

After he had concluded the Association, on motion adjourned.

R. L. C.

(To be continued.)

THE COON HUNT.

NUMBER I.

The field which I design occupying in the present "campaign,"—that of portraying the past and passing scenes of real life—has been so often occupied before, and by men of such eminent ability, that I might well be excused, were I to shrink from the task, even after having resolved to perform it. Washington Irving, Judge Longstreet and Col. Jos. B. Cobb, not to mention others, have all occupied it, and each, in his time and way, has invested his State, with a peculiar interest, which, but for him perhaps, would not have been thrown around it.

Others, prompted perhaps by a laudable ambition, have made honest, unsuccessful efforts to follow in the footsteps of these illustrious men, while others still, have brought themselves into ridicule by persisting in trying to do what nature and a lack of talents had entirely unfitted them for.

It is not with the hope of winning a place by the side of the gentlemen I have named above, that I mount the field, but because so little has been and so much may be written by the sons of North Carolina about their native State; because the field is so open, so inviting, so beautiful, so rife with interest.

So flowing with every bright thought, So marked with gems of living light, So rife with how's of every hue, And filled with hearts warm, brave and true.

Even a beginner may dare to occupy a corner in a field so broad and extensive and so free and unoccupied here, without the fear of incurring the charge of vanity, or being regarded as an intruder. And, if he should fail to do justice to the theme, his defects may be generously winked at, and his presumption pardoned, in as much as he does not even attempt to occupy the whole ground. The field has been long open and entirely unoccupied. It was free to all, no one else seemed disposed to enter it and I have determined that I will, not however, to the exclusion of others who desire to do so. I shall be glad of company.

With this perhaps too long exordium, I will now proceed to the narration of

THE COON HUNT.

I must necessarily date back to the "days of yore" when fun and frolic were more sought after than now, and when every fellow aspired to be the inventor of some scheme for raising a laugh and having a jovial frolic. The man who was most successful at inventing and playing off "quizzes" was certain to be considered the "best fellow" if not the "smartest man" in the community.

In the sprightly little town of H— (suppose I say Hamburg for short), lived as jovial a set of fellows as ever put their heads together for the purpose of making up a batch of fun. The foremost man in the troop we will call Jemmie Halondale, a merry, good-natured Scotchman who had emigrated to this country many years before, and amassed a snug little fortune which he still continued to increase by strict attention to a profitable mercantile business in which he was engaged. He loved his friends very much, but he loved his joke too, and would go any reasonable length to have it, and so very shrewd and successful was he that whenever he tried to invent a "quiz" and play it off, or to raise a good "joke" he was never known to fail.

I would have the reader understand what I mean by the word "joke"—I mean, of course, an innocent piece of sport to raise a hearty laugh, without doing further injury than creating a little mischief—was once Editor of a newspaper, and a very practical country subscriber—a conning character—called in my office to pay his subscription in advance. The payment made and a receipt given, my subscriber rose to depart, but seemed to have something on his mind, which he did not care to deliver in the presence of a third person, and as there was a friend in my sanctum at the time, he hesitated, but finally said "good day Mr. Tinsley, but I wish you would print some good 'low-joke' in the paper that you send me." I promised as a matter of course to do the best I could to accommodate him, and he left. But those are not the kind of jokes that Halondale was fond of. They were something of a different order. One for example is this. There were two hounds in Hamburg, and both were pretty well filled with brandy. Jemmie boarded at "The Munition" and on going down one evening before supper, he found every seat around the fire in the sitting room occupied, and himself crowded out. "Ah gentleman," said he "have ye seen the great American Eagle Col. C— carrying on with him to Washington as a present to General Jackson? a fine bird gentleman, a very fine bird." Col. C— was Indian Agent in Florida, and had arrived in Hamburg that evening and put up at Fennell's hotel. "No" answered half a dozen, rising from their seats and surrounding Jemmie, "where is he?" Over at Fennell's answered Jemmie, "and the Col. leaves on the next stage. I would advise ye to take a peep at the noble bird by all means." They gathered up their cloaks and overcoats and put out without any further questions or advice, while Jemmie quiet drew off his cloak and seating himself by the fire, put his feet up on the mantel and leaned back with the utmost nonchalance.

The eagle-hunting party went over to "Fennell's" and taking Mr. F. on the side asked for an introduction to Col. C— in order that they might get an opportunity of seeing "the eagle that Col. C— was carrying on to General Jackson."

"Col. C— has no eagle gentleman," said Fennell, "he has been to Washington and is now on his way home and has with him a rooster which he is taking along if you wish I can show that to you;" but they didn't want to see it, they all saw through the whole affair at a glance and turning round they left "immediately, if not sooner," some of them not in the very best humor, while others smiled and continued in a "p." "As they walked into the sitting room or "the den" as it is called, and when they had all got in, he, without moving, very quietly asked them: "Well gentleman, did ye see the Eagle?" A laugh from some, and a "grunt" from one or two, was the only reply; and the bell ringing just then, all adjourned to supper.

