



Devoted to Politics, News, Agriculture, Internal Improvements, Commerce, the Arts and Sciences, Morality, and the Family Circle.

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J. J. BRUNER, Editor and Proprietor.

Agricultural Fair.

On Saturday the 17th of November, 1855, the Annual Exhibition of the "Alexander County Agricultural Society" will be held in Taylorville.

The list of articles on which premiums will be awarded for 1855, embraces nearly every variety of grain and other agricultural productions.

Nearly every kind of stock.

A great variety of manufactured articles in all the various branches of mechanics in use in our country.

- The Ladies' Department includes among others the following articles, for which premiums will be awarded, viz:
- For the best piece of Jeans, not less than 6 yards.
- For the best piece of Linsey, not less than 6 yards.
- Pair Waxed socks.
- Crotchet Work for Castors.
- Book mark.
- Home made dress or the material for it.
- Lot Cheese, 2 pounds or over.
- Lot Butter, 2 pounds or over.
- Bed Quilt.
- Counterpane.
- Coverlet.
- Table Cloth.
- Home made Vest Pattern.
- Jar of Pickles, &c., &c.

The following gentlemen compose the different committees to award Premiums:

OF STOCK.
Hiram James, J. F. Stephenson, Joseph M. Hogle, Davalt Little, Ellis Haynes.

OF MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.
Robert C. Wilson, John Wilson Jones, Robt. F. King, Wm. G. James, J. P. Lawrence.

OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.
William Matheson, Wiley J. Templeton, Abel Sharpe, Robt. Allen, R. L. Steele.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.
Francis Asbury, A. M. Hogle, J. Wilson Jones, Hiram James, Robt. C. Wilson.

COMMITTEE TO INVITE OR PRODUCE A SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS TO DELIVER AN ADDRESS.
Joseph C. Smith, Wiley J. Templeton, Davalt Little.

All manufactured articles intended for exhibition should be delivered to the Committee of Arrangement by 11 o'clock A. M.

Every body is invited to be present.
By order of the Society,
JOSEPH C. SMITH, Secy.

Gravel on the Free Negroes.

The people of the South have always maintained that the free blacks, with some exceptional cases, are a miserable and degraded class, but who could have expected Horace Greeley, the particular friend of every color save his own, to let down on them after the following fashion:
"Nine tenths of the free blacks have no idea of setting themselves to work except as the hirelings and servants of white men; no idea of building a church, or accomplishing any other serious enterprise except through the agency of the whites. As a class, the blacks are indolent, improvident, servile and licentious; and their inveterate habit of appealing to white benevolence or compassion, whenever they realize a want or encounter a difficulty, is eminently base and unwarrantable. If they could never obtain a dollar until they shall have earned it, many of them would suffer, and some perhaps starve; but on the whole, they would do better and improve faster than may now be reasonably expected."

There can be no doubt that when Horace wrote that paragraph he had just been benighted by a free negro begging application. But it is all true, and we now add the testimony of this rank abolitionist to that of all experience, as to the baleful and ruinous effects of freedom upon the negro.—Daily Dispatch.

Magazine under the Redan.

An extract of a letter from Sebastopol professes to show how the Redan escaped being blown up by the Russians, like other forts: "A sapper, who was exploring the batteries of the Redan just as the Russians were evacuating the town, discovered a large cable, which he cut in two by a blow of an axe, and then called the attention of the officers to it. On further examination, it was found to be a thick metallic wire, covered with a coating of gutta serena. This wire led to a very large powder magazine, dug under the Redan, the discovery of which made the bold tremble, when they thought of the frightful explosion from which they had escaped. The wire came from across the town as far as the sea, which crossed to the other shore, from whence the electric spark was to be dispatched to set fire to that volcano. It was discovered just at the nick of time, as the last soldier had not yet evacuated the town when the forts blew up one after the other, filling the trenches with the ruins. The Carreing Fort, the Flagstaff Battery, the Central Bastion, the forts of the bay, the arsenal, and all the principal edifices, crumbled to the ground beneath the combined action of shells, fire and mines. The Redan and Malakoff alone remained unscathed, the former saved by the sapper, as just mentioned, and the latter saved by a shell, which, directed by Providence, had cut the electric wire in two."

