

MISCELLANEOUS.

Messrs. Editors—The following paper has been placed in my hands, and I know not better how to use it than to give it to you for publication in your valuable journal.

An abbreviated process of computing interest at 6 per cent, has been handed me within a few days, with the request that I would give an exposition of the principle on which it is founded, and furnish a Rule, applicable to all the cases which can be conveniently solved by it.

Table with 2 columns: Values and their corresponding rates. 440, 224, 1796, 898, 898, \$100,576.

Here, as the result of a mental operation, I have written first, the sum of the months in the given years and months, 44. Having made this decimal fraction by placing a point at the left, I annex one-third of the number of days, 9—and multiply the whole by half the given sum; the product shows the interest sought.

The rationale of this process may be thus explained. It is obvious that the interest on any sum—as \$100—for a given time, at six per cent, is equal to the interest of half that sum—\$50—for the same time, at 12 per cent. Our method, therefore, proceeds on the supposition that the rate of interest is 12 per cent. per annum, and arranges the rate for the whole time accordingly.

Now, 12 per cent. per annum, being 12 per cent. for twelve months, is, of course, equal to one cent a month. Hence, the interest any sum, for any time, is just as many per cent. on the principal, as there are months in that time. Thus, the interest for one month is 1 per cent.; for five months, five per cent.; and for three years and eight months, it is 44 per cent., as in the example above.

But if the time for which the interest is to be computed, is equal to, or exceeds, a hundred months, the rate will, of course, be equal to, or greater than 100 per cent., which equals or exceeds a unit. Consequently, when the number of entire months equals, or exceeds a hundred, the two right hand figures only are to be pointed off as decimals, leaving the others on the left, to represent whole numbers.

The rate for the days is conformed to this scheme as follows: We have seen that the rate per month is one per cent. or 1/300 of the principal. Now, one day, being 1/30 of 30 days or month, the rate of interest per day must be 1/30 as much; which is 1/9000 of 1/100, or 1/90000 of the principal. For three days, it will, of course, be three times as much, or 3/90000, which is equal to 1/30000, or, decimally, .001. Hence, we see that for every three days, .001th is to be added to the rate already obtained for the given number of months; or, in other words, one third of the number of days in the given sum, represents so many .001ths of the principal which are to be added to the .01ths, which form the rate for the months. Thus, the rate of interest for the 3.002ths; six days it is .00333ths; and for 27 days it is .0099ths as in the illustrative example.

The rate being thus arranged for the whole time, at 12 per cent. per annum, it remains only to multiply this rate by half the principal, (as explained at the beginning) and we shall obtain the interest of the given sum for the given time, at 6 per cent. per annum.

Having thus explained the principals of this method, we may now deduce from them the following brief.

Reduce the years and months to months. Point off two figures on the right for decimals, leaving the others (if there are others) as integers. If there are not two figures representing months, supply the deficiency with cyphers. Annex one-third of the days to this number and multiply it, thus increased, by half the principal, the product will be the interest required.

This simple and compendious method may be equally well adapted to any other rate of interest whatever, by taking, as the multiplier, such a proportion of the principal, as the proposed rate per annum is of 12 per cent. For example: For 4 per cent. per annum multiply by one-third of the principal; for 8 per cent. by two-thirds; and for 9 per cent. by three-fourths. Petersburg, Jan. 15, 1852. A. J. L.

DR. KANE'S THIRD LECTURE.—The People of the Polar Region.—Dr. Kane gave his third Lecture, on the Arctic Expedition, last evening, to a large audience in the Hall of the Maryland Institute. Like his previous lectures, it was full of interest and information.

The lectures delivered by the Doctor on the same subject, before the Smithsonian Institute, were very different from those delivered in Baltimore, and have been published in one of the New York papers. In one of those lectures he gave the following account of the people who inhabit the polar region, adjoining Baffin's Bay:

The race of people who inhabit the country adjoining to Baffin's Bay and its tributaries are so little known, that any thing in relation to them is sought up with avidity. This arrival furnishes us with a sight of some of their distinctive characteristics, in dress and otherwise. The dress of a married lady is composed of a pair of short seal-skin pants, far outside, extending nearly to the knee joint, where it meets with the legs of the boots, made of the same material, or of deer skin. The upper part of the person is covered with a "jumper" or a kind of sack, with a hood for the head, and sleeves, made whole, with the exception of a place for the head and arms. This also is made of seal skin, or deer skin, and in the warm weather is covered with a family colored cotton cloth sack. In the coldest and wet weather, the cloth sack is removed, and a seal skin covering, without fur, placed in its stead. The dress of an unmarried lady is distinguished by a broad band, made of fancy figured webbing, about two and a half inches wide, sewed on each side of the front of their pants, extending nearly the whole length of them.

