town Transcript.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1866. NO. 43.

For the Transcript.

Arithmetical.

MR. EDITOR:—We present the following solution of the Arithmetical Question published several weeks since. From the question we learn that the salary of the teacher did not increase proportionately to the number of his scholars; but that he submitted to a deduction of his rate when the number exceed 20. Let us find this deduction. If he received $25 for 20 pupils his rate per pupil was $1.25. 30 pupils at $1.25 give him a salary of $37.50. Instead of this he received $30, submitting to a deduction of $7.50 or 1-5 of what he would have received at undiminished rates. This deduction of 1-5 is occasioned by an excess of 10 pupils over 20—an excess of one would hence cause a deduction of 1-50 and of 10 of 9-50. Now 20 pupils at $1.25 afford an income of $36 25, of which the teacher loses 9-50 or $6.525. Hence $6.25 less 6.525 equals $29.722 or what he receives. B.

Arithmetical Questions.

No. 1. A owes B $500, for which B engages to wait a year longer, provided A would pay a part and the interest at 6 per cent in advance on the remainder. A paid $229, and it is required to determine what part is to be credited upon the principal, and what part will be required to pay the year's interest on the unpaid portion of the principal?

No. 2. Three men Henry, Richard and Robert with their wives Hannah, Mary, Ann, going to a store to buy cloth, each of them purchases as many yards as he or she gives shillings per yard; each man expends 63 shillings more than his wife; also, Henry buys 24 yds. more than Mary, and Richard 11 yds. more than Hannah. Please point out from the data, the wife of each; no fractions being admitted? F.

One Generation of Men Wiser Than Another.

One day the Calif Almanser, one of the vainest of the Arabian monarchs, was conversing familiarly with the famous poet Fazelli, with whom he delighted to talk, when retired from the cares of his empire.

"Thou thinkest" said he to Fazelli, "that I am not wiser than my father? Why is it so; doth not every succeeding generation add to the wisdom of that which preceded it?"

"Dost thou think thyself wiser than the prophet?" answered the poet, bowing his head reverentially.

"Assuredly not," answered the Calif.

"Dost thou think thyself wiser than Solomon?" asked the poet, bowing still lower.

"Assuredly not," again answered the Calif.

"Dost thou think thyself wiser than Moses, who commanded with Allah himself?" a third time demanded the poet, bowing to the ground.

Almanser was for a moment thoughtful, and held down his head.

"Assuredly not," replied he at length. "I were foolishly presumptuous to think so."

"Then how," resumed Fazelli, "canst thou prove that each succeeding generation is wiser than another that is past?"

"The aggregate of knowledge is certainly increased," replied the Calif.

"True, O my king," replied Fazelli, "but knowledge is not wisdom. Wisdom points out the road to happiness and virtue; knowledge is only an acquaintance with a mass of facts which are not necessarily connected with either wisdom, virtue or happiness, the only objects worthy the pursuit of a wise man. The knowledge of things has certainly increased, but, O king! remember that wisdom is always the same; as much so as the great power by whom it is dispensed. Thou mayst perhaps know more of the moon, the stars, the earth, and the sea, than thy father; but of thy organization, thy soul, thy passions, appetites, the power to direct them, and the duties which he bestowed them upon thee, thou knowest no more than the meanest of thy father's slaves."

"Thou sayest true," replied the Calif, bowing his head reverently. "Allah, teach me humility."

"Great King," said Fazelli, "lament not thine ignorance. Everything we cannot comprehend furnishes proof of the existence of a Being wiser than ourselves."

Transferring of Vital Power.

A not uncommon cause of loss of vital powers is the young sleeping with the aged. The fact, however exhibited, has been long remarked; but it has been most unaccountably overlooked in medicine. I have, on several occasions, met with the counterpart of the following case:—I was a few years since consulted about a pale, sickly, and thin boy, of about five or six years of age. He appeared to have no specific ailment, but there was a slow and remarkable decline of flesh and strength, and of the energy of all the functions—what his mother very aptly termed a gradual blight. After inquiring into the history of the case, it came out that he had been a robust and plethoric child up to his third year, when his grandmother, a very aged person, took him to sleep with her; that he soon afterwards lost his good looks; and he had continued to decline ever since, notwithstanding medical treatment. I directed him to sleep apart from his aged grandparent, and prescribed tonics, change of air, &c. The recovery was rapid. It is not with children only that debility is induced by this mode of abstracting vital power. Young females, married to very old men, suffer in a similar manner, though not to the same extent. These facts are often well known to the aged themselves, who consider the indulgence favorable to longevity, and, therefore, often illustrates the selfishness which in some persons, increases with their years. Those in good health should never [illegible] with sickly persons.—*A Physician.*

The Power of Kind Words.

