

"OUR SCHOOLS: FROM THE PARENTS' POINT OF VIEW."

A Paper Read Before the Carleton County Teachers' Institute, at Woodstock, December 20th, 1901.

Mr. President, officers and members of Carleton County Teachers' Institute:—I thank you for the privilege you have at this time afforded me of speaking to you about our common school institution and work. I also feel the deep responsibility accompanying this privilege, for if there be any question of importance, next to that which relates to the spiritual and endless well-being of children, and in fact inseparably connected with that, it is the education of our children.

My subject, which has been given me by your committee, is, "Our Schools: From the Parents' Standpoint." Here allow me to thank your committee for the timely notice they gave me, and the kind manner in which I was asked to prepare this paper.

In order to be clear, definite, and pointed I shall divide my subject into three distinct parts. 1. The Parents' Privileges. 2. The Parents' Expectations. 3. The Parents' Duties.

I. The Parents' Privileges. The educational privileges of high and low, rich and poor in New Brunswick are equal to, if not greater than any to be found elsewhere. We boast of our educational system and of our common schools and we have a right so to do because they stand, at least so it is conceded, in the very fore-front of all such known to the highest civilizations of the world. I am not in possession of the exact figures but from what I can gather from school reports of this and other provinces there are as few children among us, in proportion to population, that are unable to read and write as are to be found in any of the provinces. Having an extensive knowledge of our own county, which may I think be taken as a fair sample of the entire province, I am satisfied that very few, if any, of our children are growing up unable to read and write. Such are our educational privileges that there ought to be none. It is true that the school house cannot be on every man's farm and next door to every man's dwelling house but the instances are rare where children cannot during the greater part of the year reach the school house and enjoy the privilege of obtaining a common school education. Owing to the government of our province establishing common schools and annually aiding the same we have changed for the better our condition, and how great are our privileges when compared with those of our fathers in their school days. We are no longer left to the inconvenience of a few families combining and employing a teacher whose preparation for his work was not always of the highest order, and whose place of instruction was often very unsuitable for his work.

There is a compulsory educational law in Ontario, in Nova Scotia and in P. E. Island but none in New Brunswick, yet I am inclined to think that our children are as well educated, and that we have as few, in proportion to population, unable to read and write as in any of the provinces having compulsory education. The province of Quebec has the largest proportion of those who cannot read and write. A short time ago, in some school districts in that province it was impossible to find enough people who could read and write to form a school board. Such a state of things is very much to be regretted. Desirable as compulsory education may be in any places, there is one thing which we desire even more than that, and that is, that the parents and guardians of our children shall take such an interest in education and voluntarily improve the privileges they have as that there shall be no need of compulsory education. Not that we think compulsory education is wrong, for while the parent may have a right to say something about how his child shall be taught yet from the standpoint of organized communities he has no right to say what he shall not be taught, or in other words, that he shall grow up in ignorance. If it be right, and a large majority of the most intelligent people of our province, and the provincial parliament say it is right, to take money from those who have no children to educate other peoples' children, and to take money from those who have it to educate those who have no means, must surely be right to compel parents to send their children in the way of obtaining an education thus provided. In these days of universal suffrage it seems absurd and irrational to put the government of our country into the hands of those who cannot read, and allow those to vote who cannot write their own names. There is no greater danger to us as a self-governing people than a want of education. The ranks of the troublesome and of criminals in all countries are largely made up of the illiterate. Thus while we do not object to compulsory education it is still a better way if it can be obtained, and that is to lead parents to such an appreciation of their privileges as there shall be no need of compulsion.

Every parent should consider it a great privilege to have another do for his child which he himself is unable to do for him. This privilege is so great that it cannot be