A married woman can also be distinguished from an unmarried one by the hair, which in both cases is tied on the top of the head, and the ends of that of the married colored blue, and of the unmarried, red. This enables a galled to act the amiable, without danger of making advances to some one already married, and getting a stray shot from an injured husband. The boots are made very neatly, slender, and well proportioned. The deer skins are dressed in a beautiful manner, simply by drying and rubbing them on a smooth stone. A pair of gippers completes the wardrobe of a lady in the Es-

quimaux country; these are made of deer skins, and neatly fringed around the top with white rabbits fur. The clothing which was shown us was made in a very tasty and strong manner, every thread being made of the sinews of the deer, and of course very durable. The dresses of the males are very similar to that of the married ladies, with the exception that they are longer and rather heavier. The Dances are scattered around among the Esquimaux, and furnish them with what foreign articles they may want, which are limited to steel for their spears, and some few ornaments for their dresses, and coloring for their hair and ladies' boots. The seal seems to furnish them with almost every thing they seem to require—food, clothing, and even fuel.

FRENCH MORALS.

We are lax enough in our morals in this country, but if we may lay little of the Pharisee'sunction to our consciences, and thank God that we are not as other people are, we may certainly congratulate ourselves that we are not as bad as those French. Read the following:

From a statistical work, just published in Paris, by M. Mathieu, it appears that the births in France during the 33 years from 1817 to 1849, were 16,450,349 boys, and 15,504,541 girls. Of these, 1,166,906 boys and 1,121,038 girls were illegitimate.

A comparison of these numbers will show the curious fact that the proportion of boys to girls is larger in the case of legitimate than of illegitimate children, the proportion of the former being as 17 to 16, and of the latter as 25 to 24. The proportion of illegitimate to legitimate children during the same period was 1 to 13, all but a fraction. But, in Paris, during 1850, the number of illegitimate births attained the frightful proportion of nearly 1 in 4, the numbers being 18,643 legitimate, and 492 illegitimate. From 1817 to 1849, the annual average of births in France was 1 to 33-1/2 inhabitants, of deaths 1 to 40, and of marriages, 1 to 128. The tables show a very large increase in the duration of human life since 1817. In that year the average duration was 31.8 years; in 1833, it was 33.9 years, and in 1849 it reached 36.1. Before the first revolution, Davilland's tables gave 25 3/4 years only as the average duration of life, so that more than 7 years, by a steady progression, have been gained with 60 years. The present population of Paris is 945,721.

We copy the whole of these statistics, though the latter do not bear on the subject in hand. The former show this great truth, that Frenchmen do not know what home is. Indeed, it is well known that the French language, copious, elegant, and flexible as it is, has no word in it equivalent to that sweetest of all English words, home. They speak in France of going to the house, but not to one's home. Such a people where the domestic ties sit so loosely, can have no sound morals. They are essentially a corrupt people, and they are paying the penalty of their corruption.—N. Y. Ob.

COMMUNICATIONS.

PEACEABLE INTERVENTION.

Among the items of news that have obtained a general circulation, I have noticed, with some interest, a recent statement that the Pope is having prepared for the Washington Monument, now in process of erection at the Federal Capital, a block of marble, as a token of the interest felt by his Holiness in that great national enterprise. It has struck the writer's fancy that the opportunity, thus offered, for the propagation of American principles on European soil, ought not to be permitted to pass by without improvement. A more favorable occasion could never be presented, for peaceable and courteous intervention between the people of that continent and their oppressors; and I would rejoice to see some movement made in Congress, as soon as this contribution from the Papal Government shall reach our shores, to acknowledge the reception of it by a suitable return. We might have the "Declaration of Independence," with its imperishable Preamble, inscribed in the Italian language, on the four sides of a modest column, presented to the Sovereign Pontiff, with the request that it be placed in one of the public squares of the Eternal City, as a lasting memorial of the political principles to which the life of Washington was devoted.

