// THE DEMOCRAT.

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TOWN GOVERNMENT.

CAPT. A. WHITE, - - - Mayor.
R. H. Smith, Jr., J. Y. Savage, R. M. Johnson, W. A. Dunn, } Commissioners.
B. I. ALLSBROOK, - - Town Constable.

METHODIST CHURCH.

1st Sunday, William's Chapel 11, a. m.
" " Palmyra 7½ p. m.
2nd " Scotland Neck 11, a. m.
" " Palmyra 7½ p. m.
3rd " Palmyra 11, a. m.
" " Scotland Neck 7½ p. m.
4th " Hobgood's 11, a. m.
" " Scotland Neck 7½ p. m.
T. P. BONNER, P.C.

## PRIVATE COUNTRY SCHOOL, &C.

MR. EDITOR:--In connection with my last article on this subject I only propose, by your permission, to allude very briefly to what the writer regards some of the most successful and profitable ways of teaching a primary school, and the duty of pupils to themselves, their parents, and their teachers.

In all schools of any size, there are pupils of different moral characters, different dispositions and different minds. Some are very apt to learn, while others are naturally very dull--hence a very essential quality in a teacher is, first to understand a good deal about human nature, and then, if possible, to learn the disposition and mental capacity of each pupil—after which adapt his mode of instruction accordingly. Some pupils are disposed to be idle—have never learned self dependence, nor how to study, and will have to be forced to a discharge of this duty either by threats, or actual punishment—while others are naturally studious and quick; and will often tax a teacher in order to keep them profitably employed. Some will bear pushing, while others progress very slowly and must have plenty of time and even short lessons, in order to lay good ground-work, or else they drag and finally become discouraged, and learn comparatively nothing.

A pupil should never be allowed to become discouraged. Due credit should always be given for good lessons, and rapid advancement, and very frequently encouragement and praise from the teacher go much farther towards stimulating a pupil to study than hard punishment.

The old adage, "that patience and perseverance will accomplish most anything," is specially applicable to a student's life, and no persons can be patient, and persevere in any thing they are not fond of—hence the great importance of getting all pupils, if possible, to study through love and respect rather than by slavish fear of a teacher. But it is not always easy to do this, and the most effectual way is to have them properly classed, (when it can be done to advantage), encourage and help the dull and give due credit to the bright, so that all may see that their efforts are not in vain, and then, if possible, get up a spirit of emulation to excel—after which the class will be but little trouble, their progress will be apparent to all, and the efforts of teacher, pupils and patrons will be rewarded, which will naturally produce a love between all parties and a tie of affection that can not be easily broken: which love and tie of affection will ever afterwards be a sufficient stimulus to study and improvement.

The method of teaching should always be more practical than theoretical, and the first object should be to teach a pupil how think, and as much of self defence as possible. It is not a teacher's duty to show, or explain too much:—first require a pupil (when he has learned to study) to exhaust all his mental ability and show or explain only when necessary—doing for the pupil what he cannot do for himself and thus teach him that self dependence, and industry, which is the secret of success in most everything we undertake.

In this life, from early youth even down to the grave, there are various duties devolving upon us—some of which can be met and faithfully discharged only at the proper time, or else they are lost forever. Comparatively few young persons before they arrive at the age of maturity, fully realize the important duties of life, and the truth of the old adage—"the past is in the eternal past"—yes gone forever, never to return.

In youth to prepare for manhood; in life to prepare for death and eternity are duties often neglected by a great many, until too late; which neglect so often causes remorse of convience and much unhappiness which could have been so easily avoided. As self preservation is the first low of nature, so ought self duty be the first in a pupil's catalogue of duties, and a pupil's first and most important self duty is close application to study and thus improve every precious moment while time and opportunity are afforded--remembering that it takes a long time and hard work to complete and polish even a literary education, which can be done only while young and at school.

Compensation for value received, or the payment of obligations, is a universal duty of mankind —but the greatest unavoidable obligation under which any person was ever placed, is that of child to parent—indeed this is an obligation never requited, and hence its payment should begin in early youth and last to the end of life. It is therefore a pupil's duty, while away from home, at school to ever remember who it is so anxious about his future welfare as to make the sacrifice financially and various other ways to afford him the only opportunity to prepare for manhood and the difficult duties of future life, and therefore closely apply and deport himself in such a way as to gladden the heart rather than disappoint the expectations and blight the hopes of faithful and dutiful parents and thus be a pride of the heart, and a pleasure of the life of those who only can feel paid by such a requital, which is really more remunerative to the pupil than to the parent. To be strictly truthful is another important duty which every pupil owes himself, and also his parents. He owes this duty to himself because truthfulness is essential to permanent success in almost every thing, and nothing more commendable and more sure and deserving of success, and ample reward. He owes this duty to his parent because veracity shows good raising and moral training, for which parents are always held, to some extent, responsible, and habitual untruthfulness is a reflection on the character of those whom we want to honor, and also lowers the guilty party in the estimation of all good and wise people.

