



The Sabbath Recorder.

Western, R. I., Fifth-day, Nov. 22, 1866. GEORGE B. UTTER, EDITOR.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Those who have listened for a few years past to the reading of letters from our churches to the Conference and the Associations, can not have failed to notice the indications of a growing interest in Sabbath Schools.

It has been apparent, however, to those who have given attention to the subject, that in order to the highest efficiency of our Sabbath Schools, some fostering care outside of the churches was needed—some organization was needed by which the statistics of all the schools could be collected, the best means of conducting them suggested, and a friendly rivalry among them created.

The importance of having a Sabbath School Paper of our own was taken into consideration by the Convention referred to, and we have received a letter on the subject from a member of the Committee appointed by the Convention.

SABBATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

To the Churches composing the Seventh-day Baptist Western Association: Dear Brethren,—A Convention of Sabbath School Superintendents and Teachers, pastors of churches, and others interested in the cause, was held at Nile, N. Y., Oct. 24th, 1866, for the purpose of considering what might be done to give systematic organization and greater efficiency to the Sabbath Schools comprised within the bounds of the Western Association.

Convinced that no enterprise has a stronger claim upon the sympathies and prayers of Christians, the undersigned, in pursuance of their instructions, do earnestly request that the churches of the Western Association will co-operate in this movement, by having their several schools represented in our Annual Meetings, and as far as possible in other meetings that may from time to time be held; also, by furnishing such pecuniary aid as may be necessary to carry out the object of our organization.

The average number of scholars in attendance through the year; The number of classes and teachers; The names of Superintendent and other officers; The number of volumes in, and general condition of, the library; Whether the school is discontinued in winter, or maintained throughout the year; Whether any Sabbath School paper is taken, and how many copies;

How many of the scholars are members of the church; The number of conversions, or additions to the church, from the school during the year; The number of deaths, whether of scholars or teachers; The amount of money raised, and for what objects;

What are the wants of the school, which might be relieved by the Association, or in reference to which the advice of the Association might be of service; together with such other items of information as may serve to give interest to the meeting, and lay a foundation for its business.

These matters being fully reported, it is hoped that the Association will be able to exercise that fostering care over all the schools which will greatly conduce to their prosperity. It will be seen from the Minutes, that we propose to send out an agent as soon as a suitable person can be obtained, to visit all the churches, for the especial purpose of promoting Sabbath School interests.

THOMAS B. BROWN, President. L. A. PLATT, Cor. Secretary. Nile, N. Y., Nov. 12th, 1866.

UTILITY.

Delivered at the Anniversary Session of the Alleghany Lyceum of Alfred University, July 30, 1866.

Utility is the watchword of the age. With many persons, nothing has inherent excellence. The value of things is a representative value. The test to which everything is subjected is, "What is its practical use?" In our age, among men in general, the very forces of nature have no higher dignity than as stock in trade.

The first thing to be done in discussing the subject of Utility, is to determine its relative importance. Its very meaning supposes some end to be obtained. It is an attribute of something by which that thing is adapted to secure the object proposed. In this adaptation lies its whole value.

These remarks prepare the way for the following general statements: 1. Intrinsic excellence is higher than all utility.

2. In degree, utility ranks according to the dignity of its end.

The truth of these statements is so evident, that they would seem to need no discussion. But in general practice their reverse is practically assumed. For instance, the masses make intrinsic excellence subordinate to utility. They ignore in a great measure the sense of the beautiful in man, and bring every thing to the standard of usefulness.

useless expenditure of precious dollars, if nothing worse.

So, also, in education, they overlook the dignity and excellence of man, and instead of educating him as a rational and immortal intelligence, they train him for the particular use he is to serve. Is he to be a mechanic or farmer? The elementary branches are enough for his purpose.

But if man is really created in the image of God, and possesses powers which exalt him above the rank of a mere instrument, his education should certainly be such as to unfold and increase his inherent excellence, and thus prepare him for the exalted sphere which he was created to fill.

In reference to the relative degree of utility possessed by different instrumentalities, common practice is at variance with our second proposition, viz., that utility ranks in degree according to the dignity of its end. Utility is commonly ascribed exclusively to those things that have their end in the physical nature of man. To such objects all business pursuits are directed, and business is practically assumed to be the most important concern of life.

At this point we meet with a common error among the friends of education. Many suppose that the principal object of education is the acquisition of knowledge. Hence for the greater number of facts of which a branch of study treats, the greater its utility.

