

he be likely to go forth and teach on the one-at-a-time system, unless he had received a professional lecture on the sympathy of numbers? His teacher has had those "stores of learning required to make even the most common things plain," and has always been very careful that he should advance no faster through the book, than through the subject; would he go forth and teach by rote,—the polly-put-the-kettle-on system; or would sundry professional lectures on the benefits of Education to the individual, State, and Church; or on systems, external and internal, &c., wonderfully improve his ideas on the above point? He has been accustomed to a well managed School, and the best apparatus; should he not presume to teach, until he has digested a professional lecture on the Enumeration of Internal Systems, or on National Legislation. I conceive that the teacher might more properly be compared to the soldier, than to the doctor or the lawyer;—the well-trained soldier scarcely needs a course of professional lectures in order to become a drill-sergeant. But it may be said that they have a better system of teaching at the Normal School than at our own institutions. Then our teachers and educational committees, should get that system as fast as possible, and not put the student to the expense of going through another institution, merely to get a better system. Dr. Cramp and Mr. Higgins should be off by the next stage, for the Normal School.

There is, however, the practice in teaching, received by the Normal School system, which must not be overlooked. Now I believe very much in practice, as a general thing, and as applying to teaching in particular. I heard a distinguished minister of the gospel, who also believed in Theological Institutions, once say with emphasis, that the way to learn to preach, is to preach. The same may be said of teaching,—the way to learn to teach is to teach. With regard to the practice in the Normal School,—the number of students is 61; "about the middle of the Term," Register page 23, "the Pupil Teachers are divided into five sections, and each section spends a day every week in the Model Schools for practice, in presence of a regular teacher and attendants of the Principal." This amounts to nearly one whole day for each teacher, and that distributed through eleven days,—the Model School hour of teaching being 40 minutes, this would be about 18 minutes each day. This is certainly an infinitesimal practice. And must the graduates of our institutions seek this practice, that they may not "bungle on for a few years?" I think this practice must be far more annoying to the patients, than advantageous to the practitioners, and is certainly a very different matter from managing a School. Medical Colleges, whether conducted on the natural system or not, are certainly on a much more merciful system, for in them the students do not practice in the hospitals.

The teacher is compared, both by the Dr. and Mr. Barss, to the lawyer, the doctor, and the mechanic. To the latter, a regular professional training is indispensable, therefore to the former. "The same rule should be observed as in the other learned professions."—Register, page 15. Taking the physician for example, scarcely an analogy can be drawn between them. The physician practices what he learns; the teacher imparts his learning,—he imparts to the merchant, the farmer, the navigator, and they practice. The analogy should rather be drawn between the medical lecturer and the teacher, between the medical student and the student of the Common School. There can be no comparison made between the professional course of lectures for the physician, and that for the teacher. If the physician's professional course were shaped after that laid down for the teacher, I think he would scarcely become acquainted with one single branch he has to practice. A comparison, I think, would be much more easy, if we consider the literary course of the teacher, and the difference,—experience is all in favour of the teacher; for he is himself the subject of every experiment; as if the physician should have suffered every disease he has to treat, taken every dose he administers, and has been the subject of every dissection he has to perform,—the physician thus touched with the feelings of our infirmities, would certainly become more merciful, if not more skillful. I should prefer considering the pupil in a normal undeveloped state, rather than in an abnormal diseased condition; and knowledge as wholesome food rather than a poisonous drug. Then the practice of teaching is vastly simplified, the teacher's patient always having the same want and requiring the same treatment; and nothing more than what wholesome food, pure air, and active exercise are to the doctor's patient.

If "the same rule is to be applied to teaching, as to the other professions of Law, Medicine and Theology," and the "art and science of teaching" must be acquired, professionally, why is a gentleman taken from another profession, and placed at the head of that of teaching. If the doctor or the mechanic might be placed upon the bench, who does not see that the Law, as a profession, would be a mere farce? This fact is not only very inconsistent with the high professional tone assumed by the Dr. and Mr. Barss, but is detrimental to the cause of education,—in placing the stigma of inferiority upon the teacher,—i. e., if no suitable person from among the teachers could have been obtained. Yet such facts in another way curiously enough seem to show the comparative inferiority of the profession of Theology, since the divine, by virtue of his being placed at the head of a Literary Institution, often receives his highest honours; this honour looks like "beginning in the spirit, and being made perfect in the flesh." I do not mean to say that Dr. Forrester is not fitted for his situation. I believe he is. I mean to say, however, that a professional course in the Normal School, should

not be made a sine qua non for teachers in the schools of the Province.

