

THE HEADLIGHT.
ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY.
A. ROSCOWER, EDITOR.
We are by no means responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.
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GOLDSBORO, N. C.
FRIDAY EVENING, Dec. 24th 1887.
THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY.

The Western laborer demands that his days work be limited to a certain number of hours, and his demand is complied with. The employer may reluctantly pay for eight hours' work as a full day, yet he is compelled to do it. Not only the man who works in the railroad shops of the West, not only the woman who toils in the factories of the North has a certain number of hours to work, but even the teacher of the South has a certain number of hours to work. The teacher is required by law to work six hours a day. His duty is then done, so far as the State is concerned. Is this in all cases sufficient? Can he perform his duty to the patrons and children in this short time?

The old Roman taught from daylight until dark, our forefathers in this country remained in the school room nearly the entire day. The times have changed, however, and now the teacher can enjoy those pleasures which were denied the good old people of the long ago.

In those schools where the children are pretty well advanced, it may be well to talk of the six hours' system. They are expected to prepare the recitations before coming to the school house, and the teacher is expected to have them recite, and they have finished after those things have been explained to them which they did not understand.

Let us remember that there are a great many children that expect to study their lesson in the school room. In reality under the above system they are not required to study even six hours. They commence at 9 o'clock and are dismissed at 3, in the meantime having one hour for recreation, leaving only five hours for study. It is a mistake to say that this is sufficient in the common schools of the country. That teacher who clings to the above system, and who has the wants of a large school to attend to, in reality shirks his duty because he has the sanction of the law.

The teacher may say that his pay is very small, therefore five or six hours is as much as he ought to devote to the work. In answer to this we would say, that no teacher should make any such plea after he has accepted a position, and should work as diligently as if he were paid as well as any official in the State.

DOWN WITH THE PISTOL!
Can not the pistol be divorced from liquor drinking? or is public sentiment as strongly in favor of the use of one as of the other, so that an attempt to suppress or prohibit by law the indiscriminate snapping of loaded revolvers by careless boys or liquor heated men would be futile? Has the public become so hardened to the daily occurrences of shooting affairs, "accidental" murders, and deliberate murders, to say nothing of the miscellaneous cases of the ignorant or careless use of pistols, whereby life is constantly endangered, that it takes all such occurrences as mere items of current news? Is it utterly vain to appeal to the common sense of the community with regard to this matter? Are the intelligent and decent and order-loving part of our population contented with the situation? Are they satisfied that it is right for excitable young men, and even boys to go about the streets with loaded revolvers in their hip pockets, and to flourish them in the home-circle to the terror of mothers and sisters? We have challenged attention to this subject before, and we shall repeat the challenge. Argument is unnecessary. Our readers know the terrible evil of promiscuous pistol selling and pistol carrying—will they not join us in the cry against it, that the ever ready pistol must go!

DEBT.
Debt is the most miserable and tyrannical of masters. His subjects are the most miserable and heavily burdened of all the victims of misfortune. He takes possession of the young, the talented and the promising and crushes their hopes, annihilates their aspirations and destroys their ambition. He fastens his insidious hold upon the middle aged, despoils them of their treasured rewards for toil, robs them of their homes, and sends them adrift upon the merciless sea of adversity and want. He entraps the aged by his subtle allurement and deceptive enticements and brings them ruin, disgrace and the grave. The arch fiend of all the devils that allure but to damage, that entice but to cause grief, that tempt but to destroy! The great cause of most of the disappointments, sorrows and ruins that beset us in life and haunt us in our dying hour! Cruel, heartless, oppressor! Obdurate, merciless tyrant! The enslaver of the liberal and generous, the destroyer of the innocent and guiltless, the most crushing of all annihilating influences upon the minds and conscience!

All along the shores of business in every town and state, there are wreck-firms: gone down under the depression of debt. It demoralizes business, destroys confidence and devours with insatiable greed the best and bravest. —
APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS, 1887.
FRIENDS OF ORPHANS:
I earnestly request your contributions in aid of the Christmas Festivities at the Oxford Orphan Asylum, for 1887, and beg you will forward them early in December that I may know what outlay I can make.

