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WHOLE NUMBER 87.

POETRY.

I wait for Thee.

The hearth is swept—the fire is bright,
The kettle sings for tea,
The cloth is spread, the lamps are light,
The hot cakes smoke in napkins white,
And now I wait for thee.
Come home, love, come, thy task is done;
The clock ticks listlessly;
The blinds are shut, the curtains down,
The warm chair to the fireside drawn,
The boy is on my knee.
Come home, love, come, his deep, fond eye,
Looks round him wistfully;
And when the whispering winds go by,
As if thy welcome step was nigh,
He crows exultingly.
In vain—he finds the welcome vain,
And turns his glance on mine,
So earnestly, that yet again
His form unto my heart I strain,
That glance is so like thine.
Thy task is done—we miss thee here;
Where'er thy footsteps roam,
No hand will spread such kindly cheer,
No beating heart, no listening ear,
Like these will wait thee home.
Ala! along the crisp walks fast,
That well-known step doth come;
The boot is drawn, the gate is past,
The babe is wild with joy at last;
A thousand welcomes home!

MISCELLANY.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]

Changes in Life.

WHEN we contemplate the various changes in life, and compare the present period with the days of our boyhood, and reflect for a moment upon the circumstances that surrounded us but little more than a quarter of a century ago, and retrospectively view them in connexion with the opportunities that are offered to the rising generation at the present day, we are struck with astonishment at the results thus realized.

I remember (when a boy) many a respectable family, whose highest ambition did not reach beyond the point of being comfortably clad, without paying much regard to the fashions of the day, and the possession of a bare competency to sustain life, without ever seeming to thirst after any of its vain luxuries; and who, by their own industry and frugality, could impart to their offspring the common every day education, usually obtained in the rustic pine-pole cabin in the forest, consisting, principally, of reading, writing, and perhaps a smattering knowledge of arithmetic. In many of these rural institutions, the science of our language, or in other words an English grammar, was considered by the parent and pedagogue as superfluous trash. If in "those days" we had chanced to say anything about an academy in presence of a student of the old fashioned school, methinks he would have started as though the name of some hideous monster, which his native instinct had taught him to dread, had been pronounced in his hearing. For I venture the assertion, that a many a "coppers breeches" boy, who had ciphered as far as the Rule of Three, would not have known thirty years ago what you meant by so hard a word. And if in our childhood rambles, we had happened to fall in with one whose inexhaustible stores of shining dust had placed him above the trying scenes of the indigent, and afforded him what we can now readily understand—collegiate opportunities, and hear him speak of the preparatory department, the junior and senior classes, and the professors of the various branches taught in college, we might at once come to the conclusion that he was but little short of a supernatural being. "Great Gulliver!" "Granny" would have been nowhere with her antiquated stories of witches, wizards, and ghosts, had we dared venture to ask this man to impart to us a knowledge of these things.

It is not so much our object, however, to notice the rapid improvement in our institutions of learning, as to mark the difference in disposition, manifested in both parent and pupil to avail themselves of the advantages they afford; or the changes that have taken place in the "modus operandi" of teaching, and receiving instruction, in so brief a period. Twenty-five years ago it was not considered amiss for the teacher to yoke up a boy of some fourteen or fifteen summers who had wifely and maliciously violated the rules that were wont to govern the school, and with a native twig of the forest, bend the refractory horn of humanity in its proper direction. It was not then considered essentially necessary to annoy the

trustees of the school, or consult the parents in relation to every little difficulty that chanced to arise between two juvenile specimens of "Young America." It was not then thought, by many at least, that "chewing tobacco, drinking liquor, and cursing" were necessary prerequisites to constitute a man. But the sole object to be attained in these humble seminaries, was simply to prepare the head and heart for a respectable and useful position in society. We can recollect well when each student, or to use the homely phrase of those superannuated schools, when each scholar, would, at least, endeavor to vie with others in the accumulation of useful knowledge; and when most of us would have considered it a disgrace to have been found groping behind, and following in the wake of the more industrious. It was then, too, that the innocent and unsuspecting traveller could pass the streets of our little towns and villages, without being subjected to the pusillanimous insults of the school boys; something like the following: "Are you travelling, or going about just so?" "Move him up a little, I think he'll pace." "I say!" with various other sayings, too contemptible in their character to be uttered by the smallest school boy, without producing on the cheek of every lover of good order in society the crimson tinge of shame. Then it was, that we could go to church, and listen to the ministrations of God's word, without being in momentary expectation of seeing the minister subject to the humiliating insults of the young hopefuls of the land. But, alas, how changed! Notwithstanding, we have at the present day, in almost every town and village, in lieu of those rude pine-log cabins, large and commodious academies, well endowed, and furnished with all the necessary apparatus, yet, whether the system of teaching has been improved or not, with many, remains a matter of doubt; and whether the pupil really realizes the substantial benefits of education under modern instruction, that he was accustomed to receive in former days is, (with the writer at least) equally uncertain. If we were disposed to discuss the question in behalf of the present system of instructing youth, we would not consider the history of the past calculated to strengthen our position much. For it is certain, that some of the greatest men that have ever lived, whose memory still adorns the pages of history, and who have left behind them a fame that can only be obliterated by the all-destroying end of time, received the rudiments of their education in the common school of the forest, and by their own untiring exertions reared thereon the superstructure themselves.

