SCIENCE

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 10, 1893.

THE WASHINGTON ANTHROPOLOGISTS ASK FOR A DEFINITION—THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL DETERMINE ITS QUALITY.

THERE is a product of our country that far exceeds in value all its cotton, its corn and its useful minerals. We have no lines of figures in our census returns to set forth this value; the product is so nearly inestimable that we have not as yet discovered a method of tabulating and expressing its worth. Thousands of millions of dollars would certainly fail to cover its cash cost to the commonwealth. Our schools, our colleges, our churches, and our domestic hearths are established and maintained to form and fashion this precious product, and a large part of the time and energy and the best and longest thoughts of our noblest men and women are dedicated to the same important end.

This infinitely valuable, this inestimable product is—the useful citizen.

It is manifest that among the hundreds of thousands of useful citizens nurtured and sent forth into the battle of life there exists the widest difference in character and capacity, and, consequently, the widest difference in their individual value to the state.

When we rehearse their services and sum up in our minds how much our country has been bettered and aggrandized by Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Peter Cooper, C. P. Huntington, Robert Fulton, Thomas Edison, and James Russell Lowell, and imagine our national existence deprived of their work and influence, we comprehend the enormous relative value of such men to the commonwealth. Indeed, is it too much to say that the nation could better afford to lose, by emigration to some pleasant foreign clime, the entire population of one or more of our forty-four states, rather than have blotted from our history the work and influence of the seven fellow citizens we have named?

These men performed their great services for us, for our nation, and for humanity because they were possessed of certain qualities, faculties and characteristics that gave them power to perceive, grasp, mould and control the elements around them, and such desirable attributes are possessed, in a greater or less degree, by every useful citizen. But in the *most useful citizen* will be grouped the most desirable and most useful characteristics in the greatest number and of the highest quality.

That they are sometimes so grouped that in one man may exist the potentiality of becoming the most useful citizen in whatever occupation or environment he may thereafter attain to in the community, is shown by a consideration of the best-known of the persons mentioned—Benjamin Franklin.

We find this individual, in the most widely differing relations in life, performing his part with admirable perfection. He was a good journeyman printer and a skilful manufacturer and publisher. His part as a shopkeeper he played well. He excelled as an inventor of the most diverse contrivances, such as stoves, musical instruments and electrical apparatus. He was a philosopher of high rank, and for his accomplishments in statescraft his countrymen will always honor his memory. His faculty and foresight in founding and fostering public institutions of benevolence and literary and scientific culture is patent to us after the lapse of a century and a half. His eminence as a diplomat is conceded, and as a man of the world, of tact, of brilliant social attainment, his experience at the French court bears ample testimony. Every one acknowledges his singular ability as an editor, as a polemic, and as a humorist. Of his aptitude as a linguist, a financier, a military leader, an orator, a postmaster general, a physical geographer and as a public-spirited citizen, history gives sufficient proof.

Now all the elements that produced this high degree of usefulness in so many forms of desirable human activity, existed potentially in the citizen Franklin when aged seventeen he landed in Philadelphia, and strode up Market street with his loaf of bread under his arm. He then possessed his vigorous muscular system, his fine digestion, his well-balanced physique, his strong social instincts, his active brain, with its scores of functions working harmoniously, his quick, responsive nerves, his optimism, his enterprise, his undaunted will, his abiding patience, his ingenuity, his economy, his sound judgment, his self-reliance, and a score of additional qualities which modern science, armed with every device that invention can conceive, is striving to weigh, measure and define.

It is a description of a bases of character such as is here outlined, given in terms as accurate as the most advanced knowledge will permit, that, we assume, the Anthropological Society of Washington seeks when it asks, in the following announcement, for a definition, in 3000 words, of "The most useful citizen of the United States, regardless of occupation:"

"A member of the Anthropological Society of Washington "has placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Society a "sum of money to be awarded in prizes for the clearest "statements of the elements that go to make up the most "useful citizen of the United States, regardless of occupa-"tion. The donation has been accepted, and the Society "has provided for the award of the following prizes during "the present year (1893) under the following conditions:

"Two prizes will be awarded for the best essays on the "subject specified above, viz: A first prize of $150 for the "best essay, and a second prize of $75 for the second best "essay among those found worthy by the commissioners of "award.

"These prizes are open to competitors in all countries.

"Essays offered in competition for the prizes shall not "exceed 3,000 words in length, and all essays offered shall "be the property of the Anthropological Society of "Washington, the design being to publish them at the "discretion of the Board of Mana,ers, in the official organ "of the Society, the *American Anthropologist*, giving due "credit to the several authors.

"Each essay should bear a pseudonym or number, and "should be accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the "same pseudonym or number, and containing the name and "address of the competitor; and the identity of competitors "shall not in any way be made known to the Commission-"ers of Award.

"Essays must be type-written or printed, and must be "submitted not later than November 1, 1893. [Since "changed to March 1, 1894.]

"While it is not proposed by the Society to limit the "scope of the discussion, and while each essay will be con-"sidered on its merits by the Commissioners of Award, it is "suggested, in view of the character of the Society and the "wishes of the donor of the prize fund, that the treatment "be scientific, and that the potential citizen be considered

"(1) from the point of view of anthropology in general, "including heredity, anthropometry, viability, physiologi- "cal psychology, etc.; (2) from the point of view of personal "characteristics and habits, such as care of the body; "mental traits, manual skill, sense training and specializa- "tion, and all-round manhood; and (3) from the ethical "point of view, including self-control, humanity, domestic- "ity, charity, prudence, energy, *esprit de corps*, patriotism, "etc.

