DESERET EVENING NEWS.
Tuesday, - - - November 2, 1869.

AN ARMLESS AND LEGLESS TEACHER.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Times* thus describes a strange and interesting phenomenon which he met recently in the valley of Chevreuse:

When passing by a village school, a carriage of peculiar construction drove up to the door, where an expectant crowd had gathered. A strongly built woman, fashionably dressed, alighted, and, without parley, lifted out her companion, who at the first glance had struck me as an able-bodied man in the prime of life. But I presently observed that he had neither legs nor arms, and the skirts of his frock-coat lapped over the arms of the lady who carried him like a baby's mantle over the nurse's. Happening to know the schoolmaster, I asked him who this phenomenon was. He replied, a professor of mathematics and arithmetic from Orleans, who had been authorized by the Council of Public Instruction to give lectures in the primary schools during the Summer months. The schoolmaster also informed me that the lectures were gratuitous, but that the hearers would be expected to buy some arithmetical work at a franc each, written by the "professor."

I at once entered the class-room—a low, wide chamber of irregular form, with joisted ceiling, whitewashed walls, blackened with smoke and fly-stains, and at the opposite extremities a plaster crucifix, and a bust of Louis Napoleon. The front row of benches was occupied by a score of boys, who were all that had come to school, though the commune includes six villages. Some looked intelligent, but the majority lumpish. There were a couple who were evidently gentlemen's children; the rest wore the blue-smock, donned always in the country by workmen and small farmers. Behind there were upwards of one hundred and fifty pupils, and a stream of country people pressed about the door.

The phenomenon had been seated on a platform behind the schoolmaster's desk, and made himself quite at home. He authoratively ordered the four windows to be thrown open, and whistled at and scolded the rustics, who showed any inclination to stop near him for the purpose of staring. "Be off to your seats; be off, go quickly, and don't be vexing me with your stupid looks." "I say, you people at the door, stay in, or stay out; if you do come in, you must hold your tongues." "Now, boys, no whispering, and casting your eyes down till the sum begins." On saying this to the astonished children, he seized a white pocket handkerchief in his teeth, dropped it on the back rail of his chair, twisted round his body and rubbed his face against it violently to wipe off the profuse prespiration which followed on his outbreak of ill-humor.

He was dressed in black, with a white cravat, and had fifteen silver medals attached to his breast. His brain is of extraordinary hight, and breadth at the base, but the diameter at the top remarkably narrow. The face is well shaped, but was spoiled on this occasion by a wrathful expression. The development of the cheek and jaw muscles, arising out of the necessity of making the mouth supplement a handless stump, amounts almost to deformity. This stump, not more than four inches long grows at a curious angle out of the left shoulder, and is furnished with a natural crook at the end like a dwarfed first finger.

The eye seemed to do the office of the tongue. I never saw one more expressive of a rapidly working brain, especially when the tests of arithmetical capacity were being applied by the Mayor and schoolmaster, and a member of the Institute who happened to be staying *en villagiature* in the hamlet. Grandmange—that is the phenomenon's name—sat with his back to the blackboard on which some of the beforementioned persons had stated the most difficult sums they could think of in common arithmetic or algebra, and pronounced problems in trigonometry. The answers were given in an amazingly short time, without any apparent aid. He multiplied by eighteen, and thirty-six to shorten his operations. As he did the additions, multiplications, ect., aloud, they were rapidly noted down on the blackboard.

This exhibition over, a lecture was given in arithmetic. The manner was admirable and the matter excellent; but the delivery, clear, forcible and even graceful, was marred from time to time by a shrill whistle like that of a steam engine, intended to impose silence upon whispering rustics, and an angry altercation with the fashionable dressed lady (his wife), who persisted in blocking up the door-step by sitting on it. At the end we were told that while endowed himself with a special capacity for figures, the lecturer had a method which facilitates mental operations, and this method was to be found in a little volume for one franc. The villagers who might not have so much money in their pockets were offered credit on the security of the schoolmaster. Nobody, however, bought on this condition, but francs in ready money poured in with a rapidity creditable to the thirst for knowledge of the audience.

I gather from the prefatory memoir that Charles Grandmange was born at Epinal, without legs or arms, in 1834. his father was a poor man, and intending to exhibit him as a phenomenon, would not allow him to be sent to school. But the child learned to read and write in secret, and at the age of four displayed an extraordinary capacity for arithmetic. At a trial of his skill before the Emperor and the court at Compeigne, several members of the University invited to be present admitted that Grandmange solved almost instantaneously problems which would have taken them a couple of hours. Before dispersing a few ladies were favored with Grandmange's autograph, written in their presence, in bold, flowing characters, with his stump, aided by his mouth.

Turkey has a French University, the French Minister having somehow persuaded the Sultan's Government to give him a fine building for the purpose, into which he put a staff of French professors. But here there arose a trouble—the Mussulmans, the Greeks, the Roman Catholics, the Jews, all objected to it; so there are no pupils. Thereupon the Ottoman Ministry conceived the idea that a Mussulman College would be a good thing, and the Sultan and leading men throughout European Turkey are subscribing for its foundation.

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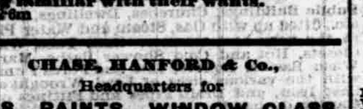
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