As we have already observed that the sole object to be attained in the romantic schools of antiquity was substantial, useful practical knowledge; and while we shall not attempt to deny, that the same object actuates many at the present day, to send their children to school; yet, we cannot help noting as remarked in the outset, the difference in disposition both in parent and child to acquire such knowledge. Let a boy, "now a days," violate with impunity the rules of decorum in his school, or rather his academy, and though he may not have passed the age of ten or twelve years, the only alternative is expulsion, or the teacher must knock under; he is of course too big to be flogged a little; and in nine cases out of ten, the consequences are the young hopeful is suffered to go uneducated, and in some instances, I will venture to add, they are brought up a nuisance to society, and a curse to the rising generation.

Time has been when he, who could acquire the greatest amount of useful knowledge in the shortest time, was considered the pattern of the school. But alas, how changed! At this enlightened age of the world, the youth who can use the most ludicrous sayings, he who is best versed in blackguardism, he who can insult a stranger in the archest manner, he who can swear the biggest oaths, and sport the prettiest mistakes, is (in many parts of the country) the model student.

That there are some exceptions to this rule, may, perhaps, with some degree of propriety be admitted. But daily observation teaches every observer of facts that there is more truth than speculation in these deductions. Would to God, it was otherwise! Would that parents would take a greater interest in rearing their children, as they did in the days of which we have

briefly spoken. Then, instead of preparing the head for naught but a luxurious bush of wool and hair, many, no doubt, who are now only fit for the midnight revel, the levity of the grogshop, and the society of black-legs and blackguards, would, by the acquisition of useful, practical knowledge, be far better prepared to tread in the footsteps of the illustrious dead. OUCHITA.

[From the Carolina Times.]

Erskine College.—Education Cheap.

Messrs. Editors:—I have been engaged for some time in attempting to secure an endowment for Erskine College, on the scholarship plan.—During a recent visit to your city I called the attention of one of your leading citizens to the plan, who suggested the propriety of presenting its advantages to the public through some of the papers of the city.

Will you be kind enough to allow me a little space in your valuable paper for that purpose? I desire to be brief. Erskine College is located at Due West, a pleasant, healthy village, in Abbeville District, four miles from Donald's Depot, on the Columbia & Greenville Railroad. The College commenced its operations as an Academy, in 1836.—It assumed the Collegiate form in a few years, and graduated its first class in 1842. It was chartered by the Legislature in 1849, under the name of Erskine College. One article in the charter prohibits the opening of any shop or store for the retail of ardent spirits within two miles of the College.—thus guarding the pupils against the degrading vice of intemperance.

The College is under the supervision of a Board of Trustees, subject to the control of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod of the South. It has been, and continues to be, patronized by the Christian community at large. The Board of Trustees is composed of Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and members of the A. R. Church, and its faculty, six in number, are of the A. R. Church, with the exception of one, who is an Episcopalian. The above may be items of interest to some, and for that reason they are given.

Many of the friends of the Institution live out of the State of South Carolina, and altogether some have been liberal towards it, yet as a general thing, they do not manifest the same deep interest in its welfare that they would, if it was located in their own State or vicinity. For this and other reasons, the College has always lacked funds. In order to furnish it with funds and enlarge its sphere of usefulness, the Board of Trustees, in 1853, resolved to endow it on the scholarship plan. To this scheme of cheap education, I will call the attention of your readers in another article. Yours, &c.