valued by money. There are some things which cannot be valued by that which is material. Life is of more value than all our possessions. "Skin for skin, yea all that a man hath will he give for his life." Who can compensate the man who saves me from a watery grave for what he has done? Who can compensate the physician who risks his own life in attending me in some loathsome disease, and who by night and by day gives his best thought and consideration to my case and by skill and perseverance brings me back to health and happiness? Who can pay the mother for her wakeful solicitude for days and years over her young family? Who can pay men of science for discoveries which are universally beneficial? And who can adequately pay the efficient teacher for the noble and lasting work he is doing when he awakens and brings into action the latent powers of the mind, and brings out of their secret chambers the God-given talents of the child and teaches him to improve them? The finite mind is the greatest display of the power and skill of the Infinite mind with which we are acquainted. It has been placed in this tenement of flesh to be educated for a noble existence. In childhood's days its faculties begin to unfold and those mighty energies which are to carry it forward toward the unending future begin to reveal themselves. Who can compensate the teacher for the work he is doing in the realm of mind when he develops one of the least, much less when he brings to light and develops the gifts and powers of one who shall reform a nation, or by science, art, or religion shall live to bless all mankind? Sir Humphrey Davy said, regarding his discoveries, "But the greatest of my discoveries is Michael Faraday." This Michael Faraday was a poor boy employed in the menial services of the laboratory, but whose chemical genius his master detected and encouraged until he finally took the place of his teacher and acquired a name that became one of the influences of England. Well might his master say "My greatest discovery was when I detected the wonderful powers of Michael Faraday." Never is there a greater or more beneficial discovery made than when, under the thick scurf of poverty and neglect, the teacher detects the human mind which is fearfully and wonderfully made and elicits its powers of memory, will, understanding, conscience and judgment. Such a work cannot be paid for in dollars and cents, and the teacher who has only the dollars and cents in view is not the one of whom we are just now speaking. It should therefore be regarded by parents as an inestimable privilege to be allowed to put their children into the hands and under the care of teachers who are worthy of their trust and competent to do the work assigned them.

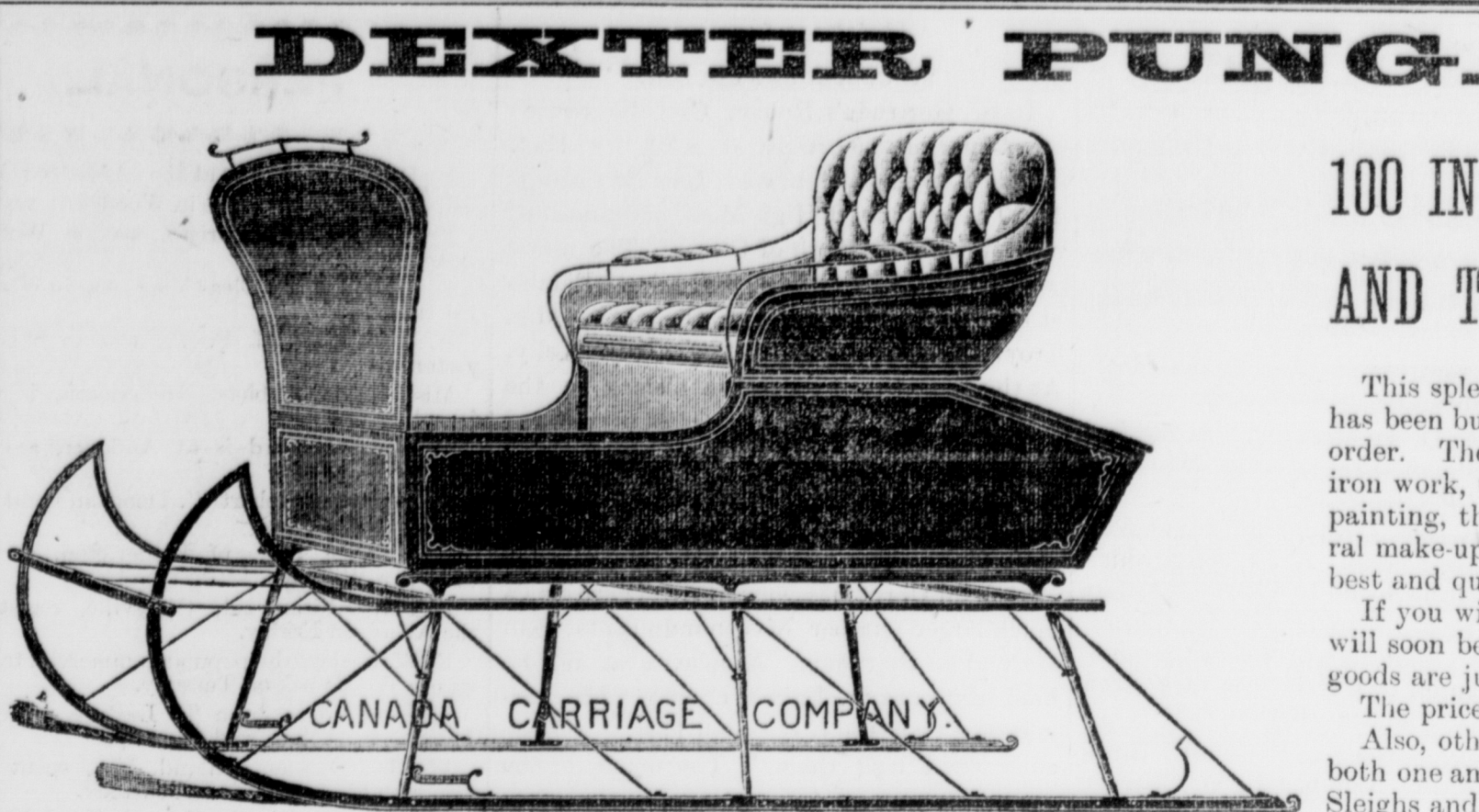
II. The Parents' Desires and Expectations. The parent desires and expects his child to be educated, and that this work may be successfully done he expects the teacher to be sagacious, painstaking, patient, and persevering. I realize that I am speaking to the most intelligent class of persons in our community, and whose work from the parents' standpoint is of the utmost importance. You have entrusted to you the education, the mental, and to a large extent the moral training of those whom parents love as they love their own lives. Look at the prospect. Our children are soon to guide the affairs of state. They are to make the laws for coming multitudes. They are to fill the pulpits of our land. They are to control the press and superintend its influential publications. They are to stand as medical practitioners by the bedside of our sick and dying. The entire trade and commerce of our country will soon be in their hands, and the great and important agricultural interests of Canada will be carried on according to their knowledge and skill. You are expected, to a greater or less extent, to awaken the intellect of every boy and girl attending school. You will not only teach knowledge, but more important still you will teach the means of gaining knowledge. Our children go to school not only to read but to learn how to read. Not only to collect facts but to understand the principles upon which those facts rest. The mere memorizing of words is not in itself the gaining of ideas. Memorizing words and receiving an idea are not one and the same thing, they are quite distinct, and no teacher can make them one by simply having a recitation. Hearing a recitation cannot really pass for teaching. I mention this because I had in my boyhood days a teacher who seemed to think it could, and I apparently learned much that I did not learn.

(CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.)

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Here's an honest statement from people who are in the best position to give an unbiased opinion of any remedy and they in the strongest terms yield the palm to Dr. Agnew's Ointment as a certain cure for all ailments of the skin.

The Eureka Drug Company, of Mauch Chunk, Pa., writes:—"Please send at once two dozen Dr. Agnew's Ointment. It has given great satisfaction in cases of skin disease and piles, and is one of the best sellers in that line we ever handled." Price, 35 cents.



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If you will look it over you will soon be convinced these goods are just as represented. The prices are right, too.

Also, other styles of pungs, both one and two-seated, and Sleighs and Robes.

WOMEN WILL TALK.

Can't Blame them for Telling each other about Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.



THE GREAT REMEDY FOR WEAK NERVOUS WOMEN.

It's only natural that when a woman finds a remedy which cures her of nervousness and weakness, relieves her pains and aches, puts color in her cheeks and vitality in her whole system, she should be anxious to let her suffering sisters know of it.

Mrs. Hannah Holmes, St. James Street, St. John, N.B., relates her experience with this remedy as follows:—"For some years I have been troubled with fluttering of the heart and dizziness, accompanied by a smothering feeling which prevented me from resting. My appetite was poor and I was much run down and debilitated."

"Since I started using Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, the smothering feeling has gone, my heart beat is now regular, the fluttering has disappeared, and I have been wonderfully built up through the tonic effect of the pills. I now feel stronger and better than for many years, and cannot say too much in praise of the remedy which restored my long lost health."

A Mind Reader.

From The Chicago News.

"I suppose," said the physician, smiling and trying to appear witty, while feeling the pulse of a lady patient, "I suppose you consider me an old humbug?"