We have seldom seen a more striking illustration of the power of kind words, than in the following extracts from the confession of the robber and murderer, Henry Wilson. In two instances a few casual words of kindness saved the lives of those who uttered them, although they knew nothing of their danger.

When we got in front of the house, we saw what we took to be a man and his wife, and three young women and a boy, eating supper. I proposed to Tom that we should go in and ask to warm, and sit down by the stove a few minutes, and I would look over the chances a little, and if I concluded that we could not guard the doors and windows to prevent the escape of any one, I would say: "Come, Tom, let's be going;" but if I should say, "Well Jack, are you ready?" he was to place himself between the front window to guard them, and I would guard the door, draw our revolvers, and demand a surrender. I told Tom not to shoot any one, unless it was necessary to prevent their escape, and we would tie them all, rob the house of what we wanted, then kill them and set fire to the house; and if any one should come in while we were at work, we were going to shoot him as he should come in at the door.

"Dare you do this?" said I to Tom. "Yes, I dare do anything that you dare do," said Tom. So I went to the door and knocked. The man said "Come in." We went in and asked to warm by the stove. He said, "Yes, you can warm." We sat and warmed till they were nearly through supper, and I thought best to make the attack before they got up from the table. So I got up to give Tom the signal, and the man, supposing I had got up to go, said, "Won't you stay and take some supper?" "Yes, we will take supper with you." The man looked as if he thought I accepted his invitation to supper rather coolly; but if he had known what our intentions were, he would have been perfectly satisfied with my answer, for his kind invitation at the moment when I was about to give the signal to Tom, saved his life and that of his family.

He also relates another incident whereby two lives were saved in the same way:

When I got to Herkimer, I left the railroad and took the carriage road, and about a mile from the town I saw a man and woman in the road before me going the same way. I thought I would pass them and see how they looked, and if well dressed I would turn back, shoot the man and rob him, and take the woman over into the bushes out of the road, and keep her company until about one o'clock, and then kill her, and I would have time to take care of myself before morning. This was about ten o'clock in the evening. So I went on and passed them, and saw they were well dressed and walking very slow, and appeared to be lovers. I went on just out of sight of them, on their account back, took out my revolver and cocked it, and just as I was going to shoot him he spoke very pleasantly to me—"Good evening sir." I answered, "Good evening," and passed on. Since I have been writing my history several persons have said to me, they hoped I would give good advice in it. The best advice I can give is—"Always treat a stranger kindly, for you don't know who or what he is, nor do you know how much good a kind act or a civil word may do you."

Ex. Dean Swift was once travelling through one of the rural parishes, some leagues from London, and introducing himself to the parson as a member of the same profession, was invited to partake of his fraternal hospitalities. The Dean consented, and accompanied the parson to his church the next morning. And there the Dean had the satisfaction of hearing one of his own sermons preached by an ignorant minister without a word of acknowledgment. When the service was over, the Dean asked the preacher how long it took him to write such a sermon. "Oh," said the minister, "I write that sermon in about two hours." "Did you, indeed?" said the dean, in reply. "Why, it took me over two months to write that very sermon."

A Twenty-five Thousand Dollar Tree.

In the month of January, 1866, a remarkable tree was brought to New York from a Western State which is considered by the best judges to be worth $25,000. No foreign tree was ever brought here of so great value. This was a black walnut tree 70 feet long, measuring board or lath measure 4,500 feet, but when cut into veneers it would be 20 times that, making 135,000 feet, which at 20 cents a foot would be $27,000.

Ex. A Superintendent of a mission school, being annoyed by the noise, finally, in appealing to the boys, raising his hand said, "Now, boys, if we can't hear a pin fall." All was silence; when a little fellow in the back part of the room, cocking his ear, and placing himself in an attitude of breathless attention, spoke out, "Let her drop."