Another and the last duty I shall mention is that of pupil to teacher.

We must learn to obey, before we can ever command, is an old adage long ago substantiated and one which ought to be fully realized by every pupil before entering school.

Cheerful obedience and respect, confidence in and love for a teacher are duties that cannot be ignored without considerable damage in some way, because they are essential to the good discipline and final success of any school. How inconsiderate and foolish then in any pupil! to be disobedient and disrespectful under any circumstances, because of its apparent manliness. Better never start, or quit if, started to school, than to allow such an unworthy example to be cultivated in early youth to the serious detriment of character and standing as a student.

Now in closing this my last article I simply allude to the noble and responsible calling of a dutiful school teacher, so often not realized as it should be. There is, or at least ought to be, but one other influence more powerful than that of a faithful school teacher. It is that of the Mother.

It is in the school of maternal tenderness that the kind affections must be first aroused and made habitual, the early sentiment of piety awakened and rightly directed, the sense of duty and moral responsibility unfolded and and enlightened.

But next in rank and in efficacy to that pure and holy source of moral influence is that of the school teacher. A school teacher should be well informed, without pedantry, religious without bigotry, proud and fond of his profession, humbly wise and obscurely useful, whom poverty cannot depress, nor neglect degrade. But to have such men as the wants, and the degnity of the country demand, their labors must be fitly remunerated, and themselves and their calling cherished and supported, because the school teacher's occupation is laborious and precarious. He ought to be animated by the consciousness of doing good, the best of all consolations, the noblest of all motives. Obscure as his daily occupation may appear, yet to be truly successful and happy he must animated by the same great principles which inspired the most illustratious benefactors of mankind. He must be contented to look into distant years for the proof that his labors have not been wasted, that the good which he daily scatters, does not fall on stony ground and wither away, or among thorns to be choked by the cares, the delusions, or the vices of the world. He must regard himself as sowing the seeds of truth for posterity, and must therefore arm himself against disappointment and mortification.

Finally—to be a faithful and commendable pupil at school means something--to be a faithful, and conscientious school teacher is no small, or easy task because the duties of both are various and arduous. Let us all directly concerned ponder well these most important duties and act accordingly.

R. R. O.

Scotland Neck, N. C.

## A POEM IN PROSE.

### ROBERT G. INGERSOLL'S TRIBUTE TO HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Among the tributes to Henry Ward Beecher there is one from Robert Ingersoll. He starts out with the statement that "Henry Ward Beecher was born in a Puritan Penitentiary, of which his father was one of the wardens." After a vigorous denunciation of Calvinistic doctrines, he continues:

Through grated windows of his cell this child, this boy, this man caught glimpses of the outer world, of fields and skies. New thoughts were in his brain, new hopes within his heart. Another heaven bent above his life. There came a revelation of the beatiful and real. Theology grew mean and small.

Nature wooed, and won and saved this mighty soul.

Her countless hands were sowing seeds within his tropic brain. All sights and sounds-- all colors forms and fragments were stored within the treasure of his mind. His thoughts were mouldered by the graceful curves of streams, by winding paths in woods, the charm of quiet country roads, and lanes grow indistinct with weeds and grass--by vines that cling and hide with leaf and flower the crumbling walls decay—by cattle standing in the summer pools like statues of content.

There was within his words the subtle spirit of the season's change—of everything that is, of everything that lies between the slumbering seeds, that half-awakened by the April rain; have dreams of heaven's blue and feel the amorous kisses of the sun and that strange tomb wherein the alchemist doth give to death's cold dart the throb and thrill of life again.

He saw loving eyes, the willows of the meadow-streams grow red beneath the glance of spring—the grass along the marsh's edge, the stir of life beneath the withered leaves—the moss below the drip of snow—the flowers that give their blooms to the first south wind that woes—the sad and timid violets that only bear the gaze of love from eyes half closed—the ferns, where fancy gives a thousand forms with but a single plan--the green and sunny slopes, enriched with daisy's silver and the cowslip's gold.

As in the leafless woods some tree aflame with life stands like a rapt poet in the heedless crowd, so stood this man among his fellow men.