Besides his "jokes" and his friends, Jemmie was also very fond of hunting, and had often, day and night, hunted alone, and by this means had become familiar with all the "highways and byways, hawks and crooks," from "Mad Island gut," to the "Hop-hole."

One evening Jemmie made up a "coon hunt" with his friends Sam Jenkins and Nick Loyd, and they started with old Caesar to build fires, cut down trees, and take charge of the game and the society, and in those days there were no temperance societies, and this last article was about as necessary in a coon hunt as the dogs; and a parcel of young fellows would no more have thought of going on such an excursion without a jug full of Applack, than an excursion without a jug full of

The party determined on hunting through a skirt of woods lying on the river, and consequently very much cut up by muddy, wet bayous, running through the low flat lands into the river. Jemmie was well acquainted with the location of these bayous and had previously determined to have some sport, even if the hunt should prove unsuccessful. He therefore set his wits to work, to invent some little scheme for a "joke" (not a "low joke.")

The party hunted for some time in vain. Old Caesar would encourage the dogs by snuffing epithets as "Look about!" "Try him fellow!" "Find

him boys!" and others equally familiar to coon hunters, uttered in a kind of shout several keys above his ordinary tone of voice; but, alas! it was to no purpose—no coon could be found. The glad sound of a yelp had not yet reached the ears of the hunters. All was quiet and still in the woods, and no sound arose above the gentle breeze of night, or the still more gentle falling dew, to startle the birds from their slumbers, save the crackling of dry twigs beneath the feet of the huntsmen, and now and then the aforementioned cries from "old Caesar." True, Jemmie would occasionally ask his companions to "take a little to keep up their spirits," and anon would sing out "How'd ye like the sport gentlemen!—the coons keep shy, but we'll hew one up directly." "Bow—bow—bow!" opened old Hector. "Whoop! Stand by him fellow!" shouted Cesar, and away he darted, leaving his white skin companions to follow at their leisure. The dogs seemed to be running; there could be no doubt that they had a coon fairly up. The voice of Cesar was heard every moment or two urging them on; the sounds grew fainter and still more faint, till at last they were entirely lost to the organs of our three friends; and they were left, as Jemmie expressed it, "in a pretty pickle-gintlemine." Traveling on, they at length reached what in Roanoke Valley parlance is called "a gut," broad, wet and very muddy. The moon was shining out in undisputed sway, save anon when a floating cloud swept over her face, as if to kiss the beauties there. Jemmie saw the gut and determined to have a little fun at the expense of his companions. "Stop gintlemine," said he, "just stand here till I go down a leetle and try me ear," and away he went leaving Sam and Nick to await his return.

Now, the fact is, Jemmie knew that a large tree had fallen across the bayou some one or two hundred yards below, and his object was to get safely across, and make the others take the mud. Whoop, therefore, he reached the log, he shouted to the other two hunters to "come on," and then crossing the bayou, hastened up on the opposite side, and met them about half way.

"Hallo!" said he "what're ye doing there?" "Coming on," answered they "how did you get across?" "Come across, come across; how else did ye think? Come over wi' ye, come over."

"But the g' is muddy, and we'll get mired." "Oh! never mind a leetle mud, never mind that when ye're hunting; come hurry up." "Sam," said Nick, "I reckon if old Halondale can go it we can, and perhaps it's not so muddy as we think."

"Well," replied Sam, "it won't do to go back, even if we knew the way, for Halondale would have the whole town laughing at us to-morrow, and so here goes," and down they went into the gut. Here it was about fifty feet wide, and the bottom, for at least forty feet across, was covered with soft mud, varying in depth from one to three feet. There was not more than one or two feet depth of water any where, and wherever the mud was deepest, the water was most shallow.

Korshish went Sam, right into the mud. "Ugh," said he, "come on Nick." "Is it deep Sam?" asked Nick. "Only moderate," said Sam, puffing and blowing and struggling forward.

Splash came Nick right after Sam, and endeavoring to follow in his footsteps. "How're ye getting on? How're ye getting on?" enquired Jemmie. "You'd better ask how we're going to get out," answered Sam.

"Hallo Sam!" sung out Nick, "I'm in up to my knees; hold on and help me." "I say knees!" answered Sam, "I've made three or four lungs almost up to my waist. I tell you what it is Nick, we're fairly in for it and must work through it." "I'll be dog if ever I go on hunting with Halondale again," said Nick. "Hallo here I am nearly waist deep; stop Sam and wait for a fellow."

"Any where else with pleasure Nick," answered Sam, "but there's no stopping here, a fellow's bound to keep moving forward or he'll keep going down. Halondale's long legs were no doubt peculiarly convenient to him in here."

