

Number 2

THE SCHOOLMATE

January 28 1859

To the Editors of "the Schoolmate"

Dear Miss Moran

~~so very much~~ I like your paper very much. I was so very much pleased when I heard the last one read that I thought I would do all I could for it. I intend to write a composition every week and I will do all I can to get the other school children to write for it too. I hope you will not get discouraged in the discharge of your editorial duties for I think your paper will be both interesting and instructive to us all. Would you like for your little friends to write to you once in a while. I thought perhaps this would do me as much good and be as interesting to others as a little composition. You may put this in your paper if you choose.

Books

Some books are made in pamphlet form and some are made into large books. I like to read pretty books. I like to read Hangeo Ferris stories. I think they are very pretty. If the Indians had books they would be a more intelligent race if they had the Bible they would know better than to worship the sun and moon. They would worship the true God. They are not as ignorant now as they used to be for the missionaries have come to teach them and now they have a few books and some of them can read.

Callie M. Kerlingen

7 Feb. 29

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Summer

I love to get up on a fine summer morning when the sky is clear and to hear the birds singing and at noon to sit under the shade of a big oak tree and see the little birds sporting about on the limbs and to see the hawks soaring in the sky and I love to look at the greenfields and walk in them and see the wheat and corn and potatoes look so green and fresh

The Moon

The moon is an object of great curiosity Did you ever notice the resemblance of a mans face in the moon but to look through a telescope it looks like mountains I have heard that the moon was made of green cheese but I dont believe it do you

Rabbits

The rabbit is a nice animal it lives in holes and can hear very quick it eats cabbage and sweet apples and can run very fast it stays in the bushes in the night and it is gray in the summer and white in the winter

Spring

Farmers in the spring have to plow their fields then sow their wheat then plant their corn when the men go out to work in the spring we see the prairies burn and the flowers spring up and you go from one to another and they smell very pleasant

Our Pig

Our pig runs around the lot and eats corn at night he sleeps with Rosa to keep warm he is so fat he can hardly walk

Alice Pettijohn

On the improvement of the mind.

Our great and kind Creator, has endowed us with certain talents or capabilities of thought, which are called mind.

These minds are capable of great expansion. They can be greatly enlarged and improved by proper culture and training.

It is true that the minds of men differ very greatly in their natural capacities, but the minds of all may be improved by cultivation. This we know by our own observation.

Who of us have not noticed the difference between an uncultivated uneducated mind and one that has been improved and enriched by cultivation and education?

There are minds among the former class that show signs of superior talents, but for want of cultivation they seem not to reach their maturity. The buds of a mighty genius which might do some great good in the world, wither and die for want of proper training. Those noble faculties that are within them lie dormant, or rise no higher than to expend themselves on the common and every day affairs of life. They know not of the treasures of knowledge they might gain if they would but seek for them. They know not of the pleasures of them, who are in the pursuit of knowledge. They have not gone far enough in this way to find out, therefore they are contented to remain ignorant.

This class of people can be seen by looking at some of the heathen, and uncivilized nations. They pass on from one generation to another, the children no farther advanced

in knowledge than their fathers were. As they have not the art of reading and writing, the knowledge of one mind cannot be imparted to others, as it can be where the art of reading and writing is known. Therefore they have not the same advantages for gaining knowledge and mental improvement. But ignorance is to be found in civilized and enlightened America as well as on the heathen shores of Africa.

How different, how vastly different is the class which have been blessed with advantages for educating and improving their minds, and have also, a desire to improve those advantages.

These are the minds "that leave their traces on the sands of time." These are the minds that confer some lasting benefit on mankind.

These are the minds that have made the great discoveries in philosophy and science that have been made. It is to these minds that we are indebted for the many good and useful books that we have. And as we read the wise, or the sublime and beautiful, thoughts that have been transmitted to the world by some great mind, Does it not seem as though we had a glimpse of the hidden wealth of thought which they possessed? And does it fill us with longing desires to be able more fully to appreciate them?

Is there not then great inducement for us to labor to educate and improve our minds? — — —

Books

There are a great many kinds of books some books are bad and some books are good there are Histories geographies arithmetics grammars readers spellings books and numerous other kinds histories tell us what has taken place in past times geography tells us where rivers towns states territories &c are situated arithmetics show us how to add count and multiply grammars how to speak properly readers teach us how to read so that we can read other books and spelling books teaches us how to spell but the best book of all I have not mentioned yet it is the Bible

Autumn

when autumn comes we will have plums and grapes we will gather them and make pies ~~Our Cat~~

My Cat

I have a cat she is a nice cat I like a cat that will not meow nor scratch nor bite I had a cat she was a good cat she got into the well and got drowned and Father caught her out with a hook and line

