

North Shore News-Letter

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EDITORIALS

SHALL THE BIBLE BE DEBARRED FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Is there any good reason for taxing John Smith in order that William Brown's children may be educated, except on the ground that Mr. Brown's children may grow up better citizens by having a good practical education? We know of none. But we do believe that a good, thorough, and judicious education well spiced with the ethical and religious elements, will greatly help Mr. Brown's children to become good and efficient citizens, and if so then Mr. Smith and every other good citizen should not only willingly but gladly aid in the work.

It does strike us that there are some things taught in our public schools that are directly or indirectly luxuries rather than elements in the building of character and citizenship. But we have made no protest. Now, however, there is a steady effort being made to crowd the Bible out of the schools entirely, some are even going so far as to demand that every book which even quotes the Bible shall be debarred from the public schools.

May we not profitably listen for a moment to some of the most prominent characters of the last two centuries; men and women of great ability, wisdom and experience in the world's uplift? "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering and to prosper."

DANIEL WEBSTER

"For many years my hope for the perpetuity of our institutions has rested on Bible morality and the general dissemination of Christian principles."

JOHN MCLEAN.

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"This book" (the Bible) "is the secret of England's greatness."

QUEEN VICTORIA.

"That Book, sir, is the rack on which our Republic rests."

ANDREW JACKSON

"Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives."

ULYSSES S. GRANT.

"There never was found in any age of the world, either religion or law that did so highly exalt the public good as the Bible."

FRANCIS BACON.

"Bible Christianity is the companion of liberty in all its conflicts."

DEFOCQUEVILLE

"The whole hope of human progress is suspended on the ever growing influence of the Bible."

WM. H. SEWARD

"This Book has been the accepted guide of the moral intelligence of Europe for some fifteen hundred years."

JOHN RUSKIN

"Take this book from me and you take my country too."

BISMARCK

"The Bible can and will settle all disputes."

GLADSTONE.

"But for this Book we could not know right from wrong."

LINCOLN

We might go on indefinitely quoting similar sentiments coming from the lips of great and wise and pure statesmen; but why need we? It is true we are told that the Bible is not a suitable book to be used in the public schools. But who says so? Who can name a single prominent statesman opposed to the bible in schools? Who will show us any good sound reason for abolishing the use of God's word in our educational system that cannot be outweighed ten times over by reasons why it should be used?

There Is Danger In Over Straining the Child Mind.

Heavy Home School Tasks Should Be Avoided By Teachers; the Child Brain That is Taxed Beyond Its Powers on Body.

By request we publish the following taken from the Chicago American in which the writer wishes his name withheld.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call your attention to certain conditions which prevail in our public schools. I have three children attending the grade schools. The oldest, fourteen years, is now in eighth grade. For the last few years this child has worked six to seven hours every school day and at night has had trying and exacting home work to do that occupied her from three to four hours. Adding this period of home work to the hours at school I find she is compelled to work more hours a day than the law allows to hardy full-grown laboring men and women. As the home work must be done or the pupil is given demerits, this work is compulsory.

These lessons are difficult, taxing my own faculties to help out my little one, and I cannot but believe that such a severe strain on the useful mind is injurious. My little girl has lost considerable weight since school opened and she sleeps badly, being restless, nervous and even talking in her sleep, which is doubtless due to her overstrained nerves. I believe the home tasks given to the school children should be the lightest and not in the way of original thought. The teachers should guide the children in this particular and not leave this part of their tasks to the parents. The methods of teaching have changed so since my boyhood that I find myself at sea in helping out my girls. Problems are worked out so differently and I find it confuses my child to show her one way of doing it only to have the teacher reprove her next day for not doing it in the way she was taught.

A READER

The editorial in regard to the

above says:—The reader is right. The growing child mind, eager and open to impressions, is too frequently overtaxed even by the usual school teachings, which are advanced at a rate altogether out of proportion to the mental growth of the child.