That the Roman Government could refuse to accept so handsome a recognition of its gift from the American People, cannot be for a moment supposed. It would be a most ungracious and insulting return for an act of national courtesy. It would, moreover, too plainly show, that the contribution it is making to the Washington Monument, is not, what it professes to be, a touching expression of the admiration entertained by the Pope for the character of Washington, and for those principles which he lived to advocate, and would have died to defend.

There is, to my mind, something truly exciting in the thought of thus erecting, among the ruins of ancient, and the splendors of modern Rome, a monument, and a protest, in marble, against every form of despotism, and bearing our national testimony to the value of free institutions, under the very shadow of St. Peter's! If the suggestion should be deemed impracticable, by a timid or over-cautious public, I claim for it, nevertheless, the merit of a pardonable enthusiasm for a cause ever dear to the American heart:

"Yes! in that generous cause for ever strong, The patriot's virtue, and the poet's song, Shall, as the tide of ages rolls away, Shall charm the world, unconscious of decay!"

It will add no small degree of additional value to the expected contribution from Rome, if it prove to be true that the block is to be taken from the ruins of the ancient Temple of Peace. If so, the historical associations it must recall, will be indissolubly united to the real and existing glories of the American name. The citizen of our great republic, whilst contemplating, at his leisure, the structure that commemorates the name, services, and virtues of the Father of his Country, may find himself suddenly transported, by this relic of a lost empire, to the scenes to which it once belonged; he may find his fancy straying among the revived realities of republican Rome, and lost in vivid visions of the glory and splendor that belonged to her, before she bowed to the imperial rule—before her pride was abased, and her liberty extinct.—For a memorial such as this, we should be glad to be indebted to the present Sovereign of the fallen Capital of the world, and promptly acknowledge our obligations.

Surely he cannot object to the publication in his dominions of that document, the promulgation of which secured, for all our citizens, the full enjoyment of both political and religious freedoms. The noblest known exposition of the rights of man cannot be out of place, in the capital of a Pontiff who claims a recognition of those rights, from every other government, for all the subjects of his spiritual authority! No! the Pope and the Roman people would vie with each other in doing homage to that immortal instrument, and in asserting before the world the truth and justice of the great principles it was intended to proclaim! CATO.

The Huntsville (Ala.) Democrat describes a man just arrived there, whose height is eight feet, and weighs 415 pounds. He excited universal astonishment. He is a Scotchman by birth, but got his growth in Nova Scotia. He is finely formed, and without superfluous flesh.

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LITERARY TARIFFS—HOMOGENEOUSNESS OF DISPOSITION.

We promised, some time ago, to make some remarks suggested by the letter of Prof. OWEN, published in our sixth number.

It may be conceded that a Literary Tariff will not produce good Literature; at all events none will pretend that genius can be created merely by patronage. It can, however, be developed by encouragement; and we have the authority of one of the most gifted poets that ever lived, for the assertion, that ignorance has smothered, in many a mute, inglorious Milton, the finest sparks of celestial fire. They are not the only born poets whom the world knows as such—and undoubtedly many who have passed into utter oblivion, and might have

"Waked to ecstasy the living lyre."

been prevented by one or both of two causes: these are, want of education and want of encouragement; of which causes nobody can deny the force of the former. But the latter is similar to it—is of a kindred character, and follows, necessarily, from it. The literal meaning of education is, to lead out; and whatsoever tends to the development of mind, to nourish, strengthen and expand it, and tempt it to action, is education. The inculcation of ideas, by books—the discipline of study—is one way to develop the mind; and it is equally stimulated by outward circumstances, such, for instance, as love of fame, a desire to please, avarice, fashion, praise, the force of example, &c., &c. Hence it is that poets come in shoals—and hence it is, that certain ages and certain nations are said to be highly poetical, &c.

The praise awarded to successful authors, the fortunes acquired by them, or the enthusiasm kindled by their productions, will arouse to exertion all those who feel the consciousness of possessing genius—and thus a whole race of authors will spring up, even tho' poverty stare them all in the face.

Ambition was styled by Milton to be, the last infirmity of noble minds; and no doubt he was himself ambitious, and was speaking his own apology. But ambitious men generally seek to outstep temporary fame; and few, if any mere mortals, have ever lived, who were willing to labor exclusively for posthumous glory. Such has been the fate of many a lofty genius; but all such look for the applause of their own generation, and feel keenly the neglect of their contemporaries and countrymen.