"Well gintlemine, it's very tiresome waiting here, and besides Old Cesar and the dogs will distance us; do come on if you please," sung out Jemmie. "Our legs are not as long as yours Jemmie, and we can't navigate this mud like you can," replied Sam.

"Down again deeper than ever," cried Nick. "Sam, I don't believe I shall ever get through. Cool as it is, I'm sweating like a corn-field negro in July. Let's go back."

"Come on Nick, the worst is over," replied Sam blowing and struggling for life. "I do believe I've lost one of my boots," said Nick. "One!" said Sam, "then you must throw away the other to be even with me, for I've lost both of mine."

"There goes my hat right into the water," said Nick, "catch it Sam!" But it floated away too fast, they could not catch it. "I can't catch it Nick, it's too far."

"Well it don't make any difference, it was a very old one, and I intended to throw it away to-morrow any how," said Nick, too much rejoiced at the prospect of getting out to regret the loss of his hat and boot.

They soon, scrambled up the bank, and as they did so, Halondale greeted them with, "Well gintlemine, and how do ye like the river mud?" "I guess we're got some of it. But it was pretty hard work Jemmie, didn't you think so?" "Pretty hard."

"Why Halondale," said Nick, "I haven't a particle of mud on your pantaloons! How did you get through without getting mired?" "Oh!" said Halondale carelessly, "there's a log just a few yards below here; but some gintlemine started at such a gallop as to make it a right smart task for them to keep up with him."

It is needless to say the party caught no coons, and they were not long in finding the way home. Just before they separated, Nick called out to Halondale and said: "Now look here Halondale, I've lost a boot and a hat, and Sam has lost a pair of boots, but we'll forgive you if you'll promise not to say anything about this."

"I never make rash promises gintlemine, I'll let ye know in the morning. Good night!" and he left them. Jemmie and Sam were old bachelors, but Nick, poor fellow, was in a quandary, for his wife would see his muddy garments and miss his hat and boots and what should he tell her? He got home, knocked at the door, and enquired of the servant who opened it: "Is your mistress asleep?" "Yes sir."

"Well don't wake her, take this boot and throw it down the horse-lot well, and hide these pantaloons and socks, and have me some clean ones, and a very early breakfast in the morning."

The next morning by breakfast time, the affair was all over town, but Nick was at his plantation seven miles off, and Sam very busy in his office. They were not seen "in company" for many days. Halondale, however, in passing the Post office one morning saw them in the crowd that was gathered around. They winked at each other and attempted to dodge, but he espied them. "Good morning gintlemine," said he, "glad to see ye out, hope I w't ye soon," and on went enjoying the coon hunt he had raised as much as any one in the crowd. Only one of the characters in this narrative now

lives—as kind-hearted and clever a man as ever lived—the fresh air of Heaven—and if this should meet his eye, he will no doubt recognize himself, but if he doesn't I shall not introduce him. The "coon hunt" must be its own garment. A C. H. B. AC THORNTON.

A FEW QUESTIONS.

In Nash-county the public property in such a sense, that it may be taken possession of by groups of rude and noisy lads, during the afternoon of the Sabbath, for their sports—such as dog-fighting, wrestling—marble playing, &c., to the great annoyance of those who dwell in the neighborhood. If such lads are beyond the reach of parental restraint, or if these are parents who do not care to control them, lest it should curb their high spirits, is there no other authority that can and will restrain them? Do the officers of the city profess any such power?—and if they do, would there be any impropriety in their exercising it?

Would it not be well to have a small and efficient police traverse the city in all its more public resorts every Sabbath—take heed of such delinquents and confine them in the Guard House one or two hours for punishment; and subject their parents of white people to a moderate fine, and of black to ten or fifteen lashes, for allowing them to disturb the public peace?

These questions are asked in no petulant spirit, but with a sincere desire to promote the good of these little Sabbath-breakers—our town for decent and to preserve the respectability of our town for decent and to secure if possible, some degree of quiet enjoyment during the day of REST.

A. PARENT.

THE WABASH RIVER.

It is a July day, and as I gaze out upon the leaf-covered Wabash I am reminded of the Sabbathance when it was first beheld by the white settlers. Could one have believed it in 1890, and then again look at it in 1900, how inspired would he be. Traveling in Indiana I have found much to be est.

It is now a State far in advance of some of our colleges. At an Examination of the Indiana Female College last month, during the Exhibition of the thereof Miss Hall, a beautiful and accomplished young lady, read a poem in reference to the progress of the State, and its prospects.

The following lines are part of the same:— In those days danger—the red fore long road The chief of the woodman, and paled And the heart of the woodman's wild soul, And still, though the forests were broken and bare, The fresh trails of harvest were there: The