Again, a parsonage will tend to prevent a pastor from spending too much time in physical labor. Ministers are men. If they purchase real estate, they are apt to purchase too much. They are apt to purchase farms. Then they want to improve them properly.

[To be continued.]

BEECHER AND THE INDEPENDENT.—A New York letter says that Mr. Beecher feels deeply aggrieved at the course taken by the Independent in relation to his Cleveland letter and his position in the Republican party.

tain a sermon one week and lecture-lars, if nothing worse. So alternately through the year. Mr. Beecher keeps in his church a photographic reporter, who takes down all he utters in his pulpit or lecture-room. So he holds the matter in his own hands, and he can give his productions to whom he will.

PARSONAGE.

It is an advantage for a church to own a parsonage? I take the affirmative.

Let me first define my idea of a parsonage. Every minister needs a comfortable and respectable home. Comfortable, for the same reason that every creature needs a comfortable shelter. Again, the mind is necessarily affected by physical surroundings; and with the delicacy of mind which a successful minister does possess, how can he sit quietly down to his studies, while remembering that his family is uncomfortable?

Again, with very few exceptions in our denomination, a minister ought to keep a horse. Also, for economy in living, he needs a cow and a garden. His horse and cow need pasture. Therefore, a parsonage should consist of more than simply a house and a small garden.

While here, I paid a visit to the cemetery, located about two miles up the river, one of the most beautiful spots to be found on this sin-cursed planet. It is lavishly decorated with every variety of evergreens and other kinds of shade trees, and all kinds of flowering shrubs that will thrive in this climate; its gravelled walks and carriage tracks wind in every direction, so that the burial lots are not subject to that painful, rigid, uniform square, which seems to have prevailed throughout almost every section of country.

Again, a parsonage will tend to prevent a pastor from spending too much time in physical labor. Ministers are men. If they purchase real estate, they are apt to purchase too much. They are apt to purchase farms. Then they want to improve them properly. To do so they must spend more time in physical labor than is necessary for health, and this exhaust their energies.

could it, if it gave to him enough in addition to a parsonage, so that he could feel himself generously provided for.

Again, if the church owns the home of the pastor, it will enable the church and pastor to be properly independent of each other. It is but just that a church should pay its minister for time spent in its behalf. It is simply an even exchange. Yet no true minister labors with a church merely for the pay.

I have also seen a marvelous thing here—a consistent abolitionist—one who allowed a colored lady who labored in the kitchen, to sit at the table every meal with the family and guests—thus showing the spirit of humanity and of Christ.

HEBROK, Nov. 8, 1866.

NOTES OF A TOURIST.

NUMBER XIII. NYSICK, Conn., Aug., 1866.

Here I am in Greenmanville; and what matter is it how I got here, whether on the wing, or some other way? Surely, no one could imagine it was accomplished without some kind of locomotion.

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cornice which surrounds it, and surmounted by a pyramid, perhaps two feet more. Under the cornice, and attached to it, and on each of the six sides, is the front half of the head of a small child, fully embossed, the line of profile inclining perhaps twenty-five degrees from a perpendicular. Not far from this is the likeness of a small child, in beautiful white marble, laid away in its crib, and covered with a glass canopy.

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FUTURE OF THE SABBATH.

ELD. A. H. LEWIS:

Dear Brother,—Though I am not aware that I have ever seen you, yet for some years past I have been forming an agreeable acquaintance with you through the Recorder; and therefore take the liberty of addressing you. I have tasted the fruits that the "Gleaner" has gathered, and liked the quality.

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Republican majorities, about: Massachusetts, 70,000; New York, 3,000; New Jersey, 10,000; Illinois, 50,000; Wisconsin, 20,000; Missouri, 25,000; Minnesota, 20,000; Kansas, 8,000.

Now this is splendid, if the people were asleep. What would they not have done had they been awake, as I supposed! But perhaps M. Quad don't agree with my reason why I supposed the people awake.

the resurrection of Sabbath truth have fully come." But there is a vein of hopefulness for the future of our American government, in your article, which I believe is doomed to be disappointed. As the advocates of Sunday observance ignore the law of God, so those who hope for the general prevalence of the true Sabbath, ignore the prophecies. And although, without the aid of the prophecies, one might doubt which way was about to prevail in this country, yet I believe that the true Sabbath, or the Sunday Sabbath, will prevail in theory, and gain the so-much coveted support of law.