All there is of leaf and bud, of flowers, and fruit, of painted insect life, and all the winged and happy children of the air that summer holds beneath her dome of blue were known and loved by him.

He loved the yellow autumn fields, the golden stacks, the happy homes of men, the orchard's bending boughs, the sumach's flags of flame, the maple transfigured leaves, the tender yellow of the beach, the wondrous harmonies of brown and gold --the vines where hangs the clustered spheres of wit and mirth. He loved the winterdays, the whirl and drift of snow—all forms of frost—the rage and fury of the storm, when in the forest desolate and stripped, the brave old pine towers green and grand—a prophecy of spring. He heard the rhythmic sound of nature's busy strife, the hum of bees, the songs of birds, the eagle's cry, the murmur of the streams, the signs and lamentation of the wind and all the voices of the sea. He loved the shores, the vales, the crags and cliffs, the city's busy streets, the introspective, silent plain, the solemn splendor of the night, the silver seas of dawn and evening's cloud of molten gold.

The love of nature freed this loving man.

One by one the fetters fell; the gratings disappeared, the sun shine smote the roof, and on the floors of stone light stereamed from open doors. He realized the darkness and despair, the cruelty and hate, the starless blackness of the old, malignant creed. The flower of pity grew and blossomed in his heart. The selfish "consolation filled his eyes with tears. He saw that what is called the Christian's hope is, that among the countless millions wrecked and lost, a meagre few perhaps reach the eternal shore--a hope that, like the desert rain, gives neither leaf nor bud—a hope that gives no joy, in peace, to any great and loving soul. It is the dust on which the serpent feeds that coils in heartsless breasts.

To the average man the Christian hell and heaven are only words. He has no scope of thought. He lives but in a dim, impoverished now. To him the past is dead—the future still unborn. He occupies with downcast eyes that narrow line of barren, shifting sand that lies between the flowing seas. But Genius knows all time. For him the dead all live and breathe and act their countless parts again. All human life is in his now, and every moment feels the thrill of all to be.

No one can overestimate the good accomplished by this marvelous, many sided man. He tried to civilize the church to humanize the creeds, to soften pious breasts of stone, to take the fear from mothers' hearts, the chains of creed from every brain, to put the star of hope in every sky and over every grave.

Attacked on every side, maligned by those who preached the law of love, he wavered not, but fought whole hearted to the end.

Obstruction is but virtue's foil. From thwarted light leaps color's flame--the stream impeded has a song.

He passed from harsh and cruel creeds to that serene philosophy that has no place for pride or hate, that threatens no revenge that looks on sin as stumblings of the blind and pities those who fall, knowing that in the souls of all there is sacred yearning for light. He ceased to think of man as something thrust upon the world—an exile from some other spere. He felt at last that men are part of nature's self—kindred of all life—the gradual growth of countless years; that all the sacred books were helps until outgrown and all religious rough and devious paths that man has worn with weary feet in sad and painful search for truth and peace. To him these paths were wrong, and yet all gave promise of success. He knew that all the streams no matter how they wander, turn and curve amid the hills and rocks or linger in the lakes and pools must some time reach the sea.

These views enlarged his soul and made him patient with the world, and while the wintry snows of age were falling on his head, spring, with all her wealth of bloom was in his heart.

The memory of this ample man is now a part of nature's wealth. He battled for the rights of men, His heart was with the slave. He stood against the selfish greed of millions banded to protect the pirate's trade. His voice was for the right when freedom's friends were few. He taught the church to think and doubt. He did not fear to stand alone. His brain took counsel of his heart. To every foe he offered reconciliation's hand. He loved this land of ours, and added to its was glory through the world. He the grestest orator that stood within the pulpit's narrow curve. He loved the liberty of speech. There was no trace of bigot in his blood He was a brave and generous man, and so, with reverent hands, I place this tribute on his tomb.

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

—*Index-Appeal.*

## CURING CLOVER HAY.

It was our purpose to have said something in our last issue on this subject, but it was inadvertently overlooked. It may not now be too late, as the hay harvest will be delayed fully too weeks by the lateness of the spring. Clover should be mown when it is in full bloom. It is easily cured in open weather, but is quickly damaged by rain it caught in the field in swath, windrow, or loose cocks. After a few hours sun in the swath it may be drawn into windrows for the convenience of loading and carried to the hay shed and put under cover. An open flooring of fence rails or poles raised about twenty inches from the ground, is necessary before any hay is brought in. Each load as hauled should be evenly and thinly spread over the whole floor of the shed, if so much is required for the crop; but if not, appropriate as much space as can be filled to the top. The housing may be more rapid, and with less curing in the field, if on each bed of hay eighteen inches thick a layer of sound and dry wheat or oat straw, about six or eight inches thick, is placed, thus making the hay and straw alternate. The straw will prevent the hay from moulding, absorbing at the same time its aroma, increasing bulk without decreasing the feeding value of the hay. This plan should be adopted when it is designed to feed the whole crop on the farm. Hay, to be baled for market, must be free from straw, or the market value will be impaired by the prejudice of buyers. For home feeding, the hay and straw should be forked down so as to get the two well mixed. Before the period of railroads, which furnish facilities for marketing hay in distant towns, it was the common practice in the Valley, and all the clover districts of the State, to use straw in packing away clover hay.