We frequently have in our highest female institutions, as Principals, graduates of Mount Holyoke,—not a Normal School,—and why must the graduates of our colleges not "take a school, however tempting the prospects, until they have attended a few months at the Normal School."

Mr. Barss knows of some of our graduates who have failed; it is strange if he does not know of some Normal Teachers who have also failed. Does he not also know of some of our graduates filling, some of the highest positions as teachers, both in this and the adjacent province, and filling them well. I would not blame the college for every failure of the students. Colleges cannot give natural endowments.

I would not say that Normal Schools are useless, they are found in many countries and of course they must be necessary. From the assistance afforded by government, many are enabled to attend them, who otherwise would not be likely to receive the benefits of any High school. Yet I can scarcely think that in any country, the four month's student could be preferred to the student of four years.

If any person might profit by the Normal School, I think it would be the graduate of a College, who would be prepared to digest the subjects of the professional department, and could make himself more familiar with the literary course; but with much more profit might not the graduate of the Normal School, attend the four year's course of the College, just to receive those studies he has gone over in the four months or a year. Dr. Forrester also might get an idea from some ragged school of the back woods.

I consider our Normal School rather as an additional literary institution, than as the only one capable of producing teachers. I think it would be more profitable for many who attend there to spend the time, devoted to professional lectures, at their spelling book and English grammar.

I hope with Mr. Barss "that the day is not far distant when no neighborhood will employ a teacher who has not fully qualified himself for the situation." But I hope the day is far distant when any neighborhood will believe that a teacher can be better qualified in one year than in four,—that the man who has his mind furnished with "the vast stores of learning required to make even the most common things plain," is altogether inferior to the one who has his pockets filled with elaborate professional theses.

STREPTOPUS.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notice.

MRS. KATE E. TREMAIN,

Wife of Mr. Barclay E. Tremain, and second daughter of Mr. Edward Shields of Halifax, died at Baddeck C. B. on the 22nd of October, in the 21st year of her age, but one year after her marriage, leaving an infant son only eighteen hours old.

Although Mrs. T. had made no public profession of religion, yet there were some grounds for hoping that the early instruction she had received in the way of life and salvation had not been in vain. During the last months of her life she had shewn a high appreciation of the Word of God and of prayer, and it is hoped that she was being prepared for heaven.

American and Foreign News.

Lat' st from the States!

[From Tels; an s to Morning and Evening papers.]

The absence of Telegrams from Wednesday last to Monday evening, led to the supposition that news of no very satisfactory character would be received, as immediate action was expected at previous accounts.

The following is the despatch of the 19th Inst. The Washington War Department has resolved to adopt stringent measures for compelling Federal Officers to attend to their duties.

General Stonewall Jackson is reported to have fallen back towards Front Royal.

FLOUR MARKET.—Superfine \$5 60 to 5 75; Extra \$5 90 to \$6 10.

Up to last evening, all quiet along the front of the army of the Potomac.

Herald's Washington despatch says that on Saturday and Sunday the whole army again took up line of march, and rapidly nearing Fredericksburg. Supplies have been sent thither, and force of mechanics and contrabands, for building wharves and railroad at Aquia Creek.

The raising of Federal war vessels at Norfolk rapidly and successfully progressing. The United States has been raised and towed to Navy yard. Preparations making to raise the Cumberland and the Congress.

Gunboat Wamsutta has arrived at New York from Port Royal, with the officers and crew of British steamer Quachita.

The following is a despatch to St. John on the same day:—An expedition of four gunboats, and a land force under Gen. Heitzel, from New Orleans, reached Brazos City. The gunboats went up Bay Ou, and captured a small steamer. The Confederate force on the shore was estimated at 4,000. Confederates destroyed a thousand hogsheads of sugar, and a number of cars and engines.

Mexico advices, 29th ult., mention earth works and breast works being thrown up around the

City. All foreign ministers protested against threatened proscription of foreigners.

The extensive defalcation in New York noticed some days ago, turns out to have occurred in the Custom-house of that port. The discovery has been followed by the suspension of Sixteen clerks in the liquidating department. The Commercial Advertiser says it is not proper to call the fraud a defalcation, it is a wholesale corruption on the part of government officials. The same paper reports the ascertained deficiency at \$125,000 to \$250,000.