Every healthy boy and girl should have a certain number of hours for outdoor exercise and play. Growing bone and muscle need plenty of oxygen and this cannot be found in the overheated, ill-ventilated school-rooms. Even the most modern buildings are faulty in this respect, for with closed windows even a large room is unable to furnish the proper proportion of oxygen to each pair of lungs.

Next to outdoor exercise children need plenty of sound sleep. It is in sleep that nature builds up the tissues and if a child is compelled to sit up late working out difficult problems and committing hard tasks to memory, it will be robbed of hours of sleep and it will lose that complete rest and relaxation which it should have every night.

A child whose nerves are overstrung by intense mental effort just before going to bed does not sleep naturally and calmly and poor rest produce poor digestion, poor digestion breeds poor circulation, which is the great foe to proper physical development.

Ambition in the teachers to rush their pupils through their tasks and enable them to complete their courses in an amazingly short period is a mistaken ambition and is responsible for many shattered bodies and weakened brains. Give the children review work of the lessons they have done in the day time for home work if necessary. This will insure that the pupil really profits by what is taught in school and will not overtax the mind. One hour for home work should be the absolute limit for any child in the grade schools, and even this is too much. Better let them run in the open after school hours and then, when they have had their evening meal, let them go to a bed of rest unworried by thought of task, more or less well done.

Another expedition has just started from New Zealand for the south pole, proving that there are hardy people who on a cold day do not especially care to sit by a hot radiator.

A pipe that was once used by Sir Walter Raleigh is offered for sale in London. In this connection we should like to know whether Sir Walter ever learned to roll his own cigarettes.

Japan has decided to let the emperor of Korea have a pension. This is generous. It would have been too bad if the emperor had been compelled to open a laundry at his time of life.

That dirigible balloon line from Boston to Washington will doubtless be used at first by people who have no pressing engagements to dine at the White House, as it is impolite to keep the president waiting.

A bulletin from the department of agriculture at Washington reports this as a "bumper year" in farm products, the aggregate output being 7.6 per cent. greater than the big one of 1905 and 9.1 per cent. larger than the average.

Owners of a new apartment building in New York advertise a skating rink, a model dairy and a hospital among other "conveniences." Nothing is said as to whether the janitor is capable of taking a hand at bridge in an emergency.

Prince Henry of Prussia has been flying along in military aeroplanes. This is a field where right of birth does not count. A prince is on the same level as any other man, and must prove the courage and ability to do work for which no amount of high titles will avail in doing. Prince Henry is to be congratulated on thus doing the work also of a man.

It is not difficult for a cold wave to wear out its welcome.

There is nothing childlike about the malevolence of infantile paralysis.

Luckily this country raised a large crop, for there is a shortage in French wheat.

Do not despise the humble spud. The crop in one county in Pennsylvania is worth \$2,000,000.

Missouri authorities are going to import Mexican stingless bees. That will be good news for honey boys.

Chicago is to have a new theater designed to attract women. Matinee idols will be its specialty, we infer.

This aviation business is all right, but we do wish that the coal people would quit trying for altitude records.

The toll of death continues. It is a case of nip and tuck between the speeding autos and the dashing bird men.

A Colorado professor says that people get disease germs by shaking hands. La Grippe from the grip, as it were.

A Pittsburger has invented a fluid by the use of which each man can become his own embalmer. Tell the dead ones about it.

However, speaking of extravagance, it does look foolish for a man to mortgage a useful home in order to buy an ornamental automobile.

That New York professor who declares college women have not "made good" cannot successfully maintain that they have not made good fudge.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson wants to tear down and rebuild New York city. For a long time we have thought it might be improved in that way.

According to a Parisian fashion journal, the old-style hoop skirt will return in twenty years, but even so, we're too busy to worry about that now.

A banknote that had been washed and ironed by a fastidious woman was pronounced a counterfeit. The public, evidently, is familiar only with filthy lucre.

Even if woman is becoming more masculine, as the Harvard man says, very few husbands will care to expatiate upon the theme by their happy firesides.

