

[For the Deseret News.]

EDUCATION... By Sirius.

No. 1.

Education is a subject which has frequently engaged my thoughts—particularly with reference to the early years of youth—those during which the disposition and character, which influence and control the future destiny of the man or the woman, are formed. And I purpose, with your permission, to express a few of my ideas in connection with it, in as plain and interesting a manner as I am able—not presuming that I have anything particularly new to advance, but hoping that the few suggestions I may throw out, may be the means of awakening the attention of a few to the importance of the subject; and when once their minds are aroused to it, their own good sense and judgment will do the rest.

Education is so vast and comprehensive a theme, it will be at once evident to the most casual observer, that it will be impossible to do more than merely touch upon a few of its principal branches in an article of this kind. Taken in its widest range, and most comprehensive sense, it includes all that is, or will be necessary for men and women to know—it reaches far beyond this transient life and embraces eternity in all its thrilling and momentous developments. In reality, we are all but children, and Mormonism, or the Church, is the school in which our Father has placed us, in order that we may gain that experience and intelligence necessary to enable us to fill, with honor to ourselves and to Him, the positions, in a higher sphere, which he destines us to occupy—provided we prove ourselves worthy of them. Education is a work, which, if ever completed, will be at so remote a period, that we need not fear learning too much now. Indeed, the wisest and most learned of the human family, have always asserted, that after a life time assiduously spent in the pursuit of knowledge, they found they had scarcely entered on the confines of the Eternity of truth that lay before them. Viewing it in this light, we might well be overwhelmed at the vastness of the subject, and shrink from the responsibility connected with it.

But we are not required to learn everything in a day. The architect who transfers, from his brain to paper, his designs for the erection of some splendid monument of human skill and intelligence, might well be discouraged were he expected—like the mythical possessor of the fabled Aladdin's lamp—to accomplish in one night, and present to an astonished world in the morning, the practical, tangible completion of his cherished and elaborate design. But he is not discouraged though it take years, or a life time ere he see the image of his fancy an actual, existing fact. And in some instances men have only lived to see the foundation of their cherished work commenced.

The foundation of education, is about all that we can lay in this life—but we can, and should make it our special care to see that such foundation is firm and correct. There are principles, simple and easy to be understood, which form, as it were, the germ of all correct education—the ground work of every pure and noble character—which should be implanted in the breast of every child. We of all people on the face of the earth, ought to appreciate and prize this science of sciences—and yet, I trust you will pardon me, and not deem me pedantic and egotistical, when I say, that but comparatively few among us appear to realize its importance. Many parents seem to forget the responsibilities which rest upon them—that on them depends the future character and usefulness of their children—that they have immortal spirits committed to their charge, and that the impression made upon their plastic minds can never be effaced—that the influence they now wield over them, must be felt powerfully, for good or evil, probably throughout eternity. How many thousands daily throng the avenue to the matrimonial temple, and madly rush to the hymenial altar, who neither realize, nor think of the tremendous responsibilities they are taking upon themselves. It is generally the case, that those least qualified to sustain the relationships of husband and father, are the most eager to enter into them, while those who reflect the most, and realize more fully, the duties and responsibilities of such a relationship, almost tremble to enter the portals of the temple.

Let us then, first inquire, in what does education consist? Is it in spending a certain number of years at school or college—in acquiring a knowledge of English, French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, or any, or all other modern and useful, or ancient and dead languages—in a knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, geology, or, if it were possible, all the other numerous sciences taught at the present day—in acquiring the accomplishments of music, dancing, singing, and learning how to make, what is called a “good appearance in fashionable society?” No, however desirable many of these acquirements may be in themselves, they do not constitute the solid, essential part of education. An individual of either sex might possess a knowledge of all these, and yet have never really and properly commenced the great work of education. These, like the ornaments on the capital of a Corinthian column, add to the beauty of the monument—but the parents who would seek to clothe their children in these simply external graces and accomplishments, before they had properly developed their characters and trained their minds and bodies to habits of virtue and energy, would be as foolish as the sculptor, who would polish his block of marble, before he had developed even the outlines of his statue, or as the man, who would spend all his means in the purchase of fine apparel for his back while he was starving with hunger.