The entire coast of Texas is said to be now in possession of the Federal forces.

Nov. 24.—The Savannah "Republican"—says that the Federal forces had attempted to land at St. Mary's and were repulsed. The gunboats shelled and destroyed the town.

General Stuart, with eight hundred (800) Cavalry, was at Warrenton Junction on Wednesday last.

Signal Rockets observed from Harper's Ferry on Wednesday last indicates some Confederate movement.

Gen. Stonewall Jackson is reported to be threatening Gen. Sigel, and Gen. Lee is skirmishing with Burnside.

The Confederate forces continue to hold possession of Fredericksburg.

Gen. Sumner had sent a summons to surrender Fredericksburg, giving the Confederates sixteen hours to remove women and children out of the town. The authorities had asked for an extension of time.

A reconnoissance from Harper's Ferry drove four hundred Confederates through Charleston, Va.

The Memphis "Bulletin" says that General Grant's army had arrived at La Grange, and that Gen. Bragg had arrived at Holly Springs, with 15,000 men.

The Confederate steamer "California," from Mobile laden with cotton, was captured by the Federal steamer "Montgomery"

The Mayor of Fredericksburg has declined surrendering that place, and the Confederates have thrown up earthworks on Friday night last. The citizens are fast leaving.

St. Mary's, Florida, has been destroyed by the Federals, in retaliation for the Confederates having fired into the Gunboat "Mohawk" after parley.

The burning of Lamar, Missouri, by the Confederate forces, has been confirmed.

Evening.—The Federals gave eleven additional hours to remove non-combatants from Fredericksburg. The place is almost deserted by the inhabitants. There is no doubt that Lee and Longstreet are in the immediate vicinity, with admirable positions for artillery. Richmond papers say Confederates will hold the place. Hundred thousand dollars worth tobacco destroyed there.

Reported that the Confederates are fortifying Port Hudson, 150 miles above New Orleans,—formidable as Hickburg. Confederates running boats thence to Lake Providence, three hundred miles, also on Red River, bringing immense supplies of cattle from Texas, and salt from Red River.

Fortress Monroe advices report reconnoissance as far up as Chickahominy.

President Lincoln, in an interview with Unconditional Union Kentuckians, said he would rather die than retract one word from his emancipation proclamation.

FLOUR—Super. \$5.70 to 80; Extra, \$5.95 to \$6.25.

The New York World has ceased to be a supporter of the U. States government. The following expression on the late emancipation proclamation we should think would be almost enough to induce the government to prohibit its publication:—

We repeat our statement that the Emancipation Proclamation is a virtual confession of inability to conquer the South by fair fighting. "It is a disgraceful acknowledgment of military weakness made by an administration that has wielded (allowance being made for the navy, open ports, superior wealth, and mechanical skill) quadruple the military resources of the South—and finds itself over-marched! There is not a more humiliating spectacle in history than this exhibition of moral abjectness. While the administration had hopes of success by legitimate warfare it never thought of emancipation. But it was at last made to believe that there is no other way to succeed—a pusillanimous conclusion which bears the same relation to real vigor that Mr. Chase's shimplasters do to real money.

Another article from the same paper says:— "We have seen one after another, our most precious liberties insolently trampled upon; our most sacred rights made the plaything of petty tyrants dressed in a little authority. We have been called "traitors" for exercising the function of reason, and "sympathizers with the rebellion" for denouncing the incapacity of those who have suffered rebellion to riot in victory. But there is a limit to everything. The "sleeping lion" in this case is no fiction; nor has he ever really been asleep. The lion has been patient because he has been deceived. The American people have put up with all manner of pretensions from men in power, because they have believed these men to be seriously engaged, with some prospect of success in putting down armed rebellion. They have now made up their minds, after two years of this patient credulity, that it is time to look into the affair themselves.

The New York Tribune has a detailed account of the rebel vessels under way in England. Three iron-clad rams are building, two by Mr. Laird at Liverpool and the third is a screw steamer, at Glasgow, 3500 tons and 800 horse power, and is under contract by Messrs. Thompson, to be completed in 20 months from last July. Six iron vessels, not iron-clad, are

preparing in Thompson's yard for carrying supplies to rebel ports.

