

"MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL"

Wednesday, July 3, 1872

The Colored Schools

They Show Forth In Native Splendor at Assembly Hall.

The Great and the Small Put Through the Whole Gamut of "Book Learning."

A House Full of Delighted Mothers and Nurses.

"I Am No Orator As Brutus Is."

The congregated colored schools of the city, with their parents and guardians, were the audience of Colonel Taylor, the most energetic and prominent of the school visitors, in the Assembly Hall last night. He is an apostle of education, and, like the New York Berg, nothing can stop him. His energy and enthusiasm are to be envied. He has an inexhaustible fund of both. Having labored long and silently until he got the public school system sunk deep into the hearts of the white people and saw all things fairly started, he then turned his attention to the colored people. When he saw the former fairly involved in the furor of education, he left them to do the best they could, and set about enthusing the colored people of these United States in the same nervous and exciting difficulty. If it is just such fellows as Tylor who keep the world in a ferment, and won't let things be. They are unhappy unless they can make mankind miserable by disturbing them with theories of knowledge and progress, enlightenment, amelioration and all that sort of thing. At the colored exhibition last night he made a speech fully an hour in length, showing the beauties of knowledge, until he had the women and children half crazy about it. When the enthusiasm was fully aroused he left. He felt his mission at that time was accomplished. He is an astonishing man.

Orare Est Laborare.

After that there were other speeches, and a lengthened

Continuation: The Colored Schools

prayer, which had the redeeming quality of eloquence and unction. An unctious prayer is a fine, though somewhat peculiar, production of the human intellect. We do not recollect ever having read a proper and analytical criticism on the eloquence and oiliness of prayer. Poetry, history, essay and oratory have been exhaustively judged and misjudged by the critics, but prayer-never. It was an unpardonable oversight, and we hope that this age of progress will develop a new and independent style of genius, which will devote itself exclusively to the critical consideration of extemporaneous praying. This hint is thrown out for the benefit of the magazine writers, who evidently find themselves hard up for a subject very often.

Business.

The children of the nine colored schools all this time were perspiring and fanning, and fidgeting furiously, anxious for business to begin. A programme had been arranged that would do for a week. There were five elaborate tableaux in it, exercises in reading and punctuation, piano gymnastics, dialogues, single oratorical and recitation efforts, songs, choruses and speeches of illimitable longitude, making in all thirty-nine different items, each of them requiring nearly half an hour. Professor Sullivan, the able and patient Superintendent of the colored schools, had the management and superintendence of all. Our amiable correspondent, "Patience," would be just the "pusson" for the position. The thermometer was 103 on the stage. Heat like that would be to him merely a premonition of what he will experience hereafter, please Providence.

The Material Of The Schools.

The best specimens, of course, were shoved to the front last night, and by making a little allowance, one could very nearly guess at the average. Physically, they are full of promise, that is a good deal. They were all tastefully dressed. The boys, sprightly, bold, head erect and breast full out like people who can breathe the air of heaven without asking king or despot. The girls were well costumed in shining gold slippers, sffron and pink boots, white dresses and ribbons. Their tableaux were well arranged and well executed, and their singing remarkably rich and full of volume. In the way of external taste and simple vocalism, they are evidently well calculated to

Continuation: The Colored Schools

excel. The dialogues displayed no lack of coolness or want of comprehension of the matter in debate, but the enunciation failed in distinctness and deliberation. The programme contained nothing by which one would be enabled to judge of the proficiency attained in the higher intellectual studies. Taken all together, the exhibition was alike creditable to the pupils and to their conscientious teachers.

To-night a programme of more pretentious character will be gone through, and the school visitors will distribute premiums to the deserving.