Ex. Billings says, "I could never find the meaning of the word, 'collide' in Webster. But riding the other day on the New York Railway I saw it all. It is the attempt of two trains to pass each other on a single track. If I remember correctly, it was a shocking failure."

Ex. Official returns show that there are in Washington sixty wholesale liquor stores and seventeen hundred licensed retailers, who sell eleven million dollars' worth on week days, and pay a license of $75,000 to the United States and about the same amount to the city!

At what age should Children be sent to School.

This is a very important question, but not until recently has it attracted the attention of those engaged in training and moulding the minds of the young. Consequently very little has been said or written on the subject. Children have always been admitted into the public schools too soon. The law has recognized children as being fit subjects to enter school who can scarcely speak all the letters of the alphabet. Scholars should not be permitted to enter school until they are eight years old. It is very injurious to the growth and development of the physical constitution to send children to school at a very early age. Active years of age they cannot be kept sufficiently quiet to establish what might be termed very loose school government, without sustaining an injury; besides it would be a shame, yea a sin for teachers and parents who are so well informed as teachers and parents should be to confine them in doors, compelling them to sit on a bench for six hours, preventing their taking exercise, even to their standing or moving on their seats and compelling them to breathe a vitiated atmosphere, while the voice of nature is consequently urging them to run, jump, talk and engage in such plays or sports as will impart to the muscles growth and vigor. Rapidly growing scholars are not capable of enduring long confinement or mental exertion, the energies of their whole natures being taken up with growth. During this period the first object in view should be to give them large, robust and healthy bodies full of playful vivacity.—No pains should be spared in securing them strong constitutions, supplied with physical energy, that will enable them to be useful and enjoy life all of the *three score and ten years* allotted to man by the Creator; so that the time when they are about coming upon the theater of life, crowned with intellectual laurels, they may not be consigned to a premature grave, and the result attributed to an *attack but not to overwork.* Moreover, the energies of parents and teachers should be put up the intellectual faculties at too early an age, is no doubt in many instances the prime cause of those sad events. Little pains should be taken to cultivate the intellectual faculties until nature has fully matured the brain and nervous system.—Intellectual attainments should be what nature has made them, formed, in spite of time. Let them be developed too late rather than too soon. Teachers and parents should ponder well the great truth that the physical powers or vital temperaments in children are the basis of the nerve *fuel*, and the consequent necessity that much more of the first ten or fifteen be spent in exercise, sleep and nutrition than in study. Scholars rarely feel the importance of education until they are fifteen, and most of them will learn more in one year after that age than in all their lives before. What scholars of eight years of age most need is bodily education. They need to march in the open air and gain vigor, and not sit on a school house, pinned to a bench, pondering over books. A teacher who understands the human body and its wants can soon be detected in the pale and ghastly countenances of many of his pupils the demons of early confinement. With those whose physical constitutions are already dwarfed and warped, he should deal gently, give short lessons and much time to physical exercise. He should consider it his duty to take care of the bodies and health of his pupils as well as their intellects.

It is detrimental to the memory and future progress of scholars to send them to school under eight years of age; from the fact that the brain is the organ of the mind, and that it is weak and immature in childhood; it cannot bear much exercise; it easily strengthens with age and excessive labor can no more be imposed on the brain in childhood than on the rest of the body. Hence, the great folly of requiring extensive early mental application, when has a tendency to retard the brain rather than expand it; to stagnate the blood over those studies in which they take no interest, and to engender a fatal dislike to books.

[John T. Reed.

Noble Sentiments.

Condemn no man, says John Wesley, for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since every man must give an account of himself to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind of degree, to the spirit of persecution. If you cannot reason or persuade a man into the truth, never attempt to force him into it. If love will not compel him to come, leave him to God the judge of all.

Napoleon and the Return of the Jews.

A foreign journal says: "We are assured, on good authority, that the Emperor Napoleon recently invited the principal Jews of France to a conference on the subject of the return of the Jews to the Holy Land, in the course of which he entered thoroughly into the whole subject."

Ex. A few years ago it was rank disloyalty to differ with the President on a question of government policy. Now the tables are turned and you are a traitor if you support him. It does make a difference whose bull is gored.

Ex. When a man and woman are made one by a clergyman, the question is, which is the one. Sometimes there is a long struggle between them before this matter is settled.