In a former article I gave some items of information touching the location, origin, and government of Erskine College,—its demand for funds and the plan adopted by the Board of Trustees to secure the requisite endowment. I now call the attention of your readers, especially, to the "plan of endowment," and ask them to aid in its completion and enjoy its advantages.

The plan is similar to the scheme adopted by Colleges in other States. The object is to secure a permanent fund, the interest of which will be sufficient to sustain the Professors, purchase books and apparatus, without depending on tuition and the semi-occasional and scanty contribution of friends.

In order to raise a permanent fund for Erskine of one hundred thousand dollars, the Board of Trustees adopted a plan, some of the leading articles of which we subjoin, omitting the preamble:
Resolved, That the following plan of endowment be adopted by the Board of Trustees for Erskine College, viz:

An endowment Fund of a Hundred Thousand Dollars shall be created by the sale of Scholarships; which Scholarships shall be offered on the following terms and conditions:

1. The payment of forty dollars (\$40), shall entitle a single scholar, which shall entitle the subscriber to the tuition of one student during the term of six years.
2. The payment of sixty dollars (\$60), shall entitle a Scholarship which shall entitle the subscriber to the tuition of one or more of his own sons, or of any student, he may select, amounting in the aggregate, to twelve years.
3. Any person securing to the Trustees of said College, the sum of one hundred dollars, (\$100), shall be entitled to the education, free of tuition expenses, of one son or nominee, for the term of twenty five years, or of two or more pupils at the same time amounting in the aggregate to twenty five years.
4. The purchaser of a limited scholar, may enjoy the advantages of the same at such time, and at such intervals, as may suit his convenience.
5. Any individual, association of individuals, or congregation, who pay or secure to the Trustees of Erskine College, the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500), shall be entitled to a perpetual scholarship, to which the purchaser may appoint any pupil he may select to receive the same.
6. The funds arising from the sale of

scholarships shall be invested in bonds or stock of the State, or of the United States, the Banks of the State of South Carolina, or well secured individual bonds, and the interest or income only arising from such investment shall be appropriated to increase the advantages of education in said College.

All scholarships created by these proceedings, both limited and perpetual, may be transferred by bargain or sale, or assigned or devised by Will; and in case of intestacy, they shall pass to the administrators as other property.

All students sent to said College on any of these scholarships shall be subject to the regulations and discipline of the Institution.

Subscriptions to perpetual scholarships shall, in all cases, be binding; but the subscriber will not be required to make payment until one year after the date of their subscriptions; and whenever the money is paid, they shall receive certificates securing to them the benefit of their scholarship.

This last section says that "subscriptions to the perpetual scholarships shall, in all cases, be binding." Other subscriptions were not to be binding unless \$50,000 could be raised by subscription. That amount and something more has been subscribed, and now all subscriptions are binding, both limited and perpetual. In fact, subscriptions are no longer taken, but scholarships are now sold for cash, or note with approved security.

Not to be tedious, or to occupy too much space, I will call attention to the above "Plan" in another article.

In a previous article I gave some of the principal sections of the "Plan of Endowment" for Erskine College.

The scheme must commend itself as the cheapest and the best on that account, that has ever been presented to the citizens of South Carolina. It is adapted to the hard times and to men of moderate means. The scheme is in successful operation, and about ninety-six students are enjoying the advantages of the scholarships. Boarding is the principle item in the expenses of an education. At Due West, boarding, including washing and room rent, can be had for eight or ten dollars per month. What the students saves in tuition, on the scholarship plan, will pay his boarding for three months yearly. A man has three sons or pupils; he enters them in the Freshman Class and keeps them in College four years each—twelve years in all. He procures a sixty dollar scholarship, entitling him to twelve years, and in the operation he saves enough to pay more than twelve months boarding for each of his boys. He gets his tuition at the rate of five dollars per annum, and the education, when it is obtained, at this cheap rate, is just as sound and as thorough as it would have been at fifty dollars per annum elsewhere.

The scholarships may be transferred by bargain or sale, like other property; they may be enjoyed at any time they may suit the convenience of the purchaser to send a student. If a man is not ready to send a son, as the College, if fully endowed, will be worth more to the son, five or ten years hence, than at the present time.

But there are, no doubt, many men in the State of large hearts and large means, who would take pleasure in aiding an Institution in the State to complete its endowment without regard to the advantages which the scholarships would afford them. Some twenty thousand dollars have been subscribed to the endowment in North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and other Southern States; and while the friends of education and religion, out of the State, are spending their substance to build up a College in South Carolina, will not the friends of education in the State lend a hand to place Erskine College on a permanent money basis?