I have more children to provide for this year than ever before, and therefore specially appeal to your liberality. I would rejoice to receive at least one dollar from each school and Lodge in North Carolina.
Do not by this appeal down until you have forwarded your contributions, for your Christmas will be made happier and brighter by the consciousness of having aided this beautiful cause.
Mark all contributions "For Christmas," and send them to Dr. Dixon, Oxford, N. C. Yours affectionately,
Kris KRIVGEL.

The above appeal should touch the hearts of every man and woman in the old North State that has a heart to touch and we earnestly hope old Kris' appeal will not be in vain. The money could not be given for more charitable purpose. Let all cheerfully respond thereto either in money or something that will contribute to the comfort and pleasure of North Carolina's little Orphans.

A MOTHER'S LOVE.
[Republished by Request.]
"A mother's love! how sweet the name!
What is a mother's love?
A noble, pure and tender flame,
Extinguished from above,
To bless a heart of earthly mould;
The warmest heart that CAN grow cold;
This is a mother's love."
Would you know what maternal love is?—Listen and we will tell you:
Did you ever notice anything with its young, and not observe a token of joy and happiness in its eyes? The mother hen seems delighted to see her chicks peck up the grain which she regales them with. Did you ever see a young chick and upon its mother's back, or behind the white-brood nestle beneath her wing? If you have, you may know something of a mother's love.

Did you ever see a cat play with her kitten? How full of love and joy she looks; how she will fondle and caress it; how she will suffer it to tease, and tire, and worry her in its wild sports, and yet not harm it in the least. Have you not seen her take it up in her mouth and carry it gently away, that it should not be injured, and with what trembling caution would she take it up, in fear that she might hurt it.

Did you ever see a bird building its nest? Day by day and hour by hour, it labors at its work, and all merrily; then it lines it with soft feathers, and will even pluck its own rather than its young should suffer.

A sheep, the meekest, the most timid and gentle of animals, the least sound will startle, the least noise will make it flee; but when it has a lamb by its side, it will turn upon the fiercest dog, and dare the combat with him; it will run between its lamb and danger, and rather die than its young one should be harmed.

The bird will battle with the serpent; the timid deer will turn and meet the wolf; the nut will turn on the worm, and the bee will seethe its sting in any intruder that dares to molest its young.

Many beasts are fierce and wild, and growl about for blood; but the fiercest of beasts—the tiger, the hyena, the lion, the bear—all love their young; yes, the most cruel natures are not utterly cruel. The snake opens her mouth and suffers her young to enter her bosom when they are in danger; this is maternal love.

If, then, the beasts and reptiles of the earth are so full of love for their offspring—if they will care for them, provide for them, die for them—how great do you suppose must be the love of a mother for her child? Greater than these, be assured; ay, far greater, for the mother looks forward to the time when the child shall become like a flower in full blossom. A mother's love is the most powerful thing on earth!

All other things are subject to change, all other hearts may grow cold, all other things may be lost or forgotten—but a mother's love lasts forever! It is akin to that love with which God loves his creatures and it never fails. Love thy mother, then my little child. Reader, when thy mother is gone, there is no eye that can brighten upon thee, no heart that can melt for thee; like hers; then wilt thou find a void, a vacancy, a loss that all the wealth and grandeur of the world can never fill up.

Your mother may grow old, but her love decays not she may grow sad at heart, and gray upon her brow, but her love towards you will be green. Think, then, in the time of her decline, of what she has suffered, felt and done for you; think of her devotion, her cares, her anxieties, her hopes, her fears—think and do not aught that may bring her gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

