DENTON JOURNAL.

1845. A FAMILY NEWSPAPER,—DEVOTED TO LOCAL AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE, AGRICULTURE, AND ADVERTISING:—INDEPENDENT ON ALL SUBJECTS. 1887.

VOL. 41. DENTON, MARYLAND: SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1887. NO. 35.

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6 24	2 39	Trappe,	12 11	7 12
6 41	2 56	Easton,	11 55	6 55
6 54	3 09	Chapel,	11 42	6 42
7 01	3 16	Cordova,	11 35	6 35
7 11	3 26	Queen Anne,	11 25	6 25
7 22	3 37	Ridgely,	11 13	6 14
7 33	3 48	Greensboro,	11 02	6 03
7 44	4 00	Goldsboro,	10 49	5 50
7 51	4 07	Henderson,	10 42	5 43
7 58	4 14	Marydel,	10 35	5 36
8 07	4 22	Slaughters,	10 26	5 27
8 09	4 24	Hartley,	10 24	5 25
8 20	4 35	Kenton,	10 13	5 13
8 30	4 45	Clayton,	10 03	5 02
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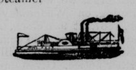

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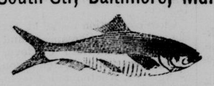

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MY DEAD.

I can trust; the mighty Shepherd
Loseth none he ever led;
Somewhere, yet, a greeting waits me
On the faces of my dead.
—W. C. Gannett.

THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK.

The Number and Length of Mayor Hewitt's Letters—How He Manages.

Mayor Hewitt has a thin, stooping figure, and when he gets to the mayor's office, at about 11 a. m., muffled in wraps, and escorted by a stout policeman, he looks much like an invalid. But his intellect is robust. He hears all who call upon him, and has a way of getting at the meat of a case that is a terror to slow thinkers. He has a good many ideas about administering the laws, but has not yet found time to work them all out. The complaints have poured in so rapidly that he has found it necessary to organize a special bureau to look after them and forward them to the proper departments.

The mayor has astonished many persons by the number and length of his letters, which have been most remarkable, taking into consideration his known ill health. Not counting his private letters, which are considerable, his missives to heads of departments, to the governor, the legislature and to various public bodies which have invited him to dine, have required an amount of intellectual effort that looks appalling to any one not trained to the work. It must be borne in mind that nearly all these letters are on subjects of public interest, taking sides on disputed points, and exposing the writer to severe criticism.

How does he do?

The only way he could perform such an amount of labor is by the use of stenographers and typewriters, and, happily for him, Mayor Hewitt thoroughly understands how to use these great time savers. By long practice and the habit of offhand talking and clear thinking, the mayor talks off a letter in a few minutes that would require an hour of his time if he were to write it. At the same time he provides for a copy for his own protection. These copies have served him on two memorable occasions.

For a short letter the mayor sometimes does not give his stenographer time to sit down, but catches him on the fly, as it were, and dictates to him while both are walking about the room. But, short or long, the mayor's letters are the feature of his administration. He likes to get everything down in black and white.

The mayor's mail is enormous. It would be a physical impossibility for him to open and read it all. A very large part of this work is done for him by his private secretary. In this way he is relieved of a great deal of routine work which otherwise would consume all his time.

Mayor Hewitt is a good listener. His attitude is generally one of reflection, and he hears patiently as long as his informant tells a straightforward story. He is a sick man and naturally irritable under provocation, but his cranky moments have generally a foundation in a belief on his part that he has been wronged. His rapidity of judgment and rapidity of utterance sometimes stagger men of slow thought and weak memory, and he is not overfond of explaining things if he takes a notion that his hearer is at all obtuse.—New York Sun.

"HAND WORK" IN SWEDEN.

How the Use of Implements Is Taught in the Scandinavian Peninsula.

Slojd, or hand work, is the art of using ordinary implements—such as a knife, a saw, a hammer or a paint brush. Mr. Squeers seems to have had some shadowy notion of this system. "C-l-e-a-n, clean; w-i-n-d-e-r, window; now go and clean it," said that practical person. Slojd teaching is to technical instruction what a liberal education is to professional training. It is valued, not only as the first step toward learning a trade, but also as a training for the faculties. Appreciation of form, a proper value of time and method, neatness of manipulation and habits of industry and self reliance are some of the blessings with which it is credited. Enthusiasts, moreover, hope that by including manual work among ordinary school subjects bodily labor may in time be raised from the low esteem where it too often lies.