The State needs such Institutions, and Erskine College has proved itself worthy of the confidence and patronage of the public. Its professors have been trying to sustain for years on very short allowance, in order to keep the College up until more propitious times. But the times are becoming more difficult, the expense of living is greater than formerly; and the salaries of the Professors must be increased and other advantages obtained, or the College must go down, or lag behind its fellows who have more friends and funds. Will the friends of education in the State suffer a College to decline or deteriorate for want of support which others, out of the State, are striving to sustain, especially when that Institution is offering to pay back in tuition, five times the worth of the money contributed?

What, Messrs. Editors, are \$100, or \$500 to many of your readers? A drop in the bucket, compared with their wealth. A sum that they could give without detriment to themselves, and which would be a great advantage to the College, and through it to the State.

Some may not be able or willing to take a scholarship, but would be willing to give five, ten, twenty, or fifty dollars to the College. All such contributions will be gratefully received, and by being applied to the liquidation of that debt or to the endowment fund.

Wesley A. Lockhart, well known to the

citizens of Columbia and to many in the State, is authorized to act as agent in selling scholarships and in collecting funds for Erskine. Will not a generous public make his agency a delightful one by furnishing a large amount of "material aid?" Yours truly, W. R. HEMPHILL.

An Act to Raise Supplies

For the Year commencing in October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly and by the authority of the same, That a tax for the sums, and in the manner herein after mentioned, shall be raised and paid into the public treasury of the State, for the use and service thereof, that is to say: fifty cents ad valorem on every hundred dollars of the value of all the lands granted in this state, according to the existing classification as heretofore established; one half cent per acre on all lands lying within the Catawaba Indian lands, until otherwise directed by law; sixty cents per head on all slaves; two dollars on each free negro, mulatto or mestizo, between the ages of fifteen and fifty years, except such as shall be clearly proved, to the satisfaction of the collectors, to be incapable, from maims or otherwise, of procuring a livelihood; twenty cents ad valorem on every hundred dollars of the value of all lots, lands and buildings within any city, town, village or borough in the State; sixty cents per hundred dollars on factory employments, faculties and profession of dentistry, (whether in the profession of the law the profits to be derived from the costs of suit, fees or other sources of professional income,) excepting clergymen, school-masters, school-mistresses and mechanics, and on the amount of commissions received by vendue masters and commission merchants; thirty cents per hundred dollars on the capital stock paid in on the first of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, of all banks which, for their present charters, have not paid a bonus to the State; twenty cents per hundred dollars on the capital stock of all incorporated gas-light companies; one per cent on all premiums taken in this State by incorporated Insurance Companies, and by the agencies of Insurance Companies, and underwriters without the limits of the State; ten cents upon every hundred dollars of the amount of sales of goods, wares and merchandise, embracing all the articles of trade for sale, barter or exchange, (the products of the State and the unmanufactured products of any of the United States or Territories thereof excepted,) which any person shall have made from the first day of January of the present year, to the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, either on his, her or their capital, borrowed capital, or on account of any person or persons as agent, attorney or consignee; twenty cents upon every hundred dollars of the amount of sales of goods, wares and merchandise whatever, which any transient person, not resident in this State, shall make in any house stall or public place; ten dollars per day for representing publicly, for gain and reward, any play, comedy, tragedy, interlude or farce, or other employment of the stage, or any part thereof; or for exhibiting wax figures or other shows of any kind whatsoever, to be paid into the hands of the Clerks of the Court respectively, who shall be bound to pay the same, into the public treasury, except in cases where the same is now required by law to be paid to corporations or otherwise.

SEC. 2. That all taxes levied on property, as prescribed in the first section of this act, shall be paid to the tax collector for the district or parish in which said property is located.

SEC. 3. In making assessments for taxes on the value of taxable property used in manufacturing or for railroad purposes within this State, the value of the machinery used therein shall not be included, but only the value of the lots and buildings as property merely.

SEC. 4. That the tax collectors in the several districts and parishes in this State, in their returns hereafter to be made, be and they are hereby required and enjoined to state the precise amount of taxes collected by them, for the purpose of supporting the police of the said several districts and parishes aforesaid, stating the rates per centum on the amounts of the State tax collected for said district and parish police purposes; and the Comptroller General shall return the same to his report.

SEC. 5. That free negroes, mulattoes, mustizos, be and they are hereby required to make their returns, and pay their taxes during the month of March.