Ex. A Michigan soldier, arrested for stealing a goose, said he found the bird hissing at the American flag and arrested him for treason.

Ex. We find the following letter in a late number of the New York News, and recommend it to the consideration of our readers.

Letter from Pierrie.

THOMASVILLE, GA., March 11, 1866.

Abstractly considered, there may be nothing in a manner but considered with reference to the purposes and projections of mankind there is a great deal. Hence it is, that the South is watching with deep interest disruption of old, and the formation of new parties at the North, and the new nomenclature under which the people shall dually arrange themselves. If the Union was not dissolved by the secession of certain of its members, it appears to be almost certain that the great Republican party has ceased to be. But how are the two grand divisions, into all the other party has split off, to be known in the future political history of the country? They are already classed in Congress as Radical Republicans and Conservative Republicans, while the Democrats, in and out of Congress, seemed to be disposed to [illegible] as Democrats. [illegible] We no longer have Whigs and Democrats, Unionists and Disunionists, Know Nothings, or Black Republicans and Black-and-tan men.

This is not all. Any attempt to revive these names or issues in the South would be as useless as a similar attempt would be upon the part of Noah and his sons to revive the names, world and political divisions of the antediluvians. The antediluvians were divided before the deluge swept them from the face of the earth.—Nobody loathes the name of Democrat more than Southern Democrats, who rallied by droves to support secession, unless it be the doughty followers of those blind guides who broke up the Charleston Convention. Some few recoils, with as much pain, the name of Whig, as those Conservative Southern patriots of the old Clay and Webster school, who have lived long enough to witness the desertion of the great body of the Northern Whigs, and their adoption of the most ultra dogmas of political faith. The party opposed to the naturalization of foreigners who sought a home upon our broad, unoccupied land, has dropped out with other political wrecks, and even the class of our people is ready to welcome, encourage, the immigration of foreigners.

The sectional and party issues will never may be their former's belief, than they know Nothings who figured in the South some ten years ago. Indeed, the Southern mind is like a clean sheet of paper, upon which no political watchword have yet been inscribed, and upon which it were perfectly futile to attempt to rewrite the names of those former party organizations, whose rallying shibboleths alone retain to connect the public mind.

The only question now is one of welfare, to consult for the future. It may be the weakness of the people both North and South, even in the matter of the name by which the friends of the Constitution and the enemies of Radicalism shall be hereafter known and designated. It were too much to ask these Republicans who, under the influence of Seward, Sumner, Doolittle and Raymond, are snatching the Presidency, to go over in a body to the Democratic party, and be known in the future as Democrats. It were quite unreasonable to expect the brave, stern and faithful Democrats who have stood by the Constitution and the right through evil as well as good report, to forget the past and range themselves under Mr. Seward and the Republican banner. It were still more unwise to call upon the Southern people, wounded and bruised and impoverished as they have been, to volunteer in the service of either one of these parties. What then should be done?

The answer, in the opinion of the people of the South, is plainly this: Ascertain unconditionally what are the Radicals of the Stevens and Sumner school, the Northern Democrats, the moderate Republicans, and the whole of the Southern people are conservative in their views, and oppose the early restoration of the so-called rebel States upon just and constitutional principles. Why, then it is asked, should not these three great divisions of the people come together and form one party? And having done so, why should not this party take the name of Conservatives, Constitutionists, or Constitutional Unionists?—The integrity of the Union and the preservation of the Constitution are the great stakes at issue. The distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, and the tariff and territorial questions have ceased to agitate the public mind. The preservation intact of the fundamental law upon which all our hopes depend, has taken the place of these once [illegible] questions. It is no longer whether we shall have free or slave territory, or high or low tariff, but whether we shall have a free constitution and a republican form of government at all. The Radicals say we shall not.—The Conservatives say we shall. Thus the issue is made up. The Radicals have already given their black and bloody flag to the breeze. Let the Conservatives unfurl theirs also, and move in open solid phalanx to the rescue of the Constitution, the Union and republican liberty. Any other policy, it is believed, will eventuate, not in the reunion of North and the South, but in the reunion and success of the Republican party upon anti-conservative grounds in 1868.

Ex. "Husband," said an exasperated wife, "I can't express my detestation of your conduct."

"Well my dear, I am very glad you can't," was the cool reply.