Slojd was invented by one Uno Cygnæus, a Fin, who, after qualifying in several handicrafts, became a schoolmaster and was commissioned to draw up a report, on which the Finnish system of government schools is based. In Sweden his system was copied some fifteen years ago, and it has there spread so rapidly that in many of the common schools slojd forms part of the regular course. Those who view hand work merely as a training for the faculties confine their teaching to simple work in wood. But those who value it also as subsidiary to technical instruction teach slojd in many branches and carry it beyond the use of the simplest tools. Bookbinding, tinkering, smiths' work, painting, basket making shoemaking and tailoring are among their subjects, and they spare no efforts to make the system attractive to pupils and parents. At some schools pupils are allowed to keep what they have made, or to buy it cheaply; or, to secure continuous attendance, they are credited with deferred pay, which they forfeit by leaving before a stipulated course has been completed. On completion of the course the pupil is presented with a bank book representing his accumulated earnings and receives a parting counsel to increase them.

The parents' sympathy is also angled for. At a school in a laboring district it is a rule that pupils shall be taught to make and use such common implements as are most serviceable to working people—rakes, spades, ax handles and the like. Assiduous young tinkers, tailors and shoemakers are allowed the use of school implements to make the family repairs, and thus exists in Sweden the phenomenon of a self repairing boy, who mends his own raiment and cobbles his own shoes.

In Sweden, in Norway and in Finland the system has proved most successful. There seems no reason why it should not be introduced and become equally successful here. The taste among non-laboring classes for using implements is universal. Too often, however, the hands that guide the implements are rather zealous than skillful. But if schools taught slojd, these manual shortcomings would be remedied. The tool chest, now a Pandora's box of evil, bringing terror to paternal bosoms and imprecations on the donor, would become a blessing. Instead of amputating chair legs or studding the furniture with tin tacks, its skilled possessor would do the family's odd jobs. The penknife found in the pocket of every schoolboy but Macaulay's would whittle and carve, under due supervision, to the advantage of the fittings and its owner's fingers. Adults would cease to slice their faces in vain attempts to shave themselves; and to the adept in slojd, the opening of a meat tin or sardine box would not mean lockjaw. If to the use of ordinary tools some crafts like bookbinding were added, brain workers would grow up with a recreative hobby ready made. Even a course of darning and button sewing might not come amiss to youths intended for professions, where, according to the registrar general's returns, they will be condemned to bachelorhood till 30.—London Saturday Review.

In Nevada the Indians eat the flesh of the rabbits they capture, make robes of the skins and receive a bounty on the scalps.

A PROFESSOR OF BELLES-LETTRES GIVES A HISTORY OF THEIR USE.

Slang Not So Worthy of Unqualified Condemnation as Many People Suppose. How Everyday Idioms Give Scope to an Inventive Fancy.

"The everyday idioms of the English language commonly called slang are not so worthy of unqualified condemnation as many prudish people suppose," observed a professor of belles-lettres to a reporter the other day.

"They have a direct, figurative significance and give scope to an inventive fancy. For example, the expression 'You make me tired,' indicates to a shade the feeling of lassitude inflicted by a bore. Again, 'What are you giving us?' is merely a figurative way of expressing incredulity. Many sanguinary conflicts have doubtless been averted by its use, as the rugged, synonymous phrase, 'You are lying, sir!' has been known to give offense to certain eccentric persons. Many slang phrases are the embodiment of a polite spirit. When you are out with the boys and exhibit in meteoric flashes the slumbering hilarity in your nature, to be told that 'you are intoxicated' strikes a sensitive chord in your breast; but to be accosted with 'What an elegant load you have got' brings a smile of assent and satisfaction to your countenance every time. Gentlemen never acknowledge to being drunk. It is a 'still' or a 'jag' they have on. The word drunk applies only to tramps. They are synonymous terms. Every acute intellect will recognize this subtle shade of meaning.

"Gentlemen of pugilistic proclivities are very careful in their language. They appreciate the mollifying effects of slang idioms and are particular to employ them in speaking of their encounters. Whoever heard a champion of the ring say that he gave his antagonist a black eye or a bloody nose? He prefers, in a spirit of chivalry, more elegant terms, and will say that he 'closed a peeper' or 'tapped the claret.' If he knocks his opponent down he will say considerately that he 'sent him to grass.' If he gains a victory he will not injure the feelings of the vanquished party by boasting that he thrashed him, but will pour balm upon his wounds by stating politely that he 'done him up.'