The beauties and pleasures of art
Art is one of the greatest things that ever was known
just look at the fine cities and you see what art has done there all the fine things that you can see there are of art and all the fine houses that we admire and look at the gallant ship that rides o'er the mighty roaring ocean the wind blows violently but still that

gallant ship rides smoothly on and see her ^{when she} is coming into port with out spread sails how nice and splendid she looks and how could we get across the mighty deep if it ~~were~~ not for ships we can get into that mighty thing called art. the winds howl and the raging sea roars but we glide smoothly along and look at the grand iron horse that rolls through hills and over vallies and over the wide plains that reach farther than our eyes can see art can take us over those plains at the rate of one mile a minute how nice this must be to ladies and gentlemen of all classes

Time

We do not appreciate the value of time. time is the most precious thing in the world time does not wait but flies on second by second. We ought not to waste our time in school but improve every minute for we do not know as we can get another opportunity of going to school again. At leisure times we might be reading or writing a piece for the paper or spending it in other useful ways. If we had improved our time better we might have known more than we do. Then let us try to improve our time better than we ever have.

Water

Water is the best thing that we use some may say that bread is better but it is not bread is ^{very} good but we could live with out bread and we could not live without water we use it in a great many more things than

bread we can use bread in only one thing that is to eat it. Water cools parching lips and drives the heat away and cleans our dirty deeds if it wasent for water what would our fields and gardens do what would grass and flowers do they would wither and die what would man beast fowls and insects do they would die in a week

The Woods

How beautiful are the woods thier spreading tops look so enchanting I love to hear the cold winds blow throu them and see the little birds fly from branch to branch and see the little squirrels jump from tree to tree and I love to sit at the window and see the moon rise and shine through the limbs of the trees and see the sun rise and shine upon the tree tops and see the frost glitter like little diamonds on the trees and bushes and in the summer the buds burst and the green leaves come out they make such a pretty shade and see the little Brooks passing swiftly by and I love to roam oer their banks and pluck the pretty wild flowers

On the use of Tobacco

The practice of using tobacco is a common one in every nation of which we have any knowledge its use is not confined to the lower classes but the votaries of tobacco are as often found in the palace of the noble as in the home of the serf and it is the same unhealthy and disgusting habit whether in the shape of a havana cigar

held between the royal lips of a prince or a ~~cham~~
 rolled as a sweet morsel ~~and~~ under the tongue of an
 African slave I know of but one other creature besides man
 that uses tobacco and that is a most disgusting
 looking worm but the tobacco worm is much more decent
 in the use of tobacco than man for they do not burn
 it and let the smoke poison the air that honest
 people have to breathe and they do not grind the
 oil out and squirt it around for decent folks
 to step in. The fact that all the animals with
 which we are acquainted dislike the smell and taste
 of tobacco is proof positive that tobacco is
 poisonous. The only place I ever heard of where
 tobacco did good was in the Mexican war where those
~~that used tobacco~~ wolves left the dead bodies of those
 who used tobacco untill the others were all eaten
 and soldiers who were wounded and left on the battle
 field were not so apt to be eaten if they used to-
 bacco as if they did not.

And although people see that it is useless to use tobac-
 co they will do it and say it does them good. I think if
 they would ask their wives or mothers or whoever does
 the washing or sweeping, (if they do not use it themselves)
 they will tell them differently.

To be continued.

Questions

- 1 In what latitude do we live
- 2 How is Minnesota bounded
- 3 Where and for what noted is the lake of Genesee
- 4 What does the Bible say is the beginning of knowledge

Answers to Questions in the last number

- 1 New York is a little colder than Botany Bay.
- 2 The Cherokees live in the Indian Territory.
The Winnebagoes are in the State of Minnesota.

Rufus A. Huggins

These questions were also very well answered by Angelina C. Pettigohn
 & Edward D. Smith

Here is a Charade composed by a writer for 'The Schoomate'
 I do not know the answer but will try to find it with
 the rest of you write the answers and send them in
 Charade

I am a compound word—

My first is that which we all do well to attend
 My second we can not live very comfortably without
 My whole is to be found in every place where
 education is rightly appreciated

