

SONG OF THE CAMP.

Bayard Taylor.
"Give us a song!" the soldiers cried,
The outer trenches guarding,
When the heated guns of the camps allied
Grew weary of bombarding.

The dark Redan, in silent scoff,
Lay, grim and threatening under;
And the tawny mound of the Malakoff
No longer belched its thunder.

There was a pause. A guardsman said,
"We storm the forts tomorrow;
Sing while we may, another day
Will bring enough of sorrow."

They lay along the battery's side
Below the smoking cannon;
Brave hearts from Severn and from Clyde,
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love and not of fame;
Forgot was Britain's glory;
Each heart recalled a different name
But all sang "Annie Laurie."

Voice after voice caught up the song,
Until its tender passion
Rose like an anthem rich and strong—
Their battle-axe confession.

Dear girl, her name, he dared not speak,
But as the song grew louder,
Something upon the soldier's cheek
Washed off the stains of powder.

Beyond the darkening ocean burned
The bloody sunset's embers,
While the Crimean valleys learned
How English love remembers.

And once again a fire of hell
Rained on the Russian quarters;
With scream of shot and burst of shell
And bellowing of the mortars!

And Irish Nora's eyes are dim
For a singer dumb and gory;
And English Mary mourns for him
Who sang of "Annie Laurie."

Sleep, soldiers! still in honored rest
Your truth and valor wearing;
The bravest are the tenderest—
The loving are the daring.

SCHOOL AGE.

Studying Brains of Children.
(New York 'Herald'.)

The brains of children are at present the subject of anxious study by the authorities of the District of Columbia, who are trying in this way to reach satisfactory conclusions as to the age at which young folks ought to begin to go to school. It is beginning to be thought that schooling may perhaps be started too early for the health and welfare of the little ones, and this idea seems plausible when it is considered that infants of six years are compelled to seek book learning at the public cost in the District of Columbia and in Wyoming, while mere prattlers of four are allowed to take advantage of educational opportunities in Connecticut, Wisconsin and Oregon if their parents so desire. In thirteen other states of the Union the minimum age of voluntary attendance is five years.

Light is thrown upon this interesting subject by a study of the growth and development of the mind organ in children. In this line the most important work has been done by Dr. W. W. Johnston, a distinguished physician of Washington, who calls attention to the fact that the human brain attains practically its full weight when the individual is only about eight years of age. At birth the brain weighs approximately a pound, but its development is so rapid that at the end of the first year it would tip the scales at two and a half pounds. At four years it has reached nearly three pounds, but from that time on its growth is comparatively slow. Attaining to what is to all intents and purposes its full size at eight years, it does not alter appreciably after twelve years, and after twenty-four years it begins to diminish slowly but steadily in avoiddupois.

These facts obviously have a very important bearing upon questions of school training. So far as brain development is concerned, the first eight years are by far the most important of a child's life, the main growth of the organ taking place during that period. It is evident that the stature attained eventually by the mind depends largely upon the perfection of brain growth during this epoch. Dr. Johnston urges that education ought not to begin during the period of brain growth, and that children that are sent to school before they are eight years old are threatened with serious injury. Also he contends that, in view of the facts above stated in regard to brain development, instruction during the first years should not be too exacting or too stimulating. Precocity ought to be checked, furthermore, and not fostered.

Not until recently has serious attention been called to the evils which may be said to spring from unscientific schooling. Recently, however, experts have been making a study of the subject, and one matter to which they point is the extensive propagation of what may be termed school diseases—that is to say, ailments caused by improperly directed efforts to train the minds of youth. It is asserted that large numbers of pupils in the schools die annually from the effects of mental overfatigue in one shape or another; that much greater numbers are more or less permanently invalidated by the same cause, and that a very considerable fraction of the whole number of pupils entered in the public schools drop out through inability to keep up. In short, the conclusion drawn is that school life favors decidedly the development of ill-health among young folks.

This, if true, is a pretty how-d'ye-do. Dr. Johnston says that nervous troubles and affections of sight are the most common of school diseases. Insomnia, St. Vitus's dance and palpitation of the heart are frequent.

Such afflictions increase steadily from class to class, as the pupils go up higher and the studies increase in difficulty; they grow with the number of hours of study per diem. A special investigation of the subject in the public schools of Sweden showed that near sight increased from six percent in the lowest classes to thirty-seven percent in the highest. The same progressive impairment of vision in school children has been noted in Russia, England, Germany (where it reaches fifty percent in the higher schools) and in our own country.

In nature precocity is a sign of inferiority. If proof of this is desired, one may point to the negro infant, which in its early years is far superior to the white child of like age in mental development. But after that time the white child passes the negro very rapidly, and henceforth there is no comparison between them. Travellers in equatorial Africa have described the native pickaninnies as 'absurdly precocious.' The more perfect the organism the slower its development, is one of the rules of animal creation.

As the brain of the child grows, the case that holds it, which is called the skull, must develop proportionately. Represent the length of the new-born infant's skull by ten, and by the time the twenty-second month is reached it will be fifteen, and at the age of fourteen years it will be twenty. After middle life the skull steadily diminishes in thickness, so that in a very old man it has become quite thin and brittle.