Resumption of Daily Travel to Norfolk.

The Norfolk line of steamers will commence making daily trips between Baltimore and Norfolk on the 1st of November, at which time the fever embargo will be entirely removed.

From the Spirit of the Times. INSTINCT AND REASON.

The following interesting paper is an extract from a letter written by a gentleman of literary and scientific pursuits, residing at Salisbury, North Carolina, to a friend of ours residing in this city; it will be read with pleasure by all who take an interest in subjects pertaining to the interesting study of Natural History.
\* In your last letter you speak of the difficulty encountered by yourself and naturalists generally of drawing the line of demarcation between instinct and reason. I have bestowed some thought upon this subject, and I now proceed to embody, for your consideration, my conclusions on this vexed question. They are my own, for I have not seen them elsewhere. It is very probable that they may be as old as the days of Plato; or they may outrage science, and be found nowhere but in my brain. You will pardon me, I hope, if such is the fact, for the sin of inflating upon you the trouble of reading, in the case, what is, or may be, well known to Naturalists, or what is, or may be, simply common-sense.
\* The law of propagation or reproduction given by nature to all organized beings (I refer here particularly to animals) is well adapted to that end, and is only sufficient for that purpose. After formation, nature required that the different races of animals were to be perpetuated. To this end the law of reproduction was only the first step; it could not offer that protection necessary for the support and safety of the young animal. Other laws were, therefore, necessary, and animals were endowed with instinct and reason, separate and independent faculties. Yet the exercise of both are necessary to the great end, viz, the safety and perpetuation of the different races. To this end, therefore, nature required three laws, to wit, reproduction, instinct, and reason.

I will now endeavor to show wherein and how instinct is a necessary independent of reason, and then attempt to show that reason is also a necessary independent of instinct. Instinct is congenital, or born with the animal, and is as perfect at birth as it ever becomes. The pre-eminence of instinct in this or that race of animals is dependent upon the amount of the development of bone and muscle they may possess at birth. The gregarious tribes, and some quadrupeds—a pig, for instance—follow their parents, and seek food a few hours after birth. Not so with man, or the young of the carnivorous races. From the nature of things, it would be impossible for these last to possess strength of bone and muscle sufficient to enable them to pursue or capture their prey, or escape danger. Consequently there is within them, at this time, an inferiority of this faculty, instinct, for the obvious reason just stated, and the fact that their safety is cared for by the parents. The law seems to be, that just in proportion as the offspring is thrown upon the parent for protection and food, just in the same proportion is the faculty of instinct and the powers of locomotion, as a general rule, withheld from the offspring.

In illustration—A pig, in a few hours after birth, has strength of bone and muscle, and a power of mastication sufficient to enable it to travel and take food, independent of its mother's milk. The habit of the sow is to wander about with her brood during the day, and retire to her bed at night. The incoming warfare among animals—that law which compels them to eat one another, or be eaten—has to be guarded against for the preservation of the young. As every animal attacks the mother and her brood—the mother may be chased for miles; the brood squat or disperse; if the mother escapes, she returns at once to her bed, wherein she either finds or awaits her brood, for they are certain to return. A pig an hour old, blind-folded and taken from its bed, will return to it when liberated, provided the distance it is taken is not too great for its strength. Without this particular instinct, the pig would perish when separated from its parent. And, if so, he would not be aware of the fact until he would see the celestial bodies disappearing below the horizon.

Were I to offer a conjecture as to the size of the polar opening I should place them at about one thousand miles diameter, and the more interior cavity at between two and three thousand. On the supposition of the truth of my theory, the sun for several months in the summer season, would shine probably not less than a thousand miles into the polar opening, and over a portion of that surface, its rays would be vertical, causing not only an iceless sea, but absolutely a tropical climate. Should this theory be correct and there could be a vessel got into the polar sea, it might very readily sail into the interior of the earth. The only difference in the form of the ocean or lands there would be that they would be concave instead of convex, as with us. The vessel, or any other object there, would be of less specific gravity from the fact that the portion of earth on the opposite side of the cavity would exert a strong attracting power on them, thereby rendering them lighter than the same objects on the outer surface of the earth. And will not this theory, too, explain why it is that the terrestrial and magnetic poles do not correspond?