The work of God is never behind the season. His warnings are timely; they always come before the danger is upon us. The last deep conflict upon the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, is right before us, as you seem to be aware. But the warning message has been rising for nearly twenty years.

Now is the time to venture upon the word of God, accept of the message of his own provision, so as to work effectually in the closing struggle with the powers of darkness, and then, translated, stand with the Lamb upon Mount Zion. I repeat it, now is the time. In a little while the victors will wear the crown.

The prophecies, which are God's promises to us, cannot fail. "The Scriptures cannot be broken." God's plans and purposes cannot be defeated by men. It is safe to venture upon all his promises, for he is faithful to his word.

Yours in love, R. F. COTTRELL.

"THE PEOPLE AWAKE."

In regard to D. E. Maxson's article, "The People Awake," it is well, perhaps, that we don't all see alike; if we did, there would be no room for discussion; and opposition, with many, is the spice of life.

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STATUS OF SECESSION STATES.

In the Recorder of November 1st, I find an article written by A. M. Whitford, Esq., entitled, "What is the Political Status of the Secession States?"—to which I desire to call the attention of its readers a few moments. The author commences by saying, that "Treason attaches only to persons, not to States."

Prior to the Revolution, the colonies were compelled to recognize the "divine right of kings," or, in other words, the assumption, that a king (being a corporation) can do no wrong; but in 1776 this dogma was denied, and some time during the war, and the English monarchy, it expired, at least, our fathers did not incorporate the doctrine into the Constitution. Has it ever been revived? If so, when? States are corporations, and as such can commit the very acts which, if done by natural persons, would be treason. Is it any the less treason because the natural persons are incorporated into an artificial one? If so, it were well for us to get a charter of incorporation, and thereby place ourselves beyond the penalty of the law!

After stating further, that the secession of a portion of the People of a State cannot affect the position of the State in the Union, &c., Mr. W. goes on to say, "The United States is bound to restore the government to its loyal inhabitants, with all their rights, both state and national, unimpaired."

Upon the question of Secession, Mr. W. says, what every one admits, "that Congress held in '61, that a State had no right to secede from the Union;" nay, more—it was claimed that Secession was treason. But does this prove that eleven States did not secede? Mr. W. evidently thinks it does, for he says, "If the seventy eight was in the confederate government at all, it must have been rightfully there."

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The letter during the war. The individuals...

The METEORS.—The Atlantic telegraph...

The New York authorities have contracted...

Lucy C. Stevens, of Eaton, Ohio, while...

The Police Commissioners of Baltimore have...

We direct the attention of such readers...

In Ashway, Oct. 31st, 1866, of diphtheria...

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. AGENTS WANTED FOR THE MOST...

PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN POLAND.—A letter...

A NEW PLAN to harmonize the North and...

Mr. Thompson Miller, who is described as...

The bill making habitual drunkenness a...

In the cabinet of Yale College there is...

ROOFING in rolls ready to be nailed down...

LETTERS. Truman Saunders, David Babcock, S. W. Wheeler...

A PUBLIC DINNER, given to Cyrus W. Field...

THE ATLANTIC CABLE announces the arrival...

THE SANTA FE RAILROAD has been destroyed...

A RETIRED BANKER from Albion, Mich., was...

A GRANITE TOMB is to be built at Arlington...

THE INDIAN name of the Sandy River in...

FOUR CHARITABLE ENTERPRISES for the benefit...

THE WOOLEN BUSINESS, which for the last...

THE STEAMER GREAT EASTERN, though at first...

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY is building himself...

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE, at their session...

THE GREAT NEW ENGLAND REMEDY! THE GREAT...

THE WHITE PINE COMPOUND. It is now offered...

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THE POPE READY TO DIE FOR HIS RIGHTS.—In...

THE NEW YORK FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION...

THE STEAMER GREAT EASTERN, though at first...

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY is building himself...

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE, at their session...

THE GREAT NEW ENGLAND REMEDY! THE GREAT...

THE WHITE PINE COMPOUND. It is now offered...

MADAME JEMER, once the wife of Aaron Burr...

THE NEW YORK FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION...

THE STEAMER GREAT EASTERN, though at first...

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY is building himself...

THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE, at their session...

THE GREAT NEW ENGLAND REMEDY! THE GREAT...

THE WHITE PINE COMPOUND. It is now offered...

A SINGULAR FACT, according to the newspapers...

THE NEW YORK FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION...

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