Thus it is obvious that even poets are produced by the encouragement of their neighbors and countrymen; and poetical ability, of all others, owes least to art or circumstances. But it takes more than poetry to make a National Literature: in fact, such poets as Homer and Milton are of no nation or era, but were born for all time, and to interest all people. It is the poets of the lighter kind—the poets of the passions, the bards, the novelists, writers of school-books, historians, biographers, pamphleteers and editors whose writings constitute a National Literature; and while encouragement at home is calculated to fill the field of emulation with many such, their works, in return, help to fashion the manners, and form the characters of the people.

We naturally acquire a high opinion of the genius of a people whose works we most usually read; and if those people are of a different race and nation, we become, insensibly, ennobled in mind, while being fed exclusively on food suited to other climates and other natures; while we lose, at the same time, confidence in ourselves, respect for our own people, and attachment to our own institutions. And as the result of this, we do not live at home; we have no home enjoyments—are tempted to no improvements to add to the comforts of home—are not brave in its defence, nor jealous of its honor.

Can a people be in a more pitiable condition? For such, nature in vain unfolds her charms, and displays her treasures; both are alike neglected and unnoticed, while remote objects attract constant attention and excite insatiable longings, and impel to impracticable plans and unreasonable wishes.

On the other hand, when we read and reward our own writers, we call into active existence a multitude of geniuses, who scatter profusely their treasures amongst us; and choosing for their themes the deeds and manners, the lives and characters of their own people, the scenery and inventions of their own homes, they draw attention to these, invest them with new charms and greater honor, and stimulate the pride, and excite the active, cheerful and useful exertions of those whose praises, in return, still invigorated, refine and ennoble the National Literature.

But part of our text was homogeneity of disposition: by which we do not mean unity of sentiment and tastes, and natural similarity of disposition. Each human being is born with peculiar aptitudes, and peculiar tastes; but while there is a great diversity of certain inclinations, in any State, the whole community can at the same time be characterized by general moral features visible and well defined in every member.

This is produced in two ways, viz: by religion and by literature. The creed and modes of worship in churches, cause a general resemblance, in certain points, amongst all the members of a religious society; and this esprit du corps—a harmony of feeling, unity of object, and general enthusiasm for the advancement of any religious association, is also greatly promoted by the use of uniform and authorized books which all study, and

by which the emotions of all are excited. Hence we have prayer-books, in the Episcopal church, out of which the members of that church everywhere pray; hymn-books, universally used by the Methodists, and other works, of a devotional, doctrinal or controversial character, adopted into universal use by other religious associations. Such works form a distinct kind of literature; and undoubtedly they exercise a vast influence in the formation of character.

The most impressive of all persons are children; and it is easy to form a national character, of any particular kind, by placing text-books of a certain sort in the hands of all the youth of a commonwealth.

Mere literary excellence is, therefore, but a small part of the recommendation of school-books; and the jealous tyrants of the old world well understand and appreciate this fact, and their practice shows it. The Homers, Virgils, Miltons and Shakespeares of the world, should be read by all and studied by all; but the wise man who wishes to see the youth of a state grow up with dispositions suited to their age and country, will be especially anxious to put into their hands books which could not live as mere literary performances, but which teach useful, important and proper lessons, are furnished with a practical view to the actual state of things, and designed to inculcate, with good morals, just ideas of the State, and of the duties and responsibilities of its citizens.

The mere classical student grows up the slave of antiquity; and, on the other hand, in most striking contrast with such, the Yankees, thrown at first on a barren rock, and compelled to be active and practical, to look about them, and combat surrounding circumstances, have excelled all other people in their rapid strides in improvements.

School-books, therefore, form another and distinct kind of National Literature; and on them, more than on any other sort of literature, depends the greatness of a State. The majority of men have not time to amuse themselves with the fables of Mythology—to wade, for years, over head, in the mysteries of Greek particles, or flounder away the prime of life among Latin hexameters. "Life is short and art is long;" by the sweat of our brow we must earn our bread, and the sooner we begin to learn the practical lessons of life the better. Hence we contend that school-books ought to be made for each nation and age, especially adapted to the wants, interests and character of times and places. And there is another reason for this: they tend to produce a homogeneity of disposition, and thus to unite a people for the achievement of great results. No State can be successful without unity of feeling and emotions, on certain subjects; and no people will fail to be great and powerful that is characterized by certain, uniform, national traits. On this subject a great deal might be said, and many noted examples cited; but our time and the patience of our readers are exhausted, and for the present we drop the subject.

BREAKERS AHEAD.

