

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

All communications intended for this column should be addressed to J. B. O'N. Hohway, Secy., who has kindly consented to edit it.

Let us Read.

The great Dr. Johnson was once asked, who was the most miserable man, the reply of the sage was: "That man who can not read on a rainy day." What a volume of truth in a single sentence! Indeed it is a solid truth that the man who has resources within himself for happiness, is happier and more contented than the one who seeks his happiness from sources without. Hence the great Robert Hall speaks the truth: "The man who can read, and possesses a taste for reading, can find sufficient entertainment at home; the man who can not, is tempted to repair to the public house for entertainment." It is indeed a sad fact that we of the South are not a reading people, and know scarcely anything that transpires outside of our immediate range of observation. Will we ever correct our negligence?

Ms. Editor:—In the expression, "There is an evil genius that shapes our ends rough, hew them as we may," how should "rough" be parsed? If it read, "There is a divinity that shapes our ends wisely," the word at the close would refer to the verb "shapes," but you could not say that "rough" was an adverb, could you? Yet it evidently modifies the meaning of the verb instead of the noun preceeding it. Is not this the meaning, "which shapes our ends so that they are rough," the ends and not the manner of shaping, being rough?

According to your way of quoting the expression with a comma after "rough," the word "rough" would evidently be parsed as an adverb. Webster says "rough" is an adverb, and Sir Walter Scott uses the word with that meaning in the following sentence; "Sleeping rough in their trenches, and dying stubbornly in their boats." But according to our way of thinking our fair "Inquirer" has misquoted the passage. Shakespeare has it thus: "There is a divinity that shapes our ends rough—hew them how we will." We will be very glad to hear from "Inquirer" again and if we can't give satisfactory answers, we will insert in the column and call loudly for help.

Mr. Editor:—In answer to the question in the last issue of the DEMOCRAT, in regard to the parsing of "worth" in the sentence, "That knife is worth a dollar," I would call "worth" an adjective, modifying "knife," as it expresses a quality which can be alleged of a noun, and modified by an adverb. There is a similar sentence in Smith's Grammar—"That knife is richly worth a dollar," etc. I will be glad to hear the opinions of other teachers.

Whose Wall Maps are best to use in teaching Cornell's series of Geography? P. Stelger, New York, can furnish descriptive catalogues and price lists of Globes, Wall Maps, and school furniture, on application.

In a call for a Teachers' Convention in Laurens County, the teachers are urged to attend, and the following novel idea is given them:

"It is not, therefore, a matter of option with teachers in the employment of the State, and receiving its funds, whether to attend its Convention or not, as they may happen to feel at the time; but in the opinion of those connected with the management of our educational system it is the obvious duty of Teachers, who respect the authority of the State, to lay aside everything else, close up their schoolrooms, and make every responsible teacher to be present during its sessions."

W. H. Vanderbilt has increased the immense endowment fund established by his father in founding the Vanderbilt University, by the addition of one hundred thousand dollars to erect a gymnasium, civil engineering and scientific hall at the University. If the old gentleman would look us, we could select a better object than a gymnasium hall to show his fortune upon. We were about to say there are some one hundred teachers in Orangeburg County who would delight to take a snail at his fat purse, but then we refrain. It's no use for the world to know how poor we are.

The mother's yearning, that complete type of the life in another life which is the essence of real human love, feels the presence of the cherished child even in the base degraded man, and she sees again her baby's face.

The editor wrote, "Women's Wills," but the compositor knew better, and put it "woman's Wills." Poor fellow! he had been the victim of such wiles.

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