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THE GRADED SCHOOL.

EDITORS COURIER:

There has been no question as to the merits of education. How best to give it to the children of Roxboro has been the problem. Undoubtedly a very broad step in the right direction is now being made, and it is encouraging that practically the whole community is harmoniously stepping together. In discussing this movement, I do so more or less from a teacher's standpoint and I make the appeal in his behalf on the general principle that what benefits him does the same for those whom he serves.

The system in use from the beginning up to this writing has presented the school as belonging to the Principal, and all relationships have existed between teacher and patron as individuals. This condition enables the eccentric person to pit his ideas of what method should best be used in the school room against those of the teacher, who, if he does not conform to the ideas or at least strike a medium between his own and the other fellow's, must see his ranks diminished. Such a person reconciles himself with the thought that, while his child loses the schooling, his pocket holds the dollar, and the teacher is an all-round loser. Fortunately, this class does not burden Roxboro; yet it is liable to spring up at any time, and its tendency towards ostracism often makes it impossible for the teacher to serve those who indeed most need it.

Then there are people who are exacting in matters of tuition. One incident in the early part of my career made an impression not easily destroyed. Shortly after distributing statements of the first month's tuition, four children from one family stopped without any notification whatever. I immediately made inquiry and found that the trouble had arisen from a misunderstanding, which caused the tuition to be a few cents more than had been expected. An explanation, though, caused the children to reenter and to remain in school throughout the session. If, however, I had followed his example of indifference, they would have been deprived of all educational advantages for the year. There is no denial of the right to stop the children; but when one sees himself backed by a fickle support, which is liable to give way at the slightest provocation, it is difficult for him to work with that courage and determination which give perfect results.

Again, the paying of bills month after month becomes annoying. Sometime during the year the spirit of economy invades almost every home, and all too many are inclined to begin the practice of it at the school door, entirely innocent in a way, of what such a step fully means.

The old system also places double duty on the Principal: first, as teacher overseeing the work of the various departments; secondly as a man of business harmonizing the individual elements of the community. And of the two duties, the latter is far and away the more burdensome.

The graded system will destroy the individuality mentioned above. It will be owned by the people as a whole and any act of opposition,

whether innocent or otherwise, will be as opposing self. People will have no ground for comparing their loss in schooling with a financial loss of the Principal. The matter of tuition, all of which will be paid in advance, cannot stand as a source of trouble, and double duties as mentioned heretofore can no longer exist. The Principal will be made independent of the eccentricities which are usually a part of every community. He will be left free to adopt those methods which experience has shown to be best adapted to the needs of broad development and will be able to establish such a system as, in case of change of Principal, will render unnecessary the rethreshing of old straw—a conspicuous drawback of the past. In short, the Principal will be relieved of innumerable little annoyances which the people in general don't think of, and will be given a peace of mind that will make him more efficient as a teacher and more congenial as a citizen.

I have been told that some few, in and out of whose door no children pass, oppose the movement. They are, without doubt, men of thoroughly sound judgment, and I would not take it upon myself to convince them of any error on their part. But as I see it the graded school will have a general reactionary influence for good to all people: some will be benefited directly as is evident, others, indirectly as recently mentioned in your columns and on the platform. I believe all opposition is honest and devoid of prejudice. If there must be opposition, let it remain in this spirit, and let no one become indifferent. At the proper time let everyone say that he is either for or against the measure. If one is interested enough to vote, he will be interested enough to follow the work, and in doing so, will, in the course of time, be led by good results into a favorable attitude towards it.

The graded school is necessary to make education as progressive as the industrial and other interests of the town. It is no longer an experiment. Always, when backed by means and led by ability, it has met every expectation. It is the only hope of the masses and offers opportunities which the independent few can't better anywhere.

W. A. B.

May 12, 1902

Extension of Jurisdiction.

The Charlotte News and the King's Mountain Democrat put forward strong reasons in favor of an extension of the jurisdiction of magistrates by the next Legislature. The Democrat says "the citizens should demand this of their representatives and then it would be accomplished." The News suggests that we "have fewer trial justices and let them be men of character and of legal learning." It thinks that with an extended jurisdiction and fewer magistrates, the fees would justify the time and attention of fit men.—Ashville Citizen.

Two Years in Jail.

Pittsburg, May 10.—Mrs. Soffell who released the Biddle brothers from Alleghany county jail last January, was sentenced today to two years in the penitentiary. The woman plead guilty in open court to the crime and made no defense.

FAMINE FOLLOWS FIRE.

FORTY THOUSAND PERISH.

Desolation and Ruin in the Track of Fire-Swept Island of Martinique.

New York, May 10.—The tale of ruin by the volcanic convulsion in the Windward Islands grows in the telling. The latest details place the number of victims surely at forty thousand. The announcement today was made by the French Cable Co., that it had reopened communication with Martinique by South. A crew which went ashore in the bay at St. Pierre yesterday did not see a living soul where Wednesday was a city of twenty-five thousand inhabitants. The ruins of the town are still blazing. Hot ashes covered the ground for five miles on the landward side, rendering the approach to the city by land impossible.

St. Thomas, May 10.—It is now estimated that 40,000 persons perished as a result of the volcanic eruption in the island of Martinique.

London, May 10.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pointe-a-Pitre, Island of Guadaleupe, French West Indies, dated yesterday, says:

"The Mont Pelee (St. Pierre) crater ejected yesterday morning molten rocks and ashes during three minutes and completely destroyed St. Pierre and the districts within a four mile radius. All inhabitants were burned.