There are signs in the political horizon of this country, well calculated to awaken the serious apprehensions of the sober-minded portion of the population. A great many people among us have forgotten the origin and cause of our present form of government, equal laws, and great prosperity; they seem to regard them as a peculiar and enviable portion, allotted by the Fates to this Western Continent, and decreed to it for all time to come, independent of circumstances, and in defiance of all the elements of decay.

We need not undertake to show how we came by our present benign Institutions, it is sufficient to say they were the result of a peculiar national character, formed by religion, philosophy and nature combined. We have long since lost sight of Nature; Philosophy, in consequence, has gone crazy, and religion, the religion of Jesus Christ, has now to compete, on unequal terms, with Atheism, Paganism, and a thousand other ismistic offsprings of the Father of Lies.

It is said, that within the jurisdiction of the United States, on the soil of California, are temples erected to Heathen Gods; and the whole country is full of false prophets, pretending to direct revelations from the spirit world, and suiting their doctrines to the manners of the times, by mixing with their religion the most beastial practices. And, as religion is a matter of speculation with all these impostors, they bring their associations to bear on politics; and as a matter of course, politicians court these rascally banditti by flattering allusions, while they strive to see who can go farthest in screening them from the proper indignation of all honest christian people. Of all these new sects of real atheists, the Mormons are at present the most formidable and flourishing; they have subdued a wilderness, founded a large colony, and are now the exclusive inhabitants of one of the Territories. From their far off homes the gravest charges have spread over this country against them; and there is now no longer reason to doubt the truth of these allegations.

The whole sect seem to be a regular set of robbers, leagued against all mankind but themselves; and they will not scruple to lie and perjure themselves, in the face of testimony palpable as matter itself. For the present it suits their designs to remain under the protection of the Federal Government; yet it is evident that it is part of their religion to hate all honest people, and to swear to any falsehood necessary to hide their infamous practices.—Among other iniquities the most obscene licentiousness prevails; there is a regular system of concubinage allowed, and perhaps enjoined, while the name of spiritual wife is applied to the filthy courtesans who crowd the harems of these impious blasphemers. The sun, in his course, does not look down on a more corrupt spot than that Territory of Utah; its origins and impiety find no parallel in the oldest dens of depravity in the plague stricken orient. And this is to be one of the States of a Republic, built upon the pure principles of virtue and christianity; and though at present the largest, it is but one of a multitude of gangrenes that are beginning to spot our fair democratic off-spring of virtue. Will an incurable leprosy corrupt all the vital currents of the system, and hasten it to a loathsome end? With these plague spots, other unpleasant manifestations are becoming more and more visible; our country exhibits signs of mental aberration, and indicates a growing disposition to commit suicide. It gazes giddily and wistfully on the eddying whirlpool

of European politics—it seems fascinated by the fearful Maelstrom, and nervously disposed to make a mortal plunge into this bottomless abyss. Perhaps it would be better thus to make a speedy end, than to grow into a mass of putrescence, be eaten up by noxious sores; but either fate would be bed enough, and make one of the gloomiest pictures in the book of Time.

Ye working men! Ye missionaries of Truth, be up and doing. Our appeal is not to the self-styled reformers of the times—not to the wily propagandists of the age. It is to the sober men—to those men of oaken hearts and clear heads who have not tasted of the Circean cup of the old-wizard Despotism, who comes among us in the garb of Liberty, but with a palpable smell of brimstone about his concealed and gory locks.

Be up, men of Truth, lovers of peace, champions of the Christian Faith, republicans, democrats, be up and doing!—there is work for all, a task for each, a field for the humblest as well as for the greatest. There is something for all to do; there is need of the active and entire exertions of every honest man.

Let every Son of Light arm himself with the weapons he can use to most advantage. Lo, the enemy is in the field, and all the powers of darkness are mustered under him!

A PROFITABLE GOLD MINE was discovered recently, by a certain friend of ours; and as the means were somewhat singular, we feel tempted to publish an abstract of the particulars. Others in the mineral regions of North Carolina, may find this method of signal service.