Now, Messrs. Editors, I am admonished to close my lucubrations for the present not knowing that they will ever be permitted to shine in your columns. If they are, and any one is disposed to call them visionary or insane, let them be prepared to give a better reason why, after passing over hundreds of miles of icebound ocean, Dr. Kane should come all at once upon an iceless sea abounding in animal life.

O. J. PHELPS.
Piketon, (Ohio), Oct. 22, 1855.

NEW BOOK.

The Land of Gold.—By Hinton R. Helper, Baltimore, 1855.

This book contains the experience of a young gentleman who was attracted to California by the stories of its magnificence and wealth. If others have drawn glowing pictures of the Land of Gold, the charge cannot be made against Mr. Helper. He has given us the darker shades of California life, and if his representation be correct, as we have no doubt they are in the main, the modern El Dorado is anything but an Elysium. The narrative is exceedingly lucid and clear, and yet sufficiently spirited. Mr. Helper is a graceful and smooth writer, and this is the best recommendation possible of the style of his book. There are no strainings after effect—no highly wrought absurdities—none of those censurable attempts at "fine writing" which are the chief objection to most authors. His style is charmingly simple, while at the same time the genius of the writer is apparent upon every page of the work.

We would be glad, had we space, to give copious extracts from the Land of Gold. We must content ourselves with only a few, to illustrate the general character of the work, and the drift of the author. His description of California society is, to say the least of it, not liable to the charge of flattery:

ON ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

Messrs. Editors: It is truly a subject of gratulation that the Kane expedition has been saved from the probable fate of Franklin. Many seem to think that all that ever can be accomplished in the way of Arctic explorations; but to the cosmographer it will only awaken a new and intense curiosity to know more on the subject, particularly in regard to that unexplored ocean, and not only unexplored, but teeming with animal life.

The question naturally arises how can it be that, after passing over an icy belt of one hundred and twenty five miles, we then come to an open sea. Such a phenomenon can proceed only from some cause as yet unknown to the world, and which, in our present state of knowledge, can only be a matter of conjecture and speculation; and, inasmuch as one has as good a right as another to speculate on the subject, I will suggest what has long appeared to me as more than probable, viz, that this earth is a hollow spheroid, with large circular openings at the poles, in shape not unlike an apple deeply indented at the ends.

I should not offer such apparently crazy opinion had I not what I consider a pretty good reason for it, founded in philosophy. And, in the first place, we take it for granted that this earth was once in a molten or not gaseous state. Such being the fact, the question comes up, what shape would it naturally assume when rotating on an axis? A casual thinker would say it would assume the shape that lead does in falling from a shot tower; but such we know would not be the case, as the earth is not a sphere like a shot, but a spheroid. In bringing out our views more fully we have to controvert the commonly received opinion that matter increases in density as it approaches the centre of the earth. To us it appears perfectly philosophical that, at the centre of the earth, matter would not only not be denser, but be greatly expanded, as all the attraction that could be exerted there would be from the centre. This being the case, to which we may add the centrifugal tendency given by the diurnal rotation of the earth, we have a sufficient cause to expand the earth into a hollow spheroid, or rather to have made it assume that figure when it was first projected in its diurnal course from the hand of the GREAT FIRST CAUSE.

That same law of matter and motion of which we are speaking would cause the poles to open, while the body of the earth would become a hollow spheroid. Now, who shall say that that open sea is not just where the mariner would commence sailing into the interior of the earth? And, if so, he would not be aware of the fact until he would see the celestial bodies disappearing below the horizon.

His comments upon the "rising generation" of the Golden State are not very suggestive of their morality or virtue. With this extract we close, with the remark that the reader will find few more entertaining books, although the author has perhaps colored his pictures a little too highly, than Mr. Helper's Land of Gold.