DRAWN STILL FURTHER.

"The parallel between slang phrases and rugged English," continued the professor, "may be drawn still further. No man is so devoid of fine feeling as to acknowledge that he has pawned an article. It is less shocking to hint with a wink that his 'uncle' has it, or that it is in 'hock,' or even that he has 'hung it up.' These expressions exhibit the deed from a humorous point of view. In all walks of life we find this same endeavor at politeness. A thief is called a 'fly man' or a 'crook,' a bribe taker is called a 'boodler' and swindlers are called 'bunco steerers' and 'sawdust men.' This is as it should be. The English language, devoid of its figurative idioms, is simply brutal. This accounts for the birth of the word 'dude.' It is far more elegant than its synonym, 'fool.' The ruthless small boy might hesitate at the latter, but the former he can shout out at the top of his lungs whenever some trifle of humanity may be blown across his path.

"A slang term that has peculiar significance is 'a chippy chaser.' This is applied to the persecutors of honorable working girls. They stand upon the street corners until some pretty girls pass by, and then follow them block after block, talking in a loud voice and otherwise annoying them. It is gratifying to know that they are generally 'left.' This last expression is applicable to those who fail to attain the objects of their desires. The 'chippy chaser,' if successful in making the clandestine acquaintance he seeks, and in making an appointment for some future evening, is, as a rule, 'stood up.' This means, in unvarnished English, that he stands for hour after hour at the appointed place awaiting the arrival of the expected female, probably in a violent rain or snow storm, for a 'chippy chaser' never gives up hope, while the honest girl is probably sleeping in her bed.

"Here again the politeness of slang idioms is demonstrated. The synonym of 'chippy chaser' is the pitiable word 'idiot,' which is rather an unpleasant sounding term to be applied to a young man. The inventor of this idiom merits the hearty thanks of the brotherhood.

"It is obvious," remarked the professor in conclusion, "from the foregoing exposition that our slang originates from the innate delicacy of feeling which is a characteristic of Americans from the small boy up. The English language, when plainly spoken, is harsh and jarring and contains many unpleasant words. Men of fine feeling naturally express themselves in a figurative, or, to be less scholarly, a Pickwickian sense."—New York Mail and Express.

A Unique Celebration.

Perhaps the most unique celebration of the German Emperor William's birthday was that which took place 7,000 feet high on the southern summit of the Bavarian Alps. Two mountaineers—Stanzl and Walch by name—ascended to this elevation, and then kindled a bonfire, the materials for which they had laboriously dragged with them. They had intended climbing to the very summit of the Watzmann, but deep snow prevented this, and the bonfire of wood and petroleum was lit on the Falzkopfl. The ascent of the mountain often brought the climbers up to the shoulders in snow, but they were determined to perform the feat, and they did it.—New York Sun.

Where Lightning Strikes.

From statistics collected in parts of the German empire, G. Hellman finds that the danger from lightning, though generally increasing, is diminishing in certain districts, the risks becoming less the more closely houses are clustered. The character of the soil has great influence. Letting one represent the danger from lightning on calcareous ground, two will give it upon marl, nine upon sandy, and twenty-two upon clayey soil. It is a curious fact, not yet explained, that oaks are struck much more frequently than other trees; so that if the danger for beeches be one, that for pines is fifteen, and for oaks, fifty-four.—Arkansaw Traveler.

Lincoln with a Book.

Twenty years ago no photograph was more often seen than that of President Lincoln sitting with a big book on his knee, and his little son Tad leaning against him and looking at it with him. The book was then thought to be a Bible, but it wasn't. It was Photographer Brady's picture album, which the president was examining with his son while some ladies stood by. The artist begged the president to remain quiet, and the picture was taken.

Education of the Elephant.

The education of the elephant would be very easy but for his cumbersome weight, which forces the trainer to have recourse to cruel means. For instance, to make him raise and hold out his foot, an iron ring with sharp points is placed on it, and being drawn by a rope, the points enter the flesh. The elephant, feeling the pain, lifts up his foot and keeps it in the air till the pain ceases. After a few repetitions he remembers the pain, and at the sight of the iron raises his foot. His instruction, thanks to his intelligence, is soon completed. Some elephants, in less than a fortnight, are taught to play on a drum, work a tricycle and beg on their hind legs.—Boston Herald.

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