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Gen. Macdonald on the Luck of War. Mr. Burleigh, war correspondent of the London 'Telegraph,' writes:—

"One of the incidents that have reached me of the Paardeberg fight is that Major-General Macdonald and his brigade major, Capt. Wigham while making reconnaissances, got away from showers of Boer bullets fired at very short ranges. The General received his wound through the ankle and foot some time after, when in a relatively safe position, as he dismounted from his horse. That day Capt. Wigham had three horses shot, and had he not dismounted from the second the shell which killed it must surely have finished him. "The luck of war," as Gen. Macdonald observed at the minute. "I dismounted and get wounded; you dismount and are saved from wounding. Had I sat my horse I would have been all right, and had you not got off you'd have been killed."

Little but Searching—Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets are not big nauseous doses that contain injurious drugs or narcotics—they are the pure vegetable pepsin—the medicinal extract from this luscious fruit, and tablets are prepared in as palatable form as the fruit itself. The remedy searches out the weak spots in the digestive organs—encourages and stimulates them—60 in a box, 35 cents.

After the guests were gone the bride looked over the wedding presents very carefully and then sat down and began to weep.

"Why, my darling," exclaimed the groom as he gathered her in his arms, "what is the matter? It seems to me that our friends have remembered us very handsomely. I don't know of a single one of them who hasn't given something, and most of the presents are nice ones, too!"

"Yes," she sobbed, "b-b-but there are no t-t-two alike, and I had been counting on the f-f-fun I would have taking duplicates b-back and getting money for them!"

Burdock Blood Bitters, The Best Spring Medicine.

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Mr. Geo. Heriot, Bailliboro, Ont., says: "Two years ago I was very poorly in the spring, had no appetite, felt weak and nervous, not able to work much and was tired all the time."

"I saw Burdock Blood Bitters highly recommended, so got a bottle."

"I started taking it, and inside of two months I was as well as ever I was in my life."

"I cheerfully recommend B. B. B. as a splendid blood purifier and spring medicine."

A Goose Parrot Story.

Our next door neighbor, writes a correspondent, owns an amusing parrot which is always getting into mischief, but usually gets out again without much trouble to herself. When she has done anything for which she knows she ought to be punished, she holds her head to one side, and, eying her mistress, says in a sing-song tone: "Polly is a good girl," until she sees her mistress smile; then she flaps her wings and cries out: "Hurrah! Polly is a good girl!" She has been allowed to go free in the garden, where she promenades back and forth on the walks, sunning herself, and warning off all intruders.

One morning a hen strayed out of the chicken yard and was quietly picking up her breakfast, when Polly marched up to her, and called out "Shoo!" in her shrill voice. The poor hen retreated to her own quarters, running as fast as she could, followed by Polly, who screamed "shoo!" at every step.

A few days later, Polly extended her morning walk into the chicken yard. Here, with her usual curiosity, she went peering into every corner till she came to the old hen on her nest. The hen made a drive for Polly's yellow head, but missed it. Polly, thinking discretion the better part of valor, turned to run, the hen, with wings wide spread, following close after.

As she ran, Polly screamed in her shrillest tones, "O Lord! O Lord!"

A member of the family, who had witnessed the performance, thought it time to interfere in Polly's behalf, as the angry hen was gaining on her. He ran out, and stooped down held out his hand. Polly lost no time in travelling up to his shoulder. Then, from her high vantage ground, she turned, and, looking down on her foe, screamed: "Hello there! shoot!"

The frightened hen returned to her nest as rapidly as she had come.—The Ashland Item.

A BOON TO HORSEMEN. English Spavin Liniment removes all hard, or soft or calloused Lumps and Blemishes from horses, Blood spavin, Crubs, Splints, Ring Bone, Sweeney, Stiffles, Sprains, Sore and Swollen Throat, Coughs, etc. The use of one bottle may make you \$50. Warranted the most wonderful Blemish Cure ever known.

Vagaries of Bullets. A private in the 2nd Queen's regiment, writing from the 'Lismore Castle,' Durban, says:

"It is marvellous the course that some bullets take. A chap of ours got shot in the leg. The bullet found a way out by going upwards through his leg and through his stomach and out his back. One poor fellow of the Lancashire Fusiliers had his head knocked clean off by a shell. They were doubling at the time, and this man kept on running until someone took hold of his body. Then he fell down. There is a young soldier on board this boat who was shot through the heart. He is still alive, but has lost the use of one of his legs."

PAIN-KILLER is the best, safest and surest remedy for cramps, colic and diarrhoea. As a liniment for wounds and sprains it is unequalled. Avoid substitutes, there's but one Pain Killer, Perry Davis.' 25c. and 50c.

To Spank Orleans.

