

# WALL PAPER.

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## PORTER'S BOOKSTORE.

The Watchman.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1889.

### Education and Crime.

The statistics of crime lately published in the United States show that in spite of the increased facilities for the spread of education among the masses that have marked the past ten years, crime has been on the increase; and it is being asserted in certain quarters that results have not borne out the contentions of educationists in the past, that the moral improvement of the people keeps pace with the spread of intelligence. The constant flow of immigration into the neighboring republic which has added so largely to the population, enters to a considerable extent into the consideration of this question. A large proportion of the yearly addition from abroad to the population of the United States is composed of the vicious and the ignorant, for whose condition morally or socially the institutions of the United States are not responsible. Due allowance having been made for the items in the criminal statistics submitted, which are to be attributed to the causes we have stated, it must be admitted, however, that there is some truth in the charge that the attention that has been given to the promotion of education amongst the people has not been followed by results equal to those predicted. The cultivation of the intellectual powers of the young, it is claimed, is receiving more attention than the training of the heart, and as a result, vicious tendencies are not being sufficiently guarded against, or, if hereditary, counteracted by careful moral training. This is largely the result of the system which prevails to so great an extent of parents handing over to the public schools the exclusive charge of the moral and intellectual education of their children. As to the religious training proper, it is left almost entirely to the Sunday school. The failure of the educational systems of the day to accomplish higher moral results is also to a great extent due to the fact that purer and less selfish motives to action and a higher sense of duty are not cultivated in the young amidst the "crum" of the systems of the day. The desire to surpass competitors, to shine in the world, and to earn a living without soiling the fingers, is developed rather than an ambition to qualify for the faithful and honest discharge of the duties of life in the sphere which the talents of mind and body given by the Creator entitle the possessor of them to fill. The large supply of the well-educated idle and vicious who haunt our cities and towns, living by their wits rather than supporting themselves by honest labor, is the inevitable outcome of this state of affairs. Knowledge is power, powerful for good when regulated by careful moral and religious training, but terribly powerful for evil when uncontrolled by such influence. That the educated criminal class is to a great extent the product of defective educational methods, is unquestionably true. To call forth the faculties of the child, to cultivate the higher motives to action, to develop correct habits of thought, action and industry, and to

create the ambition in the young to make the best possible use of the powers of mind, body and spirit with which the Creator has endowed them, and in the sphere for which He intended them, is the aim of all true education. The cramming system is the antithesis of this, and it unfortunately is the one which prevails. The remedy is apparent, and it must be applied before the results can be satisfactory.

### Editorial Notes.

The Peterboro Review thus replies to the Post's statement that Mr. Carnegie has joined the third party:—

Mr. JOHN CARNEGIE has joined the "third" party.—Lindsay Post.

Is it not singular that the Post should think Mr. Carnegie had joined the "Third" party when he expressed approval of only one plank of its platform, while it does not seem to think Mr. Stratton has joined that party, although he professed to endorse every plank in its platform? Perhaps it does not think Mr. Stratton was sincere, while it knows that what Mr. Carnegie says he means.

The public generally will approve of the steps that are being taken by our Board of Education to improve the appearance of and beautify our school grounds and premises. It is the intention to expend a small sum each year for the purpose, so that the extra charge will be scarcely felt. Whilst a marked improvement has been noticeable in the work of our schools for the past few years, the surroundings amidst which the pupils in some of our ward schools, at least, are spending their early years, are by no means of a pleasant nature. The present move is a good one and will be heartily endorsed.

Chicago has had an unpleasant time of it, owing to a panic among the people who went out to see the fireworks set off in honor of the centennial of the inauguration of Washington. The inauguration of Washington was celebrated in grand style in New York, but Chicago was desirous of having a celebration of her own. And so she went in for fireworks. As sometimes happens, the fireworks were badly handled, and some of the people in the crowd were injured by them. It is estimated that altogether about a thousand persons were more or less injured in the rushing and crushing that ensued. Human beings in a panic are like a flock of sheep. They rush pell-mell forward, carrying everything before them, the result being that the women and the children are trampled to the earth. It is explained that in Chicago there are more illiterate foreigners than in any other city in the union, and that it is the foreigners who are principally responsible for the street troubles that occasionally occur there. But panics are not confined to foreigners, as the loss of life in several of the leading American theatres has shown. The American people are as sensible as any to be found, yet they are just as apt to lose their heads at a cry of fire in a theatre as are the people of older lands. It seems extraordinary that in a large city like Chicago where the people were in the open air, so many should have been trampled down in the mad rush to get out of the way of an imaginary danger. But men in a state of panic cease to be reasoning beings.