The Charge of Plagiarism.
It is sometimes said that plagiarism is the worst form of theft; that the man who will deliberately appropriate the results of another's brain work and claim merit for it as his own is vile as the highwayman or the pirate. Such assertions have been written, doubtlessly, by authors while smarting under the wrong of having some favorite thought or expression stolen. They are perhaps too strong. Beyond question, a man of conscientious honesty will not steal the product of another's intellectual labor. He certainly deserves to be branded as a wrong-doer who will speak, as his own thoughts, that he has not coined from his own brain who seeks pay and praise for a book which he has not composed. Wrong as it is to do these, however, men and women do them who are not, at the time of perpetration, conscious of doing some one an injury, and have not that sense of villainy which one must experience when robbing a drawer of invading an enclosure. Writers and speakers do show off themselves in borrowed plumes who are not mean in other things, and who are not humiliated by a consciousness of doing a meanness even in this. In fact a very large portion of the literary theft that is done is done unconsciously. One stores his mind with ideas and expressions as he reads, and when he speaks or writes he uses them without being aware that they are not his own. Many gain the reputation of being profound and independent thinkers simply by having perused a train of reading out of the ordinary line. A little remarkable is it that this charge of having stolen the brain work of others should now be brought against some who have been rated as having wrought most largely and successfully in the realms of thought. A few years ago it was asserted, with an air of gravity, that Lord Bacon was the author of Shakespeare's plays. Now some are seeking a little notoriety by attempting to prove that Dr. Watts, the matchless hymnist, wrote "Roderick Random" and "Peregrine Pickle." At different times the effort has been made to affix the crime of literary theft upon Macaulay, Longfellow, Fox, Byron and others who have been famed for their ability to put good thoughts into good language. If such authors as these escape not this accusation, it is no matter for wonder that it should be brought against smaller men. This a cheap way of bringing one's self into notice prefer a preposterous charge of plagiarism against some literary celebrity.

When dear ones have ceased to gladden our life with their cheery laugh, bright smile and genial words, when their voices are hushed in the silence of a never disturbed eternity and their love leaves a vacuum in our existence, we miss them, that is to say we appreciate them. An ounce of love such as we possess is worth a million pounds displayed in regrets. Let us all think each day of how much we would miss our loved ones should the relentless hand of the destroyer snatch them away, and then we would realize how much happier kindness and love show us as well as felt would make both team and ourselves. This life is short for an unkind act. While we forget it often, we should remember that all the world of circumstances is ruled by seeming trifles and that one word from our lips may be pregnant with weal or woe for others yet unborn.—*Pageville News.*

R & D SYSTEM.
Removal of changes in the high officials of the Richmond & Danville Railroad at the meeting to be held in January next, are current. It is announced that President Sulby can, if he desires, be re-elected President, but in the event he does not, John H. Lamm, Esq. of New York, seems to be the most prominent choice. There are many who would desire the election of Gen. T. M. Logan to the position, but it does not seem that he either seeks or desires it. So far as we of this section are concerned, it matters but little, so that our own citizen, Col. A. B. Andrews, is retained in some position suitable to his great energy and tact as a railroad man. It would be a great way to remove much of the prejudice attaching in some quarters to the operation of the system in this State, if Col Andrews was given the entire control of all the lines in North Carolina, and this is based upon the vast popularity he enjoys by reason of his executive ability, coupled with his urbanity in connection with the discharge of public duty. With Gen Logan and Col Andrews at the helm, the issue of the N. C. road would become so popular as to enlist the co-operation of all parties. Such at least is our belief.—*Raleigh Evening Visitor.*

Renews her Youth.
Mrs. Fische Chesley, Petersen, city of Iowa, tells the following remarkable story, the truth of which is vouched for by the residents of the town. I am 75 years old, have been troubled with Kidney complaint and lameness for many years; could not rest myself without help. Now I am free from all pain and soreness, and am able to do my own housework. I owe my thanks to Electric Bitters for having renewed my youth, and removed completely all disease. Try a bottle, 50c, at any drug store.

Greatly Excited.
Not a few of the citizens of Battleboro have recently become greatly excited over the astounding facts, that several of their friends who had been pronounced by their physicians as incurable and beyond all hope—suffering dreaded monster Consumption—have been cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption the only remedy that does positively cure all throat and lung diseases, Coughs, Colds, Asthma, and Bronchitis. Trail bottle free at any Drug Store, large bottle \$1.

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