Our friend—living in one of the up-counties—was, on a certain occasion, out of employment for the time, and laboring under a severe attack of cough, and, in consequence, troubled with dyspepsia and all the thousand and one evils which it brings in its train. Time seemed to be his greatest enemy, and to kill it was the question; when suddenly the gentleman determined to stir out and look for a gold mine. Armed with a hammer and mattock, he sallied forth, cracking rocks and digging holes; and he was so encouraged by the signs, that he spent the whole afternoon in laborious search. Returning at sun-down, he had of course a keen appetite for his supper; and as soon as this was dispatched, he found most pleasant employment in perusing the pages of books, heretofore decidedly distasteful. He learned, in one night, more than he ever knew before about mineralogy and geology; and before renewing his search next day, he borrowed an armful of hard authors, and laid in a supply of acids and crucibles. He soon found unmistakable traces of metals; to define them was the puzzle, and hence each night was spent in diligent study, and in the making of experiments. Our friend soon found that his spare time, formerly long and tedious, was now short and most delightful; and in the course of a few weeks he had gained several pounds in flesh, had read through several works on mineralogy, had acquired considerable knowledge of chemistry and geology.

Such a man, sleeping soundly at night, enjoying his dinner, and having a new world for investigation opened before him.

But how did he find the gold mine? some reader asks. Have not we told you, good friend? If you have not understood us, you will never enjoy a gold mine, if you find one.

POLITICAL.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.—SENATE.

On Jan. 30th, there were no important transactions in the Senate.

On Monday, Feb. 23, the House Bill for the relief of the American prisoners, lately pardoned by the Queen of Spain, was passed. The bill providing for the payment of the last instalment of the Mexican indemnity was also passed. Mr. McRAE addressed the Senate in opposition to the Compromise resolution, and Mr. BADGER followed in reply. He had not concluded when the Senate adjourned.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, nothing of interest transpired.

On Wednesday, Mr. SHIELDS introduced a bill making a grant of land to the several States of the United States, for the support of the indigent insane. The bill was referred to a select committee of five Senators. The bill changing the times for holding the United States Courts, in the Western District of Virginia, was passed. The bill to enforce discipline and promote good conduct in the Navy, was passed. The bill providing for the appointment of a Superintendent of Indian affairs in California, was also passed.

On Thursday little was done.

On Friday the bill relinquishing to the State of Iowa, the lands reserved for salt springs in that State, was taken up and passed. The resolution of sympathy with the Irish exiles, was taken up, and Mr. SHIELDS addressed the Senate in support of it. Mr. SEWARD moved several amendments, and, it being late, gave way for an adjournment.

HOUSE.

The proceedings of the House on the 30th Jan., were without interest. The same may also be said of the proceedings of Monday, the 2nd, inst.

On Tuesday Mr. Jones moved that the House resolve itself into committee of the whole, for the purpose of taking up the order of the day, the bounty land bills. The House went into committee, Mr. OLDS, of Ohio, in the chair. Mr. HARRIS, of Tennessee, moved at length that the committee rise, for the purpose of passing a resolution in the House terminating debate. The House having resumed, Mr. HARRIS moved that all debate terminate in two hours after the bills again came up in committee; and the previous question having been offered, and amendments extending the time withdrawn, the original resumption was passed, and the House adjourned.

On Wednesday, a number of bills on the Speaker's table, were, on motion of Mr. CARTER, taken up and disposed of. Among those was one for granting to every man and widow, who is the head of a family, a portion of the public lands, which Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, moved should be referred to a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union, and to be made the order of the day for the first Tuesday in March. The last bill was one regu-

lating the publication of the laws passed by Congress, which had been reported on unfavorably by the select committee to which it was referred.

On Thursday nothing was effected, notwithstanding a strong effort to pass the bounty land bill. The House adjourned without making any progress.

DEAF & DUMB & THE BLIND.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE BLIND DEPARTMENT OF THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND.

After mature reflection, and a careful comparison of our expenditures with those of similar institutions in the United States, I can find only the articles "light" and "fuel," in which a material reduction may be effected without impairing the efficiency of these institutions; but, to reduce the amount paid for these purposes, you will need costly fixtures, which you cannot procure without the assistance of the general assembly. You are aware that our present mode of lighting our buildings is by means of lard and oil lamps; for the passages and the rooms of the officers, and candles for the school rooms and study rooms of the deaf mute department—lamps, after a fair trial, having been found not to answer there. The amount reported as having been directly expended for that purpose during the last fiscal year, is \$360 45; the year before, it was \$421 17. Its cost, though a strong objection, is not the only one to which our present mode of lighting our buildings is liable. The quality of the light produced by candles is poor, and I am afraid may have, in the long winter nights, an injurious effect on the eyes of the deaf mute pupils; and I need hardly point out the danger of using so many movable lights in a building inhabited by a large number of young, and therefore thoughtless persons, many of whom are deprived of sight. The substitute which the experience of other institutions is said to have shown to be the cheapest and the best, whilst it is entirely free from danger, is gas; and I would respectfully suggest to you the propriety of obtaining reliable information as to the comparative merits of that mode of lighting extensive buildings; and if its advantages have not been greatly overrated, I would recommend to you to have a careful estimate made, by some competent person, of the cost of the fixtures for generalizing and distributing it, and to request the legislature to appropriate the funds necessary for that object.

