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THE POSSIBLE DANGERS

Of a School Teacher While Instructing Pupils of Different Capacities for Learning—The Duller Should Have the Advantage.

It being clear to every teacher that no child can be taught faster than it can learn, great care must be taken to see that, for its own sake, it gets a chance to learn as fast as it can, always keeping in mind the important fact that the best interests of the whole school must be served. The teacher should never overlook the fact that the interests of all the pupils must be protected. The bright pupil must not be allowed to monopolize his attention. The dull pupils must be attended to with the same or even more zeal than the bright ones.

Teaching a bright pupil is such an agreeable part of the work that the teacher is oftentimes tempted by the very pleasantness of the duty to give the brighter pupils more than their just share of attention. Where that is done the teacher commits an error. The public school is for all the pupils. All should receive their proper share of attention. The teacher whose will and perceptive power permit him to perform this work as it should be done will hardly prove a failure in the school house.

Another fact deserving notice in this connection is that the appearance of dullness is not always a sign of dullness. A pupil may appear to be very dull and not be dull. The real dullness may be in the teacher and not in the pupil. If the teacher blunders along in an uninteresting manner the quick mind of the apparently dull boy may wander from the lesson, and while the slow teacher may be trying to give an explanation, the boy's mind has run ahead, and is thinking of something else. It is like the attention given to a dull speaker. The people who compose the audience finding other subjects more congenial to their notions, give their attention to them while the speaker goes on, with the belief that he is making an impression on his hearers.

It is related of Sir Isaac Newton that he was a dull boy while attending the primary and secondary schools. His teachers did not have a high opinion of his aptness at learning. The sequel, however, showed that what had been considered a dull boy became an unusually bright one. So it is with many pupils that are considered dull in the primary schools. They display much talent in the higher schools. The fact is that the school oftentimes may not be big enough to engage the whole attention of the pupil, and nothing is so trying to the patience of a quick mind as being held back by the sluggish methods and explanations of a slow teacher. Nothing is so unpleasant to an apt boy as to be required to sit daily to be trained by a slow mind and a dull teacher, and in case of the boys and girls who attend the common schools they will not submit to it cheerfully, but are likely to think of something else while the teacher is giving explanations.

It is the business of the teacher to find out the really dull and the really bright pupils, and then give each that part of attention that ought to be given. The bright pupils will require less and the dull pupils more than the average of time given to all the pupils. The faithful teacher will consider the interests of all the children, and endeavor to advance them with the view of promoting those interests. He will guard against advancing any faster than they can go, and at the same time be careful not to hold any back more than may be necessary for the interests of all.

But how to do this is the question with the conscientious teacher. The answer is that it depends upon the ability of the teacher to see what ought to be done, and the proper time of doing it. In the absence of this power of perceiving what to do and when to do it, the teacher may blunder on the right way but the chance is that he will fail. His school may be tolerated but it will not accomplish the purpose for which it was intended.

In order to work to the best advantage to himself and for the greatest benefit of the pupils, in the particular line of work referred to above, the teacher must be something of a student. His study, however, must not be confined too closely to reading, which is no doubt of very great importance. A large share of it must be devoted to the study of the pupils. Each child is in itself a subject of study. It is in fact a little psychology where all the phenomena of child mind may be found unabridged, presented as real and not as ideals for profitable study. It is the duty of the teacher to study the subjects placed before him. But in doing this the teacher should not place too much reliance upon what the books give. The books say a great deal about child life, but the child described then may differ as much from the child the teacher has to study as a Hottentot differs from a Laplander.

The writer may have described a Roman, whilst the teacher may have to teach a Goth. It is not so much a question of what the writers say as it is what does the teacher know? The ideal child, in a writer's mind, does not necessarily resemble the real child before the teacher's eye. To remember what the one says, and not to see what the other is, would hardly qualify the teacher to instruct the child.

To know his pupils, to keep the bright ones interested, and to stimulate and encourage the dull ones, should be the teacher's constant aim, and deserves his closest attention. To accomplish this part of the work with success requires the most patient study. It is a study in the prosecution of which the teacher can not imitate even with a small chance of success. He must be as independent and original in his thought as the children it is his duty to study.

H T J LUDWIG.

BACK ACHES AND RHEUMATISM relieved by Dr. Miles' Nerve Plaster.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Mr. C L Smith, of Charlotte, spent yesterday here.

—Mr. Jno. Yorke made his visit here yesterday from Charlotte.