"About eight passengers from the Roraima of the Quebec Steamship company's line were saved by the French cruiser Suchet.

"The inhabitants of the southern district of the island, who were dependent on St. Pierre for provisions are menaced by famine."

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Jamaica says.

"The first intimation of a disaster (at Martinique) was the breaking of the cables on Tuesday. The French cable to Martinique from Puerto Plata, was broken Wednesday. Cable communication with all the northern islands is stopped.

"The survivors of the British steamer Roddam describes the scene at Pierre as being 'glimpses of hell,' beggaring description. The Roddam's men were killed chiefly by molten lava.

"The Roraima was wrecked in a terrible upheaval of the land and sea. The whole crew perished.

"Two ships were lost with all on board in an attempt to approach Martinique."

For Diamond Shoal.

Washington, D. C., May 8.—The Senate today passed a bill appropriating \$550,000 to build a light house on Diamond Shoal, Cape Hatteras. Capt. Ells, the contractor, is to receive \$300,000 after the light house has been completed, approved and stands for one year, after it has stood for two years he is to receive the remaining \$250,000. An amendment was adopted striking out of the bill the provision, which had been included by inadvertence, to make the appropriation immediately available. It is felt that Capt. Ells' scheme is entirely practicable and that he will be successful in building the light house.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ABSOLUTELY PURE
Makes the food more delicious and wholesome

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

Dr. T. B. Kingsbury Resigns.

Wilmington, N. C., May 8.—Dr. Theodore B. Kingsbury, regarded everywhere as the dean of North Carolina journalism, today tendered his resignation as editor of the Wilmington Messenger, the same to take effect immediately.

The resignation is reported to be the result of wide differences between Messrs. Jackson and Bell, proprietors of the Messenger, and Dr. Kingsbury, on the Clark controversy, Dr. Kingsbury being a very warm friend and advocate of Judge Clark for the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court.

An article, not Dr. Kingsbury's is reported to have been published in the editorial columns of the Messenger, which Dr. Kingsbury wished to disclaim in a published card. The proprietors refused to publish the disclaimer, hence the resignation.

Mr. S. T. Ashe, formerly telegraph editor, of the Messenger, is temporarily performing the functions of the editorial department. It is learned that Dr. Kingsbury will devote himself to other literary pursuits more of a private character.

Schley Speaks of Admiral Sampson.

Washington, May 7.—Admiral Schley today made the following statement regarding the death of Admiral Sampson:

"I regret very much the death of Admiral Sampson, and I sympathize with his family. No one has ever heard me utter one unkind word about him.

"On account of his death I have requested my friends in Baltimore to postpone the delivery to me which was intended to have taken place tonight, the Cristobal Colon service of silver, and they have accepted my request."

Some Poll Tax Figures.

Washington, D. C., May 10.—State Chairman Simmons has heard from 27 counties officially as to the poll tax. These failing to pay are: Democrats 1,734; white Republicans, 2,542; negroes, 7,348. Of these negroes 1,285 can read. Mr. Simmons is very anxious to hear from the remaining sheriffs and chairmen to whom he has sent blanks during the coming week.

Come Direct to Our Store.

We cordially invite you to come. It will make you sorry you didn't come here first if you make your purchases elsewhere and then come and look through what we have. We number among our customers this spring many of the dressiest people in the town and country. We believe a pleased customer is the best advertisement, therefore if for no other reason, will do our best to please you. We have pleased many, why not you? Every one is surprised at the completeness of our stock and high quality of goods we have. The stock is first-class in every respect and, too, **The Prices are Right.**

The question with us is not how much we can make but how little profit we can stand and yet live, we don't claim all we can get but are satisfied with the smallest profit possible. Try us once and you'll be sure to come again. Not a bit of trouble to show goods.

A. M. BURNS.

Miss Childers Safe.

Lenoir, May 12.—The following, which is in part a copy of a letter received here this afternoon by W. C. Childers, solves the mystery connected with the recent sudden disappearance of Miss Cordie Childers, and is the first definite information received as to her safety and location.

"Sterling, Neb., May 6.

"Dear Uncle Will: I know you were a little surprised at my leaving the way I did, but I just didn't have the nerve to tell you all good bye. I hope you were not uneasy. Please don't think hard of me for leaving the way I did. Love to every one.

"Yours lovingly,
"CORDIE."

Winston-Salem, N. C., May 8.—

Rev. J. L. White is reported to be quite ill at his home in Macon, Ga. Dr. White is pastor of the First Baptist church in that city. He is a native of Salem. His aged father now resides in East Salem.

Guano. Guano.

We will sell the following brands of guano for tobacco and corn the coming season. Our prices are as cheap or cheaper than anyone's in the County. See us before buying elsewhere, we will save you money.

- Hycos.
- Eclipse.
- Alliance.
- Durham Bull.
- British Mixture.
- Electric Bone and Potash.
- Double Bone Phosphoric Acid.
- Caraleigh Special for Tobacco.
- Zells Oriole H. Y. for Tobacco.
- Gold Special Compound for Tobacco.
- Columbia H. Y. Tobacco Guano.
- Piedmont Special Tobacco Guano.
- Piedmont Yellow Leaf Tobacco Guano.

Just received a new and full line of general merchandise. Call on us for anything you want, highest prices paid for country produce. We are agent for the Farmer Friend corn planters, also the Virginia one and two horse wagons all of which we have on hand and will sell cheap. Call and see us.

Your friends,
READE BROS.
Helena, N. C.