"Why, doctor," replied the lady, "I had no idea you could ascertain a woman's thoughts by merely feeling her pulse."

Thinner Than a Rail.

Spending every day, as much energy as you make, and if the balance goes a little further, well, you get thinner. Not wise to go that way any longer. Better use Ferrozone, you will digest more—a little gain the first week, but the gain keeps growing. Not quite so thin! Keep right on, only don't use Ferrozone too long or you will get too fat. Then your blood will be rich, your heart strong, you won't puff so much, you won't get tired quickly. Fat, blood, strength, you have them all with Ferrozone. Sold by Garden Bros.

How obstinate a woman is,
How firm a man of sense!
These words may sometimes mean the same,
Sex makes the difference.

KIDNEY-WORRY

When the Kidneys fail to perform their functions perfectly you may know that the tension on the health cable is too great—and it's time to call a halt.

South American Kidney Cure eases the strain—prevents Kidney-Worry—and will put them to rights when they are worried. It is the only medicine necessary when kidney treatment is required, because it cures any form of Kidney disease. Purely and solely a Kidney Specific. Thousands have tested it—and owe their lives to it. It relieves in six hours.

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Sure Cure for Sea Sickness, Nausea.

Maladies of this type yield instantly to Polson's Nerviline, and if you suffer periodically from these complaints, just keep Nerviline at hand. A few drops in sweetened water gives instant relief, and in the course of half an hour the cure is complete. A large 25c. bottle of Nerviline in the house will save doctor bills, and a vast amount of suffering every year. Sold by Garden Bros.

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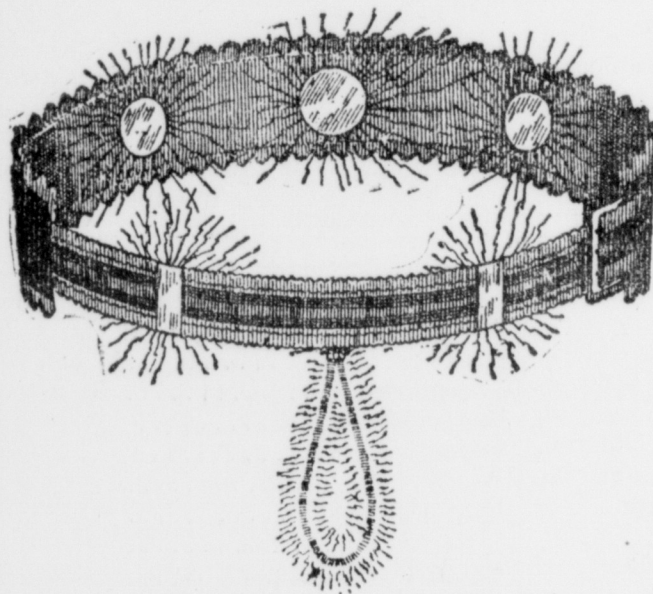
This Is the Best Separator on the Market.

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Low Supply Can, Easily Fed,
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HERBERT HARPER, - - JACKSONVILLE.

Morse Electric Belt!



Will in a majority of cases cure Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Liver and Kidney Troubles, Lumbago, Constipation, Piles, Lame Back, Poor Circulation, Nervous, Restless Nights, Incipient Paralysis, Numbness, Prickly Sensation, Dizziness, Tired Feeling in the morning, Indigestion, Female Weakness and general debility.

Fits, Female Irregularity, Falling of the Womb, Costiveness, Indigestion, Spinal Weakness, Weakness, Lack of Vital Force, Decay in old or young. All cases where there is lack of animal electricity, seminal weakness, etc., etc.

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For Torpid Liver, Flatulence,
Constipation, Biliousness and
Sick Headache, TAKE

BRISTOL'S Pills

Safe, Mild, Quick-acting,
Painless, do not weaken,
and always give satisfaction.

A most reliable Household Medicine, can be taken at any season, by Adults or Children.

All druggists sell "BRISTOL'S."

SLEIGHS AND PUNGS.

Best Material, Wood, Iron and Upholstering,
Best Workmanship, Latest Designs.

These are some of the features of our 1902 Pungs, which should recommend them to your notice.

You are invited to call and inspect our stock.

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