

DAILY REFLECTOR.

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OUR BOYS.

The average parent takes little rest in the school duties of his children. He sends the boy to school. Now all his duty is done. He has "touched the button"—the teachers must "do the rest."

Can the teacher "do the rest?" What is the "rest?" Ah! there's the rub—and it is a rub.

In one of the schools English grammars, now in use, occurs this sentence, for analysis: "It is useless to fight custom with grammar." How true! The boy is under the teacher for five, or, say, six hours a day. He is under parental control, or ought to be, the other eighteen hours. One-fourth of his time under restraint at school—three-fourths of his time not at school. Where is the average boy during those eighteen hours? Give him eight hours for sleep and one more for meals; then we have nine hours left. Where does this average boy spend these hours? Does he spend two of them in study at his home. Hardly. But give him these two hours—we should give him, the one on trial, the benefit of every reasonable doubt, as the judge says, when charging the jury,—then what becomes of the seven hours still left. Spent in lawful, honorable play? Not if this average boy can help it—and he generally helps it.

He has learned to smoke the deadly cigarette—though the law says that they shall not be sold to minors. He has learned to use profane language, though the fond mother declares that her boy is immaculate in this respect. He is an expert gambler, though doting papa asserts that his boy never heard of such a thing. He learns to drink ardent spirits, though both parents say vehemently "it is a lie!"

Again, this average youngster, remember, spends three-fourths of his time with those who think very little of gramatical accuracy

of language, and care less. How then can you expect him to learn to "speak the English language correctly."

Now, then. With nearly everything to pull back, and very little to urge him forward to a good education, how is it possible for the average boy to be made into a reputable citizen?

Is it any wonder that our land swarms with youthful criminals and annoyers of the public peace? If the parents of our land do not wake up to the responsibilities that the Creator has laid upon them, they may live to mourn for a country "dissevered, discordant, belligerent"—Arachel in Biblical Recorder.

STRICKEN NEBRASKA.

The people of North Carolina should contribute to the relief of the stricken people of Nebraska. Read the following, which gives really but a faint idea of the suffering in that State:

"The recent blizzard which swept over the Northwest has inaugurated a season of severe winter weather that has largely aggravated the already great destitution and sufferings of the people of the State of Nebraska.

Throughout a large section of that State the drought last Summer caused almost a total loss of the corn crop. As a consequence, where the animals had not starved, the people have been forced to sell off their hogs and other live stock which they could not feed, and forced sales always impose a sacrifice to sellers. Driven to serious straights by the destruction of their chief food supply, the sufferings of the unfortunate people have been increased by the stormy wintry weather to a degree that is not endurable, and the accounts which come of the situation in Nebraska are truly terrible.

The wretched sufferers inhabit wide expanses of open plain, which in Summer are subject to destructive droughts, while in the Winter the Northern blizzards rush down upon them with freezing fury. They have little or nothing upon which to live, and are destitute of the means of getting away. They are making appeals for help, and in this con-

nection it has been proposed to send them from the South a train load of meat and corn."

Slates Banished from Boston Schools.

The reasons assigned by the school committee for the discontinuance of slates, slate pencils and sponges in the public schools and the substitution of paper, lead pencils and rubber erasers in their places, are as follows:

First—A light gray mark upon a slightly darker gray surface is more or less indistinct and trying to the eyesight.

Second—The resistance of the hard pencil upon the hard slate is tiring to the muscleless, and the resistance to which the muscles are thus trained must be overcome when beginning to write with pencil or pen upon paper.

Third—The use of slates, slate pencils and sponges is a very uncleanly custom, and leads to and establishes very uncleanly habits.—Boston Herald.

A few days ago a party of gentlemen were engaged in conversation on the street when a boy came up and demanded of one of them a nickel which was due him. The boy received his nickel and straightway gave it to another of the party to whom he owed it. And this lone nickel passed among the party until it had canceled debts amounting to 40 cents. Keep the money circulating; it will do the rest.—Statesville Landmark.

Cotton and Peanuts.

Below are Norfolk prices of cotton and peanuts for yesterday, as furnished by Cobb Bros. & Co., Commission Merchants of Norfolk:

COTTON.	
Good Middling	59-16
Middling	54
Low Middling	413-16
Good Ordinary	44
Tone—steady.	
PEANUTS,	
Prime	12
Extra Prime	21
Fancy	24
Spanish	2
Tone—Dull.	
Eggs—steady at 18 to 19 cts.	
B. E. Peas—best, 1.75 to 2.00 per bag.	
“ “ damaged, 1.00 to 1.75.	
Black and Clay, 60 to 75 per bushel.	