We clip the following from the Montreal Star:—"The circular issued by Archbishop Fabre, inclosing the acts and decrees of the seventh council of Quebec, should be the means of quickening the sense of right in the minds and hearts of his people. Among other things the holding of elections at bazaars is expressly forbidden and the raising of money for religious purposes by doubtful means is condemned. The lottery is not specified, but it should be, seeing that lotteries are not only of doubtful morality, but have been declared illegal by Act of Parliament, that is, illegal for all but church purposes, although why the sinners should not be permitted to do what is done by the saints is not clear. Forbidding the use of intoxicants at bazaars is another commendable step. If people desire intoxicants they know where to get them without going to bazaars, which violate the law by dealing in them without a license. So, too, is it well on the part of the Archbishop to

condemn light and improper literature, the production of which seems to go on without end. What he says concerning those who sell their votes is worthy of being remembered. 'To sell the vote is to sell the conscience, and to descend to a depth worthy of no honest man.' It is a sin against God and against man, and those are guilty who sell as well as those who buy the vote. Those who act so commit a great wrong against society, from which they banish its instructive honor and the honesty inherent in every mind."

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Why we Should adopt the Local Improvement System.

To the Editor of The Watchman.

Under the Local Improvement system, when a ratepayer wishes to have certain improvements made in his immediate vicinity he may obtain them by paying his taxes towards that very object; thus his taxes become an investment upon which he himself realizes an immediate benefit and just at such time as he chooses to have it without in any way being subject to the favor of the council. This is an advantage both to the council and the ratepayer, for it relieves the former of any responsibility in the matter and at the same time gives satisfaction to the latter. The ratepayer pays for the improvement before his own door and is relieved or exempt from the expense of similar improvements made elsewhere through the town. He is also at liberty to spend as much money or as little as he pleases before his own premises, and consequently has no opportunity for complaint in reference to moneys appropriated by the council as under the present system. It will lower the general rate of taxation and thus encourage the introduction and investment of outside capital and in this way foster the growth of our town. It will cause a more concentrated growth and thus obviate the present scattered condition of Lindsay, for it removes the tendency which at present exists of buying a cheap lot, away at the outskirts and building upon it, expecting the town, out of its general funds to pay for sidewalks and fine street pavements to the same. It prevents litigation arising out of demands for improvements which, from a sanitary point of view, should receive immediate attention but which owing to the finances are unavoidably delayed. It prevents the taxation of improvements made on property as the assessment is made in proportion to the frontage and not the value of the property, thus encouraging landowners to build on and improve their lands. It will banish the great election cry of high taxation and misappropriation of funds so strongly harped upon every year by opponents in the race for municipal honors.

RESIDENT.

### Spanish Students' Quintette Club.

To the Editor of The Watchman.

Sir:—The few who attended at the opera house Monday night, and who could appreciate good music were amply rewarded by hearing some of the finest, if not the finest instrumental harmony ever heard in Lindsay. It is usual for the press to praise everything great or insignificant that is offered for the entertainment of our townspeople, but as I fear that not a member of the fourth estate was present last night to judge of what was given by the talented company who performed, as a lover of art, and as a matter of duty, I presume to pen a few lines in appreciation of the very rich treat given to those who were so fortunate as to attend. It was announced that the Spanish Students' Quintette Club, assisted by Prof. Ryerson would give a performance in the opera house on Monday evening for the benefit of the Citizens' Band. When it was time to commence, the house was not one-third filled. The overture of "Martha," as well as the pieces which followed were exquisitely rendered, the balance of the musical parts, with the alternate crescendo and diminuendo, was complete. Few have ever heard the mandolin; here it was associated with the guitar, the castanet and tambourine. In my opinion, no such exquisite music was ever before heard in Lindsay, and very rarely such splendid piano accompaniment; all seemed to blend in streams of richest and purest harmony. To hear Madame Hernandez, even alone, would amply compensate any one; for her execution of delicate and complicated passages on the piano is remarkable. The choir service by Prof. Ryerson, on the harmonica was, it may be said, as beautiful as it possibly could be; his histrionic talents are varied and attractive, but it struck me that grimace and laughable attitudes are somewhat out of place when associated with the Spanish Quintette Club. What were the bandsmen or their sisters or their wives doing that not more tickets were sold? Were our Canadian Court present, attended by ministers of state, and followed up by the elite and snobbery of Ottawa, the Spanish artists who performed could not be more conscientious and gentlemanly. Every number on the programme was performed, and every encore, even with a tiger, was courteously responded to. Prof. Ryerson said a few words regretting that so few were present, and intimating that perhaps the company might visit Lindsay again. One would think that they ought to be disgusted with the reception they had from our town. Many a visit has been made to Toronto to hear inferior music to that which we heard last night, and I, for one, could have clapped every man of the Spanish Club on the back and cried out,—

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D. C. TREW. Lindsay, Mar. 20, 1889.

## STOCK.

The Stock Book of the proposed GRIST MILL, to be erected on Peel st. and Victoria Avenue, is now open at the office of GREEN & ELLIS, William street. Parties desirous of taking Stock will get all information required from the subscriber.

JAS. McWILLIAMS.

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The Cr... last Fri... was a v... by the... reflects... his assi... and Ed... Cora W... applau... McCa... highly... sang a... Fred... with... statun... perfor... style... respon... and M... Miss... The Q... sung... Wats... rend... club... thei... Coll... feat... and then... forth... form... the...