The truth is, there is no attention paid to the moral, mental or physical discipline of youth in this country. They are left to their own will and inclination, to grow up, like plants and weeds in a neglected garden, without culture or training. Surrounded as they are with so many examples of depravity, what sort of men and women are they likely to be? It is probable that the world has never raised such a horde of accomplished scamps and vagabonds, male and female, as will soon emerge from the adolescent population of the Eureka State. The signs of the times warrant this conclusion. How can it be otherwise when they are familiar with every vice, and strangers to every virtue? It matters not how strict or careful the parents themselves may be, it is impossible for them to shield their children from the baneful influences of the neighborhood; and a man might as well think of raising a healthy and stalwart family in the midst of a malarious swamp, as to think of rearing decent sons and daughters in California. The boys persuade themselves that they are men before they are half matured; and their superiors are either too little concerned about it, or too deeply engrossed in business to teach them better. As a consequence of this precocious manliness, they give themselves up to all the pernicious habits and indulgences of older republicans.

O. J. PHELPS.
Piketon, (Ohio), Oct. 22, 1855.

Seed From Japan.

A gentleman named Doty has returned to California from Japan, bringing with him a variety of seeds. The San Francisco Chronicle says:

Among others, Mr. Doty has samples of the following: Seed of the tea plant; this variety is cultivated in about the same climate as portions of California, and it is thought certain that it would flourish here.

An oil-bean, from which the Japanese express an elegant article of oil for burning.

An oil-seed, from which a sweet and fragrant oil is expressed, called by the natives "Gomo oil," used by them for cooking purposes. If this plant will flourish in the United States, Mr. Doty is convinced that it must be at once extensively cultivated, and form a valuable article of produce.

In order to demonstrate the extraordinary amount of oil contained in the bean, from which is manufactured lamp oil by the Japanese, Mr. Doty stuck one of them on the nib of a steel pen, and applying a lighted match, it immediately ignited and burnt with a clear white flame, emitting a beautiful light for two or three minutes.

A singular document has just been published, showing that within a recent period 600 children have been destroyed by wolves in the Punjab; nearly a thousand were some 20 years ago slaughtered in the same way around Agra. The ornaments of the infants were generally found in the dens where their poor little bodies are devoured, and those who make a trade in getting possession of the plunder thus provided to their hands have created an impression amongst the people that the village in which a wolf is killed is sure to come to ruin; and the ferocious brutes, when caught, are frequently set free with a bell around their neck. The loss of life from snakes in Scinde has become so serious that Government has taken measures for the destruction of these reptiles; singular illustrations, these, of the pestilence of the population.

A distinguished writer on the steam engine thus speaks of its power: "It is stupendous alike for its force and flexibility, for the prodigious power which it can exercise, and the ease, and precision, and ductility with which it can be varied, distributed and applied. The trunk of an elephant, that can pick up a pin or rend an oak is nothing to it. It can engrave a seal or crush masses of obdurate metal like wax before it; draw out, without breaking, a thread as fine as a gossamer, and lift a ship of war like a bubble in the air. It can embroider, forge anchors, cut steel into ribbons, and impel loaded vessels against the fury of the waves."

A party of engineers were recently boasting of the rate at which they had run their respective locomotives, and some of their yards had been uncommonly tough, when a quiet individual who had listened with a good deal of attention, without saying anything, "took the hat" with the following specimen of fast running: "Why, gentlemen," said he, "the last time I ran the Blowhard from Syracuse, we went so fast that the telegraph poles on the track looked like a fine tooth comb."

A paper maker in the south of France makes a pulp of five common plants in certain proportions, with twenty per cent. of rags, and produces a paper not distinguishable, it is stated, from pure linen, and of excellent quality, and can be afforded at half price. If the latter fact is true, the improvement is a valuable one.

Cast-Steel Guns.—The immense war and cart upon the material for cannon at Sebastopol has brought out many projects of improvement in these weapons. The number of times firing which an iron gun will sustain is limited. At the siege many cannon have been literally worn out. The allies were upon their fourth siege train when the Russians let them in the city. The London Morning Chronicle says: "Messrs. Shortridge, Howell & Jessop, of the Hartford steel works, Willey street, Sheffield, are engaged in the manufacture of a cast-steel gun for the government, with every probability of success."

Convention of Husband.—The papers state that a convention of husbands in New York, to be called shortly at Syracuse, New York, to adopt some measures in regard to fashion. They say that since they have to support the expenses of fashion they have the right to regulate its caprices. It is also said that a proposition to raise boys only, in future, is to come before the convention. The members are to resolve themselves in a husbands' rights party.