How many young men have gone through their course of studies with great *éclat*, and won for themselves the titles of honor so flattering to students, who have yet emerged from college, totally unfitted to cope with the difficulties of life, to buffet its waves, and face its storms—to overcome the obstacles they are sure to meet with in their path, and to rise triumphant over trials and misfortunes.

On the other hand, how often do we see men who have risen from the humblest walks in life, to the highest and proudest positions among their fellows who struggled upward against the current—who fought their way through the hosts of opposition and temptation that beset them, and in spite of all obstacles, won for themselves a name and fame which are imperishable. And all this, they accomplished, without the advantage—if advantage it may be called—of a collegiate education. True, they could not have done this without knowledge—and knowledge they could not gain without study, observation and reflection. But they principally studied *men*; and their knowledge they gained by their own efforts, after they had learned its full value.

Such has been the history of the greatest men, not only of our own age and country, but of the world. They were self-made—fought their own battles, and carved out their own fortunes. And why did they succeed while so many others failed? Because the proper foundation was laid in their infancy. While others were nursed in the lap of luxury until they became enervated and feminine—these were taught, or forced by circumstances, to cultivate the virtues of self-reliance, energy and perseverance.

Correct education, according to my view, consists in imparting to individuals such knowledge as is necessary to enable them to discharge faithfully the duties devolving upon them in their various positions and callings in life, with honor to themselves, and usefulness to the community. Were a man intending to devote his attention to the cultivation of the ground, it would be folly for him to occupy his time in the study of law or medicine, to the neglect of his own particular department of knowledge—and so with any other course he might decide upon.

It may be asked—would you have a man confine himself to one particular branch of knowledge, and never have him step aside from his beaten, narrow path, to pluck the flowers and taste the fruits of science and knowledge that are everywhere blooming around him? No, but let me ask in return—would you think it wise for a man to busy himself in trying to learn the size, climate and productions of some distant planet; the appearance and character of its inhabitants; their manners, customs and laws, while he was entirely ignorant on all these points pertaining to the one on which he lives? Let men, women and children learn that first which most immediately interests them and effects their happiness; then, as they have opportunities, they can take excursions into the ocean of truth that surrounds them.

But, it may be urged, a man's sphere in life, and consequently his duties, often change.—He may fill one position to-day, and be called to fill another to-morrow. Granted; then he will find, as I before stated, that his education is never completed in this life—and he must endeavor to fit himself for the creditable discharge of his various duties as he passes along. But there are principles, truths, virtues, which are applicable, nay, necessary to success and usefulness in all circumstances and conditions of life. It is to these I mean to advert, with your permission.

From Utah County.

Provo, Nov. 25, 1859.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS—SIR:

Thinking that perhaps to some of the inhabitants of the distant part of our Territory a few words on the welfare and prosperity of this city would be satisfactory, I cheerfully apply myself to the pleasing task of penning a few items.

It is now a general time of good health with the citizens, although considerable sickness prevailed previous to the commencement of cold weather. The time of good weather was generally occupied to good advantage by the inhabitants in drawing wood and making the necessary preparations for the coming winter. The provisions for wintering stock are superior to any I have before seen in this city, as nearly all are bountifully supplied with hay, etc.—perhaps better supplied with the necessities of life for their animals than for themselves, as our harvest has proved to be very light, not yielding upon an average but little more than one half as much as that of the previous year. The improvements of the city in buildings has been very limited during the summer. The Supervisor, though, has expended a large amount of labor in repairing and improving the streets for the last few months—the benefit of which is now being realized, a large amount of snow and rain having fallen during the last two weeks.

The people generally begin to manifest a greater desire to attend meetings for public worship, both on Sundays and during the week and evening meetings.

An evening school has been organized, which will probably prove beneficial to many of our young men—the school being under the control of a very efficient teacher.

A lyceum has also been commenced, which seems to attract considerable attention from many and will no doubt prove a benefit.