—Dr. Jesse Hamilton is at home today. He says the road agrees with him as he has lost forty pounds of superfluous flesh.

—Prof. P E Wright and sister, Mrs. Deaton, were here from China Grove today.

—Misses Souder and Hentz, teachers at Mont Arcona seminary, spent today here shopping.

—Mr. Frank Garrett, of Charlotte, who formerly worked in the office of the Odell Manufacturing Co., spent yesterday here.

FRENCH PEAS,

KORNLET

and

ITALIAN PASTE

at

Ervin & Morrison
GROCERS

ATTENTION!

RESTAURANT

J. L. ROGER, Proprietor.

I am still in the ring, feeding the hungry at my old stand in the Brick Row near the post office, where you can get a good meal any time. Oysters stewed, fried or by the quart. Birds on toast. I will have my same old cook, Wils McMore and his wife, the best restaurant cooks in the city. When you want anything in my line call and I guarantee you will be politely treated. Any one wishing oysters for Christmas will please leave their orders with me or at the restaurant. I hope to receive a part of your patronage.

The Commissioners Assign Offices.

Before going to press this afternoon the county commissioners made the following assignment of officers to perform the county's work:

Superintendent of chain gang—Robt. C Benfield.

Keeper of County Home—Jas. T Sapp.

The superintendent of the chain gang will secure his guards, which will be found out later.

A Sunday Morning Marriage at Mt. Pleasant.

At 8 o'clock Sunday morning at the home of Mr. Wm. H Fisher, at Mt. Pleasant, his daughter Miss Sallie Fisher, was married to Mr. Jno. W Thompson, of Franklin, in Rowan county. The people of the town knew nothing about the affair until it was over. Rev. J A Linn, the bride's pastor, performed the ceremony. After the marriage the bride and groom drove to Rowan county, to Mr. Thomason's home.

Special Rates.

Christmas Excursion Holiday Rates, 1898-99. On account of above occasion the Southern Railway Co. will sell special round trip tickets to all points east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers at rate of one and one-third first-class standard one way fares for round trip. Tickets on sale Dec. 23, 24, 25, 26, also Dec. 30 and 31, 1898, Jan. 1, 2, 1899, with final limit Jan. 4, 1899. Tickets may be sold to students and teachers upon presentation of certificates signed by the Superintendent, Principal or President of schools and colleges, under the foregoing conditions on Dec. 16 to 25, 1898, inclusive, with final limit Jan. 4, 1899, except that tickets for students must not be sold to points on the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway, Macon, Dublin & Savannah R. R. or Richmond, Nicholasville, Irvine & Beattyville R'y.



A Conspicuous Feature

Of our Shirts is the bosom. They are right in style, and the make up of the shirt is or the best. We show today what we believe to be the handsomest line of Fancy Shirts that have been made to sell for 75 cts. They are made of high grade Percals in beautiful patterns, the stripes running across the bosom in the stylish way. They have the new round cuffs. Boys' sizes 12 1-2 to 14 only 48c. We are showing a very handsome line of neckwear in Puffs, Bows, and Four-in-Hands.

H L PARKS & CO.

Closing out
capas cheap.

Cannon & Fetzer
Company.

WHY - NOT - BE - HAPPY

GET INTO THE SWIM—THE ELECTION IS OVER—THANKSGIVING IS PAST AND IN A FEW MORE DAYS WE WILL HAVE

CHRISTMAS AGAIN.

PRESENTS! Oh, Yes! You must have presents for Christmas times. We don't know of any better place in the State of North Carolina to buy a useful as well as an ornamental PRESENT than the

FURNITURE HOUSE OF BELL HARRIS & CO.

SEE. Run over the list and see if we are not correct. One Hundred Bed Room Suits in all the fancy woods. Parlor good, medium and best, Wardrobes, Side Boards, China Closets, Office Desks, Book Cases, Hall Racks, Rocking Chairs, Dining Chairs and all kinds of children Chairs, Bissels Carpet Sweepers, Cook Stoves, Mattress and Spring Baby Tenders, Boy Wagons, Go Carts, Coasters, Tricycles, Velos-peds, etc.

Our line of Pictures and Frames, Mirrors, Lamps, etc., must be seen to be appreciated. We have bought largely. We have bought at right prices. We have bought to sell if you will favor us with a call we will convince you that we mean just what we say. Come and see us. With best wishes for a merry Christmas we are

Yours

Bell, Harris & Company.