

Nov. 29th.

Dear Father,

If I were asked to give a reason for the unhappy state of affairs now prevailing in this country, I should answer, because our whole system of education(?) is at fault. If people had been taught to think, to train their senses, to know the relation of one fact to another, instead of piling up facts, to take every impression through the tri-fold process of analysis, law & analogy, such a state of affairs could never have existed. Take for instance the financial editor of the N.Y. Herald, (a paper, unfortunately, that moulds the opinion of thousands of business men), and what is he? Probably a brilliant graduate of Harvard or Yale, possessed of a world of information, but so is a library, possessed of a

great vocabulary, but so is a dictionary, yet he is a fool nevertheless, Now this is plain Talk, but let's see if I am justified in using such language. A gentleman showed me an editorial a few days ago from that paper on the financial situation, in which the position was taken that if the gov. would require all import duties to be paid in gold, the great question of money would be instantly settled, the gentleman asked my opinion of the scheme, remarking at the same time, that he believed it would be a permanent cure for all of our ills, Now let's put this proposition through a common sense process, & see to what it leads, I am an importer,

I owe the custom house \$500 in gold, & I must pay it, before I can take the goods out, where am I to get the gold? There is but one way under heaven. Take legal tender to the sub treasury, exchange it for gold, & turn the yellow metal over to the custom officers & get my goods. But what becomes of that 500 in gold? In the evening of the same day it is taken back to the sub treasury, & deposited. Now just think of such a proposition coming from anybody but a lunatic! And yet I have heard a half dozen sensible, educated(?) men advocating this thing, why? Just because the Herald "said so". Now do you suppose that if men had been taught to think, they could advocate such nonsense? How ridiculous it all is! yet we find daily in the Herald, the Washington

Post, & in fact, all the prom-
inent theories, assertions & proposi-
tions by the course equally as silly.
I have not time just now to
write you about the "Baltimore
plan of finance" which is so
popular in some quarters, &
every where greatly discussed, but
in many particulars it is even
~~more~~ more stupid than the
Herald's proposition. What a pity
that the young can not be taught,
say but two facts per day, & all
the relations that the one must
bear to the other, instead of having
their minds covered in by impres-
sion upon impression, like geologic
strata which overlap & conceal each
other. I take the position that education
is the only cure for our ills. The average
man is strangely, densely ignorant even of
facts, but when it comes to reason, or the
proper relation of those facts, he does not
far surpass the intelligent anthropoids.

facts & relations

The speeches of some people are so often so intensely characteristic, that they are worth recording, even though they contain nothing calculated to excite one's risibility. The following was delivered at table today with an earnestness almost pathetic.

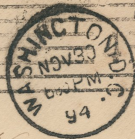
"Somebody must be sick next door, as I see a doctor's buggy standing there all the time, but I can't find out who it is, ^{or what's the matter with 'em.} When Jim lived here, he used to take to the servants around ~~the square,~~ tell me all about the people, & now I can't find out nothing; but soaking your feet is mighty good."

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Gov. Elias Carr.

Raleigh.

Personal

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PALEN
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REC'D.