The bright side and the dark

Every thing in this inconstant world has two sides a bright side and a dark one even this world on which we live is half in darkness all the time as it turns over once in twenty four hours the sun shines on one side making it bright and joyful while the other side is wrapt in the shades of night. When the sun is hid from our view by black and angry looking clouds ^{and every thing looks dark and gloomy} if we could pierce through the dark clouds that are between we would see the sun light and find that though the side of the cloud next us was dark the other side "had a silver lining" it was all bright and beautiful there thus it is with every thing in life as with the cloud sometimes we look on the dark side only then life looks so dark and gloomy it seems to have no interest for us we think every thing conspires together to trouble us every body seems trying to do all they can to make us miserable the sweet songs of the little warblers are harsh and unpleasant to us or full of melody the flowers do not smell as sweet nor their colors look as bright as usual. But again the scene changes all looks bright circumstances seem to favor us the countenances and tones of our companions are cheerful every body tries to please us every thing moves smoothly along the little birds whose songs seemed so sad before now are full of joy the grass and flowers look bright and there is a pleasure that in existence that we hardly thought possible before we may apply this to the commonest things in

life we can always find two sides to a thing the editors life
 is a very changeing one full of light and shade there
 are a great many ^{different} people to please some are very hard to suit
 it is impossible to please them something is always wrong
 others are very easily satisfied and others are so indifferent they
 will not be interested in anything when the editor tries
 hard to please interest and profit all parties and is still found
 fault with then it is that the task seems a thankless
 one they are almost tempted to give up this is the dark side
 of an editors life but when all are ready to forgive and overlook
 faults and take interest in the paper then the task seems
 lighter and they resolve to persevere now I think one half of the
 trouble in we have is in imagination if we would resolve to look
 on the bright side of things and "take every thing by the smooth
 handle" as the old proverb says life would not have so many
 trials as we are inclined to believe we should always wear
 a cheerful look and have a kind word for all we may often
 dispell the dark clouds and bring light and happiness to some
 one that is looking on the dark side some poet has said
 Since life is a thorny and difficult path passing along
 And trouble the portion of man We each should endeavor while
 To make it as smooth as we can

The Bible

The Bible is given to us for a guide for a great lawbook if the ^{whole} world rightly understood the Bible and would live in strict accordance to its precepts there would be no need of any other government for the Bible teaches us to be honest and peaceable and to do to others as we wish them to do to us the Bible is a wonderfull ^{book} no uninspired writer could make one so ~~simple~~ to it while many parts of it are so plain and simple that a child can understand them the sentiment and language of others are so lofty and sublime that the wisest men can not fully understand them 'The Bible' never grows old the ^{more} we read it and the better we understand it more we admire it we can always find something new something that we never noticed before the bible was written at different ^{times} and by different men but they all wrote under the influence of the Holy Spirit The Bible is the only book that tells us about the creation of the world and its early history about our first parents the flood and it tells about the disobedience of our first parents by which they deserved to be driven forever from the presence of God but the Bible tells us also that God so loved the world that he sent his son to die in "wonderfull love how thankful we should be for the Bible to show us the way to heaven while the poor heathen are bowing down to Idols that made with their own hands and torturing themselves to appease the anger of their Gods we have the Bible that tells us God is a God of mercy and is not pleased with works of penance but offers life eternal to all through Jesus Christ

The value of time

Time is ever rolling by a moment once gone will never come back if we should labor and toil and improve every hour for fifty years we never could ~~never~~ call back one lost second. Every day that we do nothing useful or learn nothing that will profit ourselves that day is lost yes it is gone we can never redeem it

Mrs. Sigourney has written some beautiful lines about the value of a day they are better than any thing I can say so I will repeat "Lost, lost, lost" them to you
 Of gems of countless price

Cut from the living rock
 And graven in paradise
 Set round with three times eight
 Large diamonds clear and bright
 And each with sixty smaller ones
 All changefull as the light"

Do you know what that gem is it is a day three times eight are twenty four the twenty four hours are compared to diamonds the sixty smaller ones are minutes well may they be compared to precious stones and costly things for nothing will buy time every breath we draw ^{and} every hour we live is a fresh gift from him who upholds and governs all things Oh how many days and months have we lost in not striving daily to improve our time

How carefull we all should be to better improve our time that no more days months and years be numbered with the lost

My Grave

I ask not a willow to droop o'er my grave
 I ask not for cedars to over me wave
 I wish for no flowers to shed fragrance around
 And scatter their delicate leaves on the ground
 If the tear of affection is over me shed
 To moisten the earth o'er my low peaceful bed

I ask not a monument sculptured with praise
 And telling my actions in high sounding lays
 I ask not for glory I ask not for fame
 The cold cynical world will care nought for my name
 Yet the tear of affection I fain would have shed
 O'er my lonely and cold but yet peaceful bed
 Happiness.

Pure and unalloyed happiness, is not to be found on earth. Heaven is perfect happiness. Happiness without alloy. Whatever then, is most like Heaven, affords us the most happiness on earth. If we think only of our own happiness, we shall not find it, for selfishness is not one of the characteristics of Heaven. Happiness is to be found in trying to make others happy. This is one of the characteristics of our kind Creator who has done so much for the happiness of man. Happiness is to be found in loving God, the source of all good, in loving our fellow men, who are the work of his hand, and in loving whatsoever is pure, and holy, for love is the principal characteristic of Heaven.



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