American Iron for the British Market.—On Monday last, a sloop arrived at New York, bringing from the Jersey shore 40 tons of iron machinery constructed for use in Scotland, and the same is now being shipped direct to Glasgow. It is designed for the manufacture of India rubber goods, a process in which America is ahead of all the world.

DISTRESSING.

We learn from the Western Eagle, that W. B. Owens was found dead in a still house belonging to a Mr. Steadman, in Rutherford county, on the 10th instant. A jury of inquest was held over his body, and they returned a verdict that the cause of his death by imprudent conduct. Owens was an intemperate man, and no doubt, says the Eagle, he came to his death from the use of liquor.—Carolina Intelligencer.

From the Spirit of the Age.

Mr. Editor: I wish to call the attention of your readers, particularly those who are Teachers or Students, to a matter which will prove beneficial to them and the cause of Education.

I have, by invitation, recently attended Lectures on English Grammar by Rev. Prof. Brantly York, of Randolph county, and have carefully perused the Grammar of which he is the author. The system of teaching which he has invented deserves the attention of all teachers. It enables those who diligently apply themselves to acquire a good knowledge of Grammar in four or five weeks, while, as every one knows, the usual methods require at least four or five months.

A leading excellence of his method consists in the fact that he uses the black-board, thus making the eye, as well as the ear a medium of instruction. This is a decided superiority over the common methods; for, as the author says in his preface, "intellectual improvement must be in proportion to the senses exercised." He has devised ingenious diagrams which, while they interest the eye, explain the science of Grammar and impress its principles deeply upon the mind. Many able scholars in both North and South Carolina have extolled his method, being convinced of its excellence by its fruits.

But it is his Grammar which I wish especially to recommend. Those who are acquainted with the various Grammars of our language will readily admit that all the pretended new ones, published for the last fifty years, have been little more than copies of the idea of those before them, with a change in expression or words and arrangement. I can safely say that Prof. York's is a new Grammar. It contains originality, and that originality is unquestionably an improvement.

All who have taught or studied English Grammar are aware that generally the memory is the chief, and often the only faculty of the mind exercised by the learner; but Prof. York's requires especially the exercise of reason, and thus enables the student to incorporate its rules and principles into his habits of thinking, speaking and writing. Unlike others, he carefully gives reasons for his rules and principles. He has made it a grand object to teach the language with the Grammar, thus again outstripping others.

He has given plain, pointed and comprehensive rules for punctuation. Every one knows the difficulty of learning to punctuate correctly, and also how inefficient the rules of most authors on punctuation are. Prof. York's rules are easily understood and truly practical. A glossary of all the technical terms used, is annexed to the volume; a great advantage to the student, as he seldom knows anything about Latin or Greek.

In fine, the author detects and exposes the imperfections of others; explodes time-honored errors; establishes new truths; discovers new principles; and produces positive and valuable improvements in many respects. Several distinguished teachers in high schools in N. C. have adopted his Grammar as a text book. It is an improvement on other similar works, surely others should be discarded and it adopted.

The author is a North Carolinian, and if his book possesses real merit, North Carolinians ought to encourage his talent and give him their patronage.

It behooves all Teachers, especially, to examine it. Any wishing further information will receive it by addressing Richard W. York, New Institute N. C.

A. W. MANGUM.

Other papers in the State friendly to general Education, are requested to copy.

A Mammoth Mule.—The steamer A. L. Shotwell from Louisville brought down the largest mule ever raised in Kentucky. The animal is 17 1/2 hands high, and is aged but two years. At the State Agricultural Fair, held at Louisville last week, the premium cup was awarded to the mule, it being the largest ever raised in Kentucky.—Louisiana Courier.

Senator Toombs, of Georgia, has consented to deliver a lecture in Boston, on the consistency of African slavery with the Constitution of the United States and Republican institutions, and the effect of the American Revolution upon the African race.

REVIVAL OF RELIGION.

From a letter received from our brother Landrum, we learn that within the last six weeks, over five hundred members, have been added to the Baptist Church in the Tyger River association. That is certainly unprecedented in the annals of the Church in this up country.

Carolina Intelligencer.