A Velasquez portrait that has been missing 160 years has come to light at the country place of the duke of Parma. The duke must live at Lonesomehurst.

Berlin declares war on the deadly hatpin, Kansas City has put the kibosh on fireworks, and Chicago is beginning to round up its crooks. Let the good work go on.

There is still a place for the horse in this auto-flying age.

Is bridge whist, after all, as bad as that ancient pastime, village gossip?

Progressive farmers are now plowing by gasoline, thus having more hay to sell.

Will the international school of peace organize a football team and go out after the championship?

A Winsted (Conn.) farmer has trained a rooster to ride a bicycle. This is something to crow about.

Few people would mind going up in an airship were it not for the uncertainty of coming down with dignity.

A girl stood off two hold-up men by swinging her purse in their faces. A case of hang-bag versus sand-bag.

A Swiss doctor says that drunkards live longer than total abstainers. Still even this is no excuse for being one.

It is planned to unionize the hoboes. Excellent. And then stop them from working other people after union hours.

Marriage and Liberty.

Liberty comes in such different ways! For women it comes most often through marriage. Nine women in ten have more space after they are married for the exercise of their wills than they had before; therefore we can all see more clearly what they really are. The most tyrannical husband cannot rob a woman of her authority over her children and her household. The good woman is better, the hard woman is harder, the mean woman is meaner than ever she was.

Usually a married woman has a more strongly marked character than her unmarried sister. Her friends find it more easy to call up her mental face; they are more sure how she will act in given circumstances. Marriage is almost always fraught with some surprises to the student of character. These surprises are loosely described as changes; but change in character is so rare an occurrence more especially in women, that I should never be regarded as an explanation unless all others fail.

Montenegro is a kingdom now instead of a mere principality. Over in Montenegro there are people probably who think we care.

The man who introduced moving pictures into this country is dead, but whether he died remorseful or unrepentant the dispatches do not say.

A hobble skirt in which a disguised burglar tried to escape assisted greatly in his capture. Thus we see that even the hobble skirt hath its uses.

Meat prices have come down, according to market reports, but some of the local dealers evidently don't read the papers. Somebody ought to tell 'em.

While it is true that one makes acquaintances with queer people on one's vacation, it is not always necessary to go on a vacation to achieve that end.

The latest thing at Newport is a rag-time bear dinner. A bull and bear dance would look pretty lively, only it would be unpleasantly suggestive of "shop."

A motorcycle ran against the rear end of an Indiana mule the other day, and it is reported that two or three pieces of the machine were afterward found almost intact.

One of the Harvard professors pettishly declares that Yankee blood is dying out. We suspect that the trouble with him is that he hasn't been away from a big town lately.

A man in New York bet six months in jail on the election and lost. Now, despite his efforts, he can't break into jail to pay the debt. A worse hard luck tale could scarcely be told.

A California magistrate has decided that telling a person to go to the infernal regions is not profanity in the legal sense of the word. But the status remains of its being very rude.

That Long Island judge who ruled that \$3,000 a year is enough for the education of a sixteen-year-old girl doubtless had in his crude masculine mind only the useful things. Other kinds cost more.

A Mississippi man who put a stick of dynamite in his pocket and then fell down with it will recover from his injuries. A man so favored by pure "dumb luck," as this ought to be in steady demand as a mascot.

If shoveling in coal and carrying out the ashes were all there is to running a furnace it would be excellent exercise. But many a man becomes dangerously fatigued when it comes to writing out checks for the coal merchant.

An Indiana man died recently after having lived for ninety years without ever having had his face shaved or his hair cut, so he claimed, but the story seems incredible. Surely his mother must have cut his hair when he was too young to put up a fight.

The story from New York that loans to the aggregate of \$50,000,000 have been negotiated abroad indicates that American credit is excellent, and also that the money is likely to be put where it will do the most good in promoting American enterprises. Incidentally it is proof that the money market is, by no means as "hard" as had been supposed.

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