A good and peaceable spirit seems to prevail with the majority of the citizens.

The Provo Dramatic Association commenced their performance for the season on the evening of the 19th inst., which will be continued, I understand, every Saturday evening. The society have been at considerable expense in fitting up and preparing scenery and will no doubt produce a fund of profitable recreation and amusement. We observed several of the old performers on the stage, whose well known qualifications need no comment; also several new ones who promise well.

The weather is at present very dull—snowing occasionally—about two inches already lying upon the ground. I am informed by a person just from Provo Valley, that the snow is eighteen inches deep in that valley. L.

Gardening and Hoops.

ED. DESERET NEWS:

In reading an article in your last number on “Women in the Garden,” I have reflected some considerably on the inconvenience that would arise in carrying out the suggestions made in the article, especially by some of the “young women of Utah” to whom gardening was recommended.

The extended hoops which some of the young ladies wear would be very inconvenient in a vegetable or flower garden, unless the rows were planted at a great distance apart, which would not be very economical, no more so than the wearing of hoops; and then many of them wear exceedingly large sun-bonnets some that I have seen being at least two feet in length from the crown to the front, tied down tight to exclude the rays of the sun, and some never go out doors without gloves on or have their dress-sleeves so long that they completely cover their hands to prevent the sun from shining on them, as I suppose, as they can be of no other use whatever.

These are some of the difficulties that have occurred to my mind, which would attend gardening operations by women—old or young—who have adopted those fashions; but perhaps you may be able to suggest some remedy or give some counsel that may obviate these difficulties. SUNSHINE.

If there is any inconvenience in wearing crinoline in a garden, it will of course, as soon as that fact is ascertained, be dispensed with by the wearers while working there.

A PENNY.

Thirty years ago there was seen to enter the city of London a lad about fourteen years of age. He was dressed in a dark smock frock, that hid all his under apparel, and which appeared to have been made for a person evidently taller than the wearer. His boots were covered with dust from the high road. He had an old hat with a black band, which contrasted strangely with the covering of his head.—A small bundle, fastened to a stick and thrown over his shoulder, was the whole of his equipment. As he approached the Mansion House, he passed to look at the building, and seating himself on the steps at one of the doors, he was about to rest himself; but the coming in and going out of half a dozen persons before he had time to finish untying his bundle, made him leave that spot for the open space, where the doors were in part closed.

Having taken from the bundle a large quantity of bread and cheese, which he seemed to eat with a ravenous appetite, he amused himself with all the eager curiosity of one unaccustomed to see similar sights.

The appearance of the youth soon attracted my curiosity, and gently opening the door I stood behind him, without his being in the least conscious of my presence. He now began rummaging his pockets, and after a great deal of trouble, brought out a roll of paper which he opened. After satisfying himself that a large copper coin was safe, he carefully put it back again saying to himself in a low tone, “Mother, I will remember your last words, ‘a penny saved is two-pence earned.’” It shall go hard with me before I part with your old friend.”

Pleased with this remark, I gently touched the lad on the shoulder. He started, and was about to move away when I said:

“My good lad, you seem tired, and likewise a stranger in the city.”

“Yes, sir,” he answered, putting his hand to his hat. He was again about to move forward.

“You need not hurry away, my boy,” I observed. “Indeed, if you are a stranger, and willing to work, I can perhaps help you to get what you desire.”

The boy stood mute with astonishment, and coloring to such an extent as to show all the freckles of a sunburnt face stammered out.

“Yes, sir.”

“I wish to know,” I added, with all the kindness of manner I could assume, “whether you are anxious to find work, for I want a boy to assist my coachman.”

The poor boy twisted and twirled his bundle about, and after placing his hand to his head, managed to utter an awkward answer and said he would be very thankful.

I mentioned not a word about what I had overheard with regard to the penny, but inviting him into the house, I sent for the coachman, to whose care I intrusted the new comer.

Nearly a month had passed after this meeting and conversation had occurred, when I resolved to make some inquiries of the coachman, regarding the conduct of the lad.