THE AMERICAN INVENTORS, represented at the Paris Exhibition have received about twenty gold and silver medals, which gives a medal to every eighth exhibitor—a higher proportion of first class medals than will be received by any other nation. McCormick's reaping and Pitt's thrashing machines, Blanchard's for bending wood, Singer's sewing machine, Goodyear's vulcanized india-rubber, Fowler and Probert's artificial teeth, Richmond's machine for cutting iron for steam boilers, and Maury's maps and charts are among the articles which took the medals. Colt's guns and pistols met with great opposition, and many competitors from France and Belgium, and he, in consequence, gets but a third class medal. Fairbairn, the celebrated engineer, before the British Association, paid a marked compliment to the many new and useful inventions which he found at the Paris exhibition by American contributors.

The City and the Country.

From "Isora's Child," a new Novel which abounds in fine passages, we take the following:

Scene, the banks of the Hudson. Characters, Mr. Clarendon, a rich and fashionable Lawyer from the City, and Miss Cora Livingston, a beautiful young girl of the Country:—

"I shall want you to sing for me when we reach the bank [of the Hudson,] said Mr. Clarendon.

"The water and frogs will furnish us music enough, and if we are very romantic, we can listen to the 'melody of growing things.'" "I do not think that my senses are sublimated enough for such music, and had rather any time hear a sweet girl sing, than the most energetic cabbage grow. I believe that imagination does hold much sway over my cranium. I have little sympathy with poets or transcendentalists. But I suppose

"There is a pleasure in poetic pains That none but poets know."

I have lived long enough, Miss Cora, on dreams, and would like now a little reality."

"I believe I am too fond of dreaming," said Cora, "and when I come down here by the water a one I become, sometimes, wild with strange bewildering thoughts."

"What do you think about," said Mr. Clarendon, now drawing Cora's arm within his.

"Oh! of nothing that I can speak of. Our existence seems to me a greater mystery than any other. I wonder why such frail beings as we should be put in this beautiful world to live and die, with so little knowledge of ourselves and the future. Sometimes I sit by the side of the waves, and watch them ripple upon the shore, and my thoughts seem only like them, coming so fast, one after the other, just like they are clear and transparent, and mine indistinct and misty, and aiming at something which I can never reach. It is this limit which fetters my mind, that makes the thought of another world sometimes pleasant. We shall there have, I suppose, no shores to check the waves of thought."

"And what does all this thought end in Miss Cora! Does it not craze your mind to no purpose?"

"Oh! such thought is not unprofitable. It is sweet to know, if we cannot explore into these great mysteries, that there is One whose knowledge is infinite, and that He will teach us, and we can trust and live in Him; and if we are his children, that we are not, after all our ignorance, so helpless. Oh! it is pleasant, sometimes, to be alone, and think."

"You are a good little enthusiast, Cora; but your life leads you more to contemplation than those who live in the city's whirl and bustle.—You ought to come to town, so that fancy and romance may not run away with reason."

"Is city life more rational than country life?" said Cora.

"Oh! city people know how to enjoy themselves better. I would rather cut off ten years of my existence than to live a hum-drum life in the country."

"I can't make the comparison," said Cora, simply, "as I have not known much of society in the world yet; but country life does not seem hum-drum to me. Are the people so different in any thing but their dress and style of living? What improves them in the city, Mr. Clarendon?"

"Action, Miss Cora; they do not rust for something to think of, something to do. They are interested and amused."

"I wonder, then, Mr. Clarendon, what the country was made so beautiful for? Why did God put Adam and Eve into a street of brick houses and omnibuses, instead of a garden full of flowers and animals, birds and running water. I don't believe that Eve would have liked the city pump half as well as the waters of the shining Euphrates."

"They would at least have needed better milliners if such had been their first habitation. I don't know how to answer your argument; but can only say that Adam and Eve were certainly very unphilosophical country people."

"But they were made in God's own image, and must have had minds to appreciate all that was most desirable."

"Why then, weren't they satisfied, instead of reaching after something else. I believe the big apple that they wanted was the world after all, and that they stole the best typification of it within reach."

"But who showed it to them, Mr. Clarendon? Did Satan point it out? He then lives in this big apple the world, and that is why you like it."

"That you think a home-thrust," said Mr. Clarendon, laughing; "but I must not be beaten by a woman, so I retreat, with a promise to show you, some day, the attractions of our city world; but it is best for you that you stop some time yet in your clover patch."