If possible, not more than a week should be consumed in cutting a hay crop. To make good hay, clover or any other grass ought to be mowed at the right time, and the work rapidly done, for the reason that it takes but a few days for the grass to pass the proper stage of maturity. On large fields the mower is now universally used, and one is sufficient, under ordinary contingencies of weather, for thirty acres; but provision should be made for additional machines on larger fields. It will even pay a farmer to use a mower when only five acres are to be cut over. A good mower can be now purchased for $50, and will secure the crop in less than a day, whilst an able-bodied and skillful operator with the grass blade will take five days to the same work in heavy grass--the cost per day in wages and board, being not less than $1.50, or a total of $7.50, or about 15 per cent. on the cost of a machine which will last twenty years or more, if properly cared for.

It will be admitted that rapid work is necessary for saving in good condition a crop of hay, especially clover. With large fields this can not be usually done without several machines and an ample supply of laborers. To provide against unfavorable weather, and to avoid the expense of extra machines and labor, we have pursued a plan for clover which never never failed of success. It was to cure on stakes, the grass to be forked on the stakes as fast as it is cut, so that the mowing, if stopped at any period of the day by a shower of rain, the hay is all up and safe against injury. We have before detailed the plan in the columns of the *Planter*, but we regard it of so much value that it will bear repetition. It is this: Detail five strong men to do the cocking, and never let the mower get more than a half hour ahead. Stakes for at least one day's work must be provided before the mowing commences. The supply of stakes may be kept up for other days by employing the same men from sunrise until the mower starts, about 9 o'clock, after the dew is off. The stakes are cut seven feet long, sharpened at each end, and knots trimmed off. Young and straight pines about the size of the wrist at the small end are best, and generally most convenient, but any other small growth may be used. They are brought to the field and conveniently deposited in armfuls. As soon as the mower has made three or four rounds, a horse-rake follows, and the swath is drawn into windrows, which are so formed as to make continuous rows. The five men who attend to the cocking commence their work--one to form the shock, and the others to bring up the hay on hand-forks. The shocker carries with him an iron bar about one-and-a-quarter inch in diameter, sharpened at one end. He thrusts this into the ground by two or three uplifted strokes, forming a hole eight to ten inches deep, in which the sharpened butt-end of the stake is forced, by lifting it up and driving it down with a blow, when a few licks with the butt-end of the iron bar will make the stake firm in its position. The hay is forked over the top of the stake, and the man in charge of the shock, with the side of his fork beats it down firmly. After the hay has risen around the stake about three feet, it is combed down with the fork, and the loose hay is returned over the top of the stake. The work proceeds until the hay has been made firm to the top of the stake, with the point entirely covered. By the trimming process the shock, when completed, should have perpendicular or true cylindical sides, with a diameter of not more than thirty inches. Shocks may be thus formed as fast as the hay is cut and drawn up with the horse-rake; will cure beautifully in a few days; and should rain come, will resist its effects, and will stand secure of damage until the whole crop is harvested, and then may be safely housed. One great advantage of this plan is, that clover may be cut when the sun is obscured, and will be cured as well as if the weather is entirely fair. Farmers may be deterred from adopting this plan because they may think it tedious and troublesome, but it is not so; and labor is saved, as it needs no opeining or handling in the fields after the formation of the shocks.—*Progressive Farmer.*

## TARIFF.

We believe it to be to the Farmer's interest to have as light a tariff as possible upon all the articles he is forced to purchase.

Specious arguments upon the disaster to manufacturers which a low tariff involves, should not blind the Farmer to the fact that he is paying this extra tax.

It is also notorious that the laborers get precious little of this extra cost which is occasiond by a high tariff. It is absorbed by the manufacturing corporations.

That it is an indirect tax paid by Farmers in the greater cost of what they may purchase, makes it none the less a tax paid by them.

Whatever may be the theory of Tariff, when brought to its practical effect upon the Farmer he has to pay it.