“A better lad never came into this house, sir; and as for wasting anything, bless me, sir, I know not where he has been brought up, but I really believe he would consider it a sin if he did not give the crumbs of bread to the birds every morning.”

“I am glad to hear so good an account,” I replied.

“And as for his good nature, sir, there is not a servant among us that doesn't speak well of Joseph. He reads to us while we sup and he writes all our letters for us.—Oh, sir, he has got more learning than all of us put together, and what's more, he does not mind work, and never talks about secrets after he writes our letters.”

Determined to see Joseph myself, I requested the coachman to send him to the parlor.

“I understand, Joseph, that you can read and write.”

“Yes, sir, thanks to my poor dead mother.”

“You have lately lost your mother then?”

“A month that very day when you were kind enough to take me into your house, an unprotected orphan,” answered Joseph.

“Where did you go to school?”

“Sir, my mother has been a widow ever since I can remember. She was the daughter of the village schoolmaster, and, having to maintain me and herself with her needle, she took the opportunity of her leisure moments to teach me not only to read and write, but to cast up accounts.”

“And did she give you that penny which I saw you unroll so carefully at the door?”

Joseph stood amazed, but at length replied, with great emotion, and a tear stood in his eye. “Yes, sir, it was the very last penny she gave me.”

“Well, Joseph, so satisfied am I with your conduct, that not only do I pay to you a month's wages willingly for the time you have been here, but I beg of you to fulfil the duties of collecting clerk for our firm, which has become vacant from the death of a very old and faithful assistant.”

Joseph thanked me in the most unassuming manner, and I was asked to take care of his money, since I had promised to provide him with suitable clothes for his new occupation.

It will be unnecessary to relate how, step by step, this poor country lad proceeded to win the confidence of myself and partner. The accounts were always correct to a penny; and whenever his salary became due, he drew out of my hands no more than he absolutely needed, even to a penny. At length he had saved a sufficient sum of money to be deposited in the bank.

It so happened that one of our customers, who carried on a successful business, wanted an active partner. This person was of eccentric habits and considerably advanced in years. Scrupulously just he looked on every penny, and invariably discharged his workmen, if they were not equally scrupulous in their dealings with him.

Aware of this peculiarity of temper, there was no person I could recommend but Joseph, and after overcoming the repugnance of my partner, who was unwilling to be deprived of so valuable an assistant, Joseph was duly received into the firm of Richard Fair, Brother & Co.—Prosperity attended Joseph in his new undertaking, and never suffering a penny difference to appear in his transaction, he so completely won the confidence of his senior partner, that he left him the whole of his business; as he expressed in his will, “even to the last penny.”

—It is stated that the Masonic fraternity contemplate the raising of a fund of \$100,000, a portion of which is to be devoted to the building of a Masonic Temple at Washington. The revenue derived from it would be applied to the establishment of a house for the support and education of the orphan children of deceased Masons.

—A new salt mine has been discovered at Central city, Marion county, Southern Illinois, during some examinations for coal. A shaft was sunk to the depth of 170 feet, when not finding coal in workable quantities, boring was carried down 100 feet farther, which penetrated a salt bearing strata, when the salt water rose to the top of the boring and flowed out at the rate of from eight hundred to a thousand gallons per hour, as near as could be estimated.

—In some of the thinly populated portions of Wisconsin, the bears have become so numerous that even human beings are alarmed for their safety, while sheep, hogs, poultry, and vegetables are carried off by them with a boldness unparalleled in the experience of frontier life. They approach farm houses in broad daylight without any signs of fear, and in many cases have even ventured into villages in quest of prey. Committees have been appointed in some places of devise measures to get rid of the nuisance.

—A noble application is to be made of the Erriesson engine. By means of compressed air, forced into a tank by the motive engine, power is instantly transmitted through long distances, impracticable to either belts or shafts. The engine may be placed in the most convenient point however remote from the work, if simply connected by a common gas-pipe for the conveying of air.

The 4th Quorum

Of Seventies have changed the time of their meetings. They are now held on the first and third Saturday of each month, at 6 o'clock p.m., at the residence of Pres. Nathan Tanner, 15th Ward.