Their names are Thistle, Giraffe, Columbia, Pearl, Eagle and Ruby. All except the Giraffe, are owned in the name of George Wigg, a Liverpool merchant, who is active in the rebel cause. Bigby & Co. have also three iron steamers building in the Clyde, for blockade runners.

It appears that the day after the Alabama left Liverpool the English Government issued an order restraining her from going to sea!

EMANCIPATION.—The late Proclamation of President Lincoln can scarcely be more than an experiment. "After the honest expression of opinion at Chicago to a deputation of Abolitionists it seems strange that he should have issued such a document. He then said:—

"What good would a proclamation of emancipation from me do, especially as we are now situated? I do not want to issue a document that the whole world will see, must necessarily be inoperative, like the Pope's bull against the comet. Would my word free the slaves, when I cannot even enforce the constitution in the rebel states? Is there a single court, or magistrate, or individual that would be influenced by it there? And what reason is there to think it would have any greater effect upon the slaves than the late law of Congress, which I approved, and which offers protection and freedom to slaves of rebel masters, who come within our lines. Yet I cannot learn that the law has caused a single slave to come over to us. And suppose they could be induced by a proclamation from me to throw themselves upon us, what should we do with them? How can we feed and care for such a multitude? General Butler wrote me a few days since that he was issuing more rations to the slaves who have rushed to him, than to all the white troops under his command. They eat, and that is all; though it is true that General Butler is feeding the whites also by the thousand; for it nearly amounted to a famine there."

INTERESTING INCIDENT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.—A correspondent of the New York Tribune says:

During the week of battles in front of Washington, Gen. Bayard went forward, under a flag of truce, to meet and confer with his old comrade in arms, and now famous J. E. B. Stuart, of the rebel cavalry. Less than two years ago Jeb. was first lieutenant and Bayard second lieutenant in the same company, but Jeb. is now a Major-General and Bayard a Brigadier. During the interview, a wounded Union soldier, lying near, was groaning and asked for water—"Here Jeb," said Bayard—old time recollections making him familiar, as he tossed his trifle to the rebel officer—"hold my horse a minute, will you, till I fetch that poor fellow some water." Jeb. held the bridle. Bayard went to a stream and brought the wounded man some water. As Bayard mounted his horse, Jeb. remarked that he had not for some time played orderly to a Union General." The business upon which they met was soon arranged, and the old friends parted—a fight which had ceased, while they were engaged talking, recommencing with great fury on both sides the moment each got back to his own ranks.

PROPORTION OF MALES AND FEMALES IN THE U. STATES.—According to the U. S. census of 1862, there were at that time about 730,000 more males than females in the United States, a fact unprecedented in the census of any other civilized nation. In most of the older States there is an excess of females; in Massachusetts, 36,800 more females than males; while in Illinois there is an excess of 92,000 males; in Michigan, 46,600 in excess of males; in Texas, 35,000; in Wisconsin, 43,000; in California, 67,000; and in Colorado there are 20 males to one female.

Latest from Europe!

The Aetna arrived off Cape Race on the 15th with European news to the 5th Inst. The Anglo Saxon, the last of the season to Quebec, on the 19th; and the Persia at New York on the 20th, with latest dates to the 8th. From these we have telegraphic items of intelligence of which the following are the most important.

The Times again adverts to action of New York Chamber of Commerce touching Confederate steamer Alabama, and denies that any blame is attached to England. Her shipyards are open to all.

The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce had held a meeting to consider the deprivations of the Confederate steamer Alabama, and subsequently sent a letter to Earl Russell, requesting the views of the British Government.

Intervention in American affairs by France and Russia is again reported.

Consols 93 5-8th to 93 3-4th.

At a crowded meeting of the Metropolitan Institution, London, resolutions were passed expressing sympathy with the North.

Lord Elgin has retired from Governorship of India owing to climate. Duke of Argyll succeeds.

The great Exhibition was closed without ceremony.—Attendance and total receipts both exceed those of 1851.

Parliament further prorogued to 13th January.

FRANCE.—It is reported that dissensions in the French Cabinet regarding the Roman question are worse than ever. It is added that the majority of Ministers is quite disposed to resign unless the Emperor resolves to give Rome to the Italians.

GREECE.—The new Provisional Government is favorably to monarchy, but the powerful Republican party wishes to establish a Federal State by Union with adjacent Turkish Provinces of Epirus.