It seems very strange, therefore that any farm journal can for a moment lose sight of this fact. Look always to the interests of the Farmers first, and then harmonize their interests with others as far as may be possible.—*New Farm.*

## Governor Vance.

There is but one way to crush Vance in North Carolina, and that is to break down the Democratic party. We hope those who write against him do not desire to do that. But, if they do, though the scheme be well laid, they are doomed to disappointment. Governor Vance is enthroned and entrenched in the hearts of the Democrats of his native State. Where he differs with the administration he does it wisely and with loyalty to principle and the party. All Democrats every where, except in the money centers, favor the double standard of gold and silver, coined and minted as now; favor the payment of the public debt as nominated in the bonds; favor the honest civil service reform that the party demanded and voted for in 1884; and the Democrats of North Carolina unanimously and enthusiastically favor such "home rule" as is inconsistent with the appointment of a negro from New York or Massachusetts to be recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. —*News and Observer.*

## A REMARKABLE DAM.

A remarkable dam is about to be constructed by a water company at the San Mateo canyon, four miles from San Mateo Cal., in order to form a reservoir. The canyon is very narrow and steep, and fifteen feet belew the bottom is a solid rock, on which the foundation will rest. The structure will be one hundred and seventy feet high, one hundred and seventy-five wide at the base, twenty feet at the top and seven hundred feet in length. It will be the largest stone dam ever know to be built. The dike will have a curvature of 80 feet, and the convex side will be up stream. The material will be a new kind of concrete composed of stone. The walls will be perfectly smooth. The reservoir that will be formed by it and the adjacent hills will be about eight miles in length and one hundred and fifty feet deep at the deepest places. Its capacity will be about 32,000,000,000 gallons. The water will be conveyed by tunnels to the city of San Francisco.—*Chicago Journal.*

## The Patient Proof Reader.

The proof reader is a patient animal; he is a mass of erudition; knows everything and everybody; is acquainted with most languages and is on speaking terms with a great many; and can detect a typographical error, straighten out the grammar, correct mistakes of fact and rattle along the whole at a rate of speed that would paralize the ordinary reader of a newspaper.

He is one man against whom the recording angel never balances the account. He may capture and summarily execute one hundred typographical brigands bent on making nonsense of some interesting and instructing article, but if one slips by him no recording angel drops a tear and wipes out the blot. Not a bit of it. Irate editors, furious reporters, incensed managers unite to pour out their vials of wrath on the proof reader, and if Nature, with her grand gift of compensation, had not provided him with the hide of a rhinoceros he might, once in a while, feel sore.—George H. Perry in The Writer.

## FARM NOTES.

HOW TO GROW FODDER CORN.—

It has become a common practice among our farmers to grow fodder corn with which to help out their pastures when the dry weather strikes them in summer. The term "fodder corn" is used, by common consent, to designate corn grown specially for fodder, either for soiling or for curing for winter feed. We wish to say a few words about the best method of growing fodder corn. The custom used to be to sow it very thick, so as to make the stalks grow slender, under the impression that they would be better relished by stock than the coarse stalks of the full grown corn. Many still continue to sow fodder corn in this way; but it is a great mistake. When so thickly grown it is but little else than the crude fibre and water, containing a very small percentage of nutriment. For soiling, for cutting or for ensilage it is better to grow fodder corn not more than twice as thickly as we grow field corn. Planted in drills, dropping the kernels four to six inches apart, with the rows three and half or four feet apart, or planted in hills 18 inches apart, with three or four kernels in the hill, the rows as far apart as we have just indicated, will give much better results than planting more closely. We must let in the air and sunshine in order to develop the gums, starches and sugar, which give the stalks their nutritive value. Cultivating and stirring the soil helps fodder corn just as much as they do field crops. For early feeding it is best to plant early, so as to give the corn a chance to reach full maturity before being cut and fed, or otherwise disposed of. Do not allow the corn to harden or the stalks to ripen, but to reach the green-corn stage of the ear. This is the time when it is in its best condition and the most valuable for food.—Ex.

## A Drummer Taken In.

"Will I have time to stop off and get some refreshments?" asked a drummer on a Texas railroad of the conductor, as the train stopped at a station."

"You will have plenty of time." The drummer stepped off, and the train went off without him. The next time the drummer saw the conductor he took him to task very severely for his conduct, complaining that he had to lay over at that lonely place seven hours.

"Well," replied the conductor, "you asked me if you would have time to get some refreshments, and if you could'nt get all you wanted in seven hours, it seems to me that you are a hog."

Verdict for the conductor, and no appeal.—*Siftings.*

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