

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN.

All communications intended for this column should be addressed to the Editors, this paper, who will be glad to consent to edit it.

Our School System.

The public school system of our State is receiving vigorous assaults from able pens and wise heads. One of the boldest attacks has lately been made by Mr. W. C. Bonet, before the Teachers' Association of Abbeville County. We like this spirit of attacking "without fear, favor or affection" whatever we consider defective in the administration of justice in our State. It is the very best course to get at the bottom of matters, and cleanse them of all impurities and errors. Of course we can't add much to what has already been said, but we will have our say anyway.

We propose to point out one or two prominent defects in our system in addition to those already presented on this subject. Without any hesitation we pronounce the system in our State extremely defective; and unless it be granted that a heterogeneous compound may have a name indicative neither of its qualities, nor the relation of its parts, we think it very doubtful whether the plan of education pursued in South Carolina is worthy the honorable title of "system." It's a misnomer, but, for want of a more appropriate term, we will give it the undeserved appellation.

The first and one of the greatest defects that can arrest our attention, and of which many of our people are convinced, is the incompetency of teachers. This is one of the sorest evils inflicted on the cause of popular education. A large proportion of those employed as instructors are not qualified either by head or heart, for so difficult, so responsible a charge. They do not possess those rare intellectual and moral qualifications, which only can enable them faithfully and honorably to fill the high vocation of educating those into whose hands the dearest interests of our country will soon be intrusted.

We will mention other defects in our next issue, and we shall content ourself at present by enquiring the cause of this great evil of the incompetency of teachers, for knowing the cause, we can provide a remedy. When shall we find the cause? Does it exist in the teachers or the employers? We believe in both. Parents generally have not a correct notion of the nature and importance of the office the teacher discharges, nor of the requisite qualifications for it. Some, guided by the policy of accomplishing the greatest good with the least expense, have filled their school houses with ignoramuses, who have disappointed their employers, injured the youth and disgraced themselves and their profession. There is not an intelligent South Carolinian who does not assent to this as a truth, yet how many have ever raised so much as their little finger to correct this evil? We know and acknowledge its existence and baneful consequences, yet we do not seek to remove it.

Hon. Hugh S. Thompson, State Superintendent of Education, furnished us with the annexed information which we gladly lay before our readers. We consider this a timely action of the Board of Examiners, and we feel assured it will put to rest many throbbing hearts of frightened pedagogues who year after year have had to pass through the fiery ordeal of an examination. Any Board of Examiners may in its discretion, recognize certificates of qualification granted in other counties, as evidence of qualification to teach in the public schools, without subjecting the holders of said certificates to another examination.

1. That in all cases in which first grade certificates have been granted to applicants upon the second series of questions for 1879, the County Boards of Examiners shall have authority to renew said certificates annually for a period of time not to exceed three years, provided that the holders of such certificates shall give to the County Boards of Examiners satisfactory evidence of continued good character and efficiency as teachers.

2. In like manner County Boards of Examiners shall have authority to renew second grade certificates annually for a period of time not to exceed two years.



Cathartic Pills

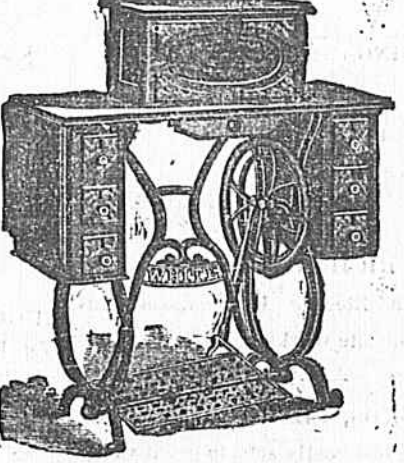
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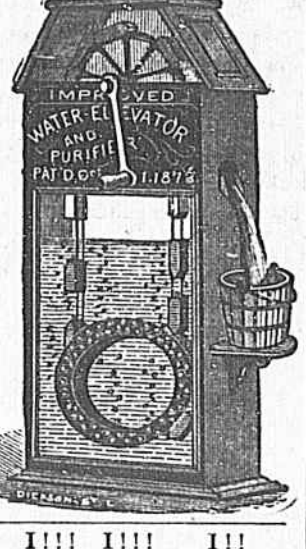
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