The Duke of Orleans has become a laughing stock. It is now quite well known that he dare not put his foot on British soil since his famous letter to the French caricaturist. His reason is mortal dread of that sporting club which has engaged ten sturdy men to try and catch him, and when caught spank him as a naughty child would be spanked by an irate parent. It is said he has already found a buyer for his English estate at Twickenham, 'York house,' which is one of the most beautiful homes on the Thames. It was built at the end of sixteenth century. It was the residence of James II. while Duke of York, and his daughter, afterward Queen Mary and Queen Anne, both of whom were born there. The west wing was built by the Duc d'Anjou for the court of Paris. It is now said that Archduke Joseph of Austria has given him some land, between Flume and Abbazia, where he will build a castle as a permanent residence for himself and his wife.—Chicago Record.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC

District Passenger Agent's Office, St. John, N. B., May 9, 1900.

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF CANADA.

WINNIPEG, MAN. July 5th to 13th, 1900.

For the National Gathering of the Baptists of Canada very liberal arrangements have been completed by the Canadian Pacific Ry. The educational advantages of a trip to Winnipeg, situated in the centre of the Great Canadian Northwest wheat district is well worth all the expense of the journey. The following is an outline of the railway arrangements:—

RATE.—Delegates, wives of delegates and daughters of delegates are to be issued one way first class tickets to Winnipeg at one way lowest first class fare and standard railway convention certificates to be furnished therewith.

GOING DATES.—Tickets to be sold good to go June 26th to July 5th, inclusive, to be limited not good after July 8th.

RETURN TRIP.—Certificates must be signed in Winnipeg by the Secretary of the Convention and on surrender to the agent tickets to be issued back to original starting point good till August 15th, as under. If route to Winnipeg has been via all rail, ticket to return the same route to be issued free, or, if desired, ticket to return via Lake route to be issued on payment of \$4.50. If route to Winnipeg has been via Lake, ticket to return the same route to be issued on payment of \$9.00, or, if desired, ticket to return via rail to be issued on payment of \$4.50.

The one way first class limited all rail rates to Winnipeg from the principal points in the Maritime Provinces are as follows:—

St. Stephen, N. B.	\$50.50
Woodstock, N. B.	51.00
Fredericton, N. B.	51.20
St. John, N. B.	50.50
Moncton, N. B.	50.50
Truro, N. S.	54.00
Pictou, N. S.	54.75
North Sydney, C. B.	57.55
Halifax, N. S., via I. C.	55.00
Halifax, N. S., via D. A. R.	53.50
Wolfville, N. S., via D. A. R.	53.50
Yarmouth, N. S.	51.50
New Glasgow, N. S.	54.75

Cost of double berth in palace sleeper Moncton or St. John to Montreal \$2.50, Montreal to Winnipeg \$8.00, or double berth in Tourist Sleeper Montreal to Winnipeg \$4.00.

SIDE TRIPS FROM WINNIPEG TO KOOTENAY AND PACIFIC COAST POINTS.—

The Canadian Pacific is arranging to give delegates round trip tickets to Kootenay and Pacific Coast point at rate of single fare for the round trip. Tickets will be on sale at close of the Convention and will be limited to reach Winnipeg, returning, so that passengers can reach their original points up to and including August 15th, as named above. Rates from Winnipeg to be about as follows:—

Vancouver, B. C.	Tacoma, Wash.
Victoria, B. C., \$50.00	Seattle, Wash., \$50.00
Nelson, B. C., 45.00	Revelstoke, B. C., 50.00
Rossland, B. C., 45.00	Greenwood, B. C., 49.00
Banff, Alb., 31.40	Edmonton, Alb., 35.05
Calgary, Alb., 27.35	Moosajaw, Assa., 9.64

For any further information as to routes, train service, berth rates, etc., or for time tables, maps and description, write to:

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Profit-Sharing on a Large Scale.

The amalgamation took place on Tuesday of last week of the Siegel-Cooper Company, of New York, and Siegel Cooper & Co., of Chicago, two concerns which were owned and managed by the same people. The consolidation takes the form of a new company, incorporated in New Jersey, with a capital stock of \$24,000,000. This new concern, which is known as the Siegel-Cooper Company Co-operatives Stores, New York and Chicago, is very much on the lines of the Bon Marché, in Paris, and the Sir Thomas Lipton business, in London.

We learn from the last issue of the Dry Goods Economist that the ideas underlying the reorganization are co-operation of employers with employees, and the sharing of profits with customers. The capital stock consists of \$14,250,000, preferred stock, and \$9,750,000 of common stock. The former is divided into 285,000 shares, paying 6 per cent., and the latter into 195,000 shares, each share being of the par value of \$50.

It is provided by the charter of the company that after a full dividend of 6 per cent. per annum has been paid on the preferred stock, and full dividends of 3 per cent. per annum have been paid on the common stock, all additional dividends shall be apportioned and paid on a basis of one-third in amount on the preferred stock, and two thirds in amount on the common stock.

In order to carry out the plan of co-operation with its employees, \$2,000,000 of the common stock has been placed in trust. The annual dividends on this stock will be distributed among such employees as have been or may hereafter be with the New York or Chicago establishment for a period of three years. Such dividends will also be paid for life to employees, who after ten years of service with the new company become incapacitated for further employment. Thus, it will be seen, a pension fund is provided for faithful employees.

Worms, these pests of childhood can be readily destroyed and expelled by the use of Dr. Low's Worm Syrup. It is easy to take and contains its own purgative.