In the Senate House, the twenty-first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and in the seventh-ninth year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

R. F. W. ALSTON,
President of the Senate.
JAMES SIMONS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

That man who follows the sea, thinks the small of life with it one of these days.

The new paper is a law book for the lawyer and a companion to the lay!

The Monster Lump of Gold.

An immense lump of quartz gold has been found in Calaveras county, weighing 161 pounds, or 2,576 ounces avoirdupois. Estimating it to contain 20 pounds of quartz rock, which is a large allowance, in the opinion of experienced persons who examined it, the actual weight of the gold in it will be 141 pounds, or 1,256 ounces avoirdupois, the value of which, at \$17.25 per ounce, would be \$388,916. This is the largest nugget of pure gold ever found in California or in the world! It was brought down to the city yesterday by Adams & Co. and will be shipped to the Atlantic States in the steamer of to-day. The proprietors of it were so excited by their good luck that they sat up beside their treasure night and day on its way here.—Mr. Perkins, one of the Company to whom it belongs, states that it was taken out in Calaveras county, on Wednesday evening, November 22d, just as the Company were about quitting work for the day. He would not give any particulars in regard to where the claim is located, except that it is in the county above named.

The company consists of four Americans and one Swiss. Mr. Perkins belongs to Lexington, Ky., and for the past two years, although he has labored hard, was not very successful, never having more than \$200 at any one time during that period. The length of this immense mass is about fifteen inches, and its width from five and one half to six inches. As one side is extremely irregular and uneven in its formation, it is difficult to arrive at the exact thickness, but it will probably average four inches. The other side is almost flat and presents a solid mass of pure gold; the only quartz perceptible is on the upper or ragged side, and some pieces are so loosely imbedded in the precious metal that they might be easily removed. The whole mass, at some period, has apparently been in a fused state.—San Francisco paper.

ARTFUL EXPEDIENT.—A laborer in Italy, employed in throwing down rubbish from a house, called to the passengers to take care; but one of them paying no attention to the warning, was wounded by a stone. He cited the man at the court of justice, and demanded damages. A celebrated advocate undertook the defence of the laborer; but he found it impossible to prove that his client had really warned the passenger to take care, he had recourse to an expedient to gain his object.

When the case therefore came to be tried, and the defendant was asked why he had thrown down the stones so heedlessly, he stood mute and motionless. The Judge repeated his question, but he maintained an obstinate silence; and when the Judge expressed his surprise at it, the advocate said that his client was, unfortunately, deaf and dumb.

"No, no," exclaimed the plaintiff, off his guard, "it is false, it is an evasion; I myself heard him very plainly say, 'Take care!'"

"And why, then, did you not follow his warnings?" said the Judge, smiling, as he dismissed the case.

A young man of Cincinnati, a carpenter by trade, recently fell heir to a fortune of nine thousand dollars, by the death of his uncle, who resided in Baltimore. He immediately gave up his situation, and going to the Monumental City, finding that he could not obtain possession of the money for six months, in his overbearing anxiety, he sold his claim for eight thousand dollars. With this sum he returned to Cincinnati, rented a fine house, bought fine furniture, lived sumptuously, treated his friends, visited the gambling saloons, and before he awoke from his delirium he had spent six thousand dollars of the fortune. It may truly be said "a fool and his money is soon parted."

RAILROAD SUPERINTENDENT.—We are informed that Mr. H. T. Peake, late Superintendent of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, has been elected Superintendent of the South Carolina Railroad. His vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Edward F. Roath. Mr. Peake is an excellent officer, and under his efficient management the affairs of the transportation department of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad have been well conducted. Mr. Roath is a very fit successor, in every way qualified for the laborious duties of his office.—Carolina Times.

The Howard Association of New Orleans has published a report of their transactions during the prevalence of the yellow fever the past season, by which we learn that they extended relief to 1,240 cases of yellow fever, of which 116 were American, 42 English, 469 Irish, 541 Germans, and 54 French; 177-6 of these cases died, and the rest were discharged, cured. In addition, the Association relieved 376 distressed families. Their expenditures in the city of New Orleans amounted to \$17,683 00, and their donations to other afflicted Southern towns amounted to \$4,021.

A school examination, one of the visiting committees, was asked the class the meaning of words. They answered well until he gave "charismatic." It went down the class until it came to a simple little urchin, who looked wisely knowing and said: "It may be a..."