I believe also, that the large sum annually expended for fuel—it was \$854 79, last fiscal year—is due to the defective system of warming our buildings. You are aware that the two wings—containing the dining rooms, sitting rooms and dormitories of the pupils—are warmed in winter-time by two furnaces, and that a third one is resorted to to warm the school rooms of the deaf mute department, whilst the main body of the building, which contains the offices, practising and recitation rooms, parlor, library, bathing rooms, and the chambers for the teachers and officers, has to depend upon stoves. So many of them necessarily consume a vast quantity of fuel, and are, besides, strongly objectionable on the score of health, cleanliness, and the danger of setting fire to the buildings. I believe that the best plan to warm the buildings would be to convert the large passage under our basement into a spacious air chamber, in which the air would be warmed by a network of steam pipes proceeding from a boiler at some distance. The warm air might be made to ascend through the present flues into the wings, and into the school rooms of the deaf mute department, while the smoke flues in the four stacks of chimneys of the main building could also be converted into warm air flues; a branch pipe could be taken into the air chamber of the shop building, so as to supply all the shops with warm air, and another one into the drying rooms of the laundry. The advantages of this arrangement would be: 1st. One single fire would warm all our buildings, besides supplying the kitchen and laundry with steam and warm water. The consumption of fuel, as well as the labor of cutting and carrying it, would, therefore, be greatly diminished. 2d. The air which comes from a chamber by steam is always of a mild and gentle heat, since it can never be raised to a high temperature, and thereby robbed of moisture or injured in quality—both of which are apt to be the case with hot air furnaces, and still more so with stoves. 3d. The houses could more easily be kept clean, as there would be no ashes or wood to be carried through it. 4th. There would be no danger of fire. I understand, however, that the first cost of these fixtures would be considerable; and as this mode of warming has lately been introduced into the new building of the Western lunatic asylum, the most prudent course would be, perhaps, to await the result of their experience.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The Tennessee Institution for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in this place is now in successful operation, under Mr. MORRIS, who has been many years connected with the Institution in New York, as Principal, assisted by Mr. BRONSON, a graduate of the Ohio Institution.

The Trustees have appointed a matron for the females, and a curator who has charge of the boarding, &c. We hope the benevolent will exert their influence with parents, guardians, &c., of the deaf and dumb between twelve and twenty-five years of age, to induce them to avail themselves of the provisions of the law by which their children may be instructed, and send them to the school.

The regular term commences on the first of October and continues till the fifteenth of July, but pupils will be received at the present session until the first of May next.—Knoxville Register.

AGRICULTURAL.

From the Southern Planter.

Experiments of the Albemarle Hole and Corner Club.

The undersigned were appointed a committee at a recent meeting of the "Albemarle Hole and Corner Club, No. 1," to prepare for publication in the "Southern Planter" an Essay on "the experiments which have been tried by the Club since its commencement, giving the substance of the most interesting of them." In executing this duty, the committee are at a loss in making the selection contemplated by the order of the Club, and deem it best to exercise no discretion in discriminating between the several experiments. They deem it more expedient to refer it to the practical judgment of the editor of the Planter, to make such selection from the report of the committee as his more varied experience and observation to the condition and wants of the Agricultural community within the range of its circulation may suggest as valuable.

With respect to the matter in which the undersigned have discharged the duty assigned them, some of the experiments are easily and with advantage susceptible of the synoptical resume contemplated by the Club in prescribing the duties in the committee; while others, it is obvious, derive their chief value from the minute accuracy of the details which have attended their progress. The committee have, accordingly, treated the experiments with reference to these considerations, and submit the results, respectfully, to the editor of the Planter.

FRANK CARR, F. E. G. CARR, Committee.

Experiment on Wheat.—On the Results of Cultivating Wheat in the Milk State; in the Dough State; and when Fully Ripe. Tried by Don F. Carr.