"The essays offered in competition for the citizenship "prizes of the Anthropological Society of Washington will "be submitted, on or about November 2, 1893 [changed to "March 1, 1894,] to five Commissioners of Award, includ- "ing, it is proposed, one anthropologist, one jurist, one "statesman, one educator, and one other not yet specified, "all of national reputation, of whom at least one and not "more than two shall be members of the Society; and the "award shall be made in accordance with the findings of "these Commissioners.

"The award will be made in accordance with the find- "ing of the following-named five Commissioners, whose "acceptances were announced in the *Anthropologist* for No- "vember:

"Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, of the University of Pennsyl- "vania; Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, President of Johns Hop- "kins University; Melville W. Fuller, Chief Justice of the "United States Supreme Court; Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice- "President of the United States, and Dr. Robert H. Lam- "born.

"Essays submitted in competition for the prizes should "be delivered not later than November 1, 1893, [changed to "March 1, 1894], to the Secretary of the Board of Managers "of the Society, Mr. Weston Flint, No. 1101 K street, N. W., "Washington, D. C., to whom all correspondence relating "to the prizes should be addressed."

NOTES AND NEWS.

We have received from Cyrus W. Bardeen, of Syracuse, a number of his educational publications. One of them is a paper of his own on "The History of Educational Journalism in the State of New York," which he read at the Columbian Exposition in July. It gives a very full account of the various educational periodicals that have at different times been published in the State; and most readers will be surprised at the number of them. Unfortunately, their quality has not been comparable to their number; but there is reason to think that the historian of the next century will be able to chronicle an improvement in this respect. Another of the books referred to is a brief paper on the "History of the Philosophy of Pedagogics," by Charles W. Bennett. The author was formerly a theological professor, and we judge that the book is a syllabus of lectures that he sometimes delivered, for it is a mere outline suitable only as a basis for oral teaching. The most interesting book in the collection is that on "The Educational Labors of Henry Barnard," by Will S. Monroe, being a brief biography of Dr. Barnard with some account of his educational writings. The processes of his own education are very briefly described; but a fuller account is given of his work as Superintendent of Schools in Connecticut and Rhode Island, in which capacity his labors were of much use in improving the public school system of the country. In later years Dr. Barnard has been president of two different colleges, and also U. S. Commission of Education. The work by which he is best known among educators, however, is his *American Journal of Education*, of which thirty-one volumes have been published. This work, as Mr. Monroe remarks, "is not a school journal or review in the accepted use of those words, but * * * a vast encyclopædia of educational literature." It treats of every aspect of education, and its reputation among educators is very high. Besides these various books about the history and theory of education, Mr. Bardeen has lately published "The Limited Speller," by Henry R. Sanford, comprising an alphabetical list of such ordinary words as are liable to be misspelt, with such directions for pronunciation as are deemed necessary.

—Cyrus W. Bardeen, of Syracuse, has issued a reprint of a work on "Education and Educators," by David Kay, which was published in England some ten years ago. The book contains nothing specially fresh or original, but it is sensible, and sets forth most of the fundamental requisites of education clearly and well. The end and aim of education, according to Mr. Kay, is the perfection of man; but his ideas of perfection are somewhat utilitarian in character, for he also holds that he is the best educated man who is best fitted for the duties he may be called upon to discharge. He points out the necessity of exercising all the faculties as the only means to their development; but thinks this exercise is best obtained in the acquisition of useful knowledge. He lays special stress on the need of moral training, and devotes a whole chapter to the relation of education to religion. In the chapter on the different kinds of educators, the author points out how large a portion of our education comes from the circumstances in which we are placed and from the persons whom we come in contact with in the early years of life; and he also dwells with earnestness on the duties of the mother as the chief educator of the child. On the special subject of school education Mr. Kay says but little, his whole work being devoted to the principles of education rather than to their practical application. The most peculiar feature of the book, and in the author's opinion the most valuable, is the abundance of foot-notes, consisting of quotations from a great variety of authors on all the subjects touched upon in the book, and containing at least twice as much matter as the text itself. The selections, though quite short, are well made, and will furnish much food for thought to the thoughtful and diligent reader.

—Along the line of activities in scientific knowledge mention may be made of the Isaac Lea Conchological Chapter of the Agassiz Association. This was the first society formed in the United States for the study of conchology and malacology, having no place of meeting, nor course of lectures, but depending entirely upon correspondence. Yearly reports of work done by the members are required, and these reports form the "Transactions" of the chapter. Four volumes of transactions have been issued in manuscript. The chapter is composed of members from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Many of these members are well known as conchologists. Members correspond with one another, exchange specimens and help each other in scientific work. The chapter is divided into biological and geographical sections for the study of land, fresh water and marine shells. It also has a section for the study of fossil shells. A juvenile section has recently been added to the society which promises to be an important feature. It hopes soon to have a good working microscopical section for the study of odontophores or radula of mollusks, as well as microscopic shells. There is no admission fee, and the merely nominal sum of fifty cents covers the annual dues. Applicants for membership should address the President, Prof. Josiah Keep, author of "West Coast Shells," Mills College, California, or Mrs. Burton Williamson, General Secretary, University, Los Angeles County, California.