

1857

## Skinner, Platt H.'s Colored Schools for the Deaf

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EVENING STAR

TO THE STAR. Strangers who here are reminded that the very best way in which to keep constantly and promptly provided with references in the design and engraving of the several Metropolitan and surrounding towns wherever of which correct information is required for the Star. The subscription price for the Daily, when sent by mail, is \$3.50 per annum; for the Weekly, \$5.25 per annum.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

THE DEAF, DEAF AND BLIND ASYLUM. UNIVERSITY OF COLOR.—On the 24th of February a writ of habeas corpus was issued by his honor Judge Howell, calling upon Dr. F. K. Skinner to bring before him the said Judge, say a certain name and blind, who through the aid of Dr. F. K. Skinner, had been committed to the custody of said Dr. F. K. Skinner, on account of alleged insanity and mental derangement. The writ was made returnable on Saturday, the 25th of February, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. At that time the party appeared before the Judge aforesaid in the Circuit Court room of said county, who was accompanied by the witness who was originally named in the writ, the seventh name in the writ being that of a mute, Amelia Masters, a grown woman, who did not appear before the Judge. For the respondent, P. K. Skinner, appeared Mr. Walter D. Davidson, the District Attorney, and George Key, Esq., conducted the case on the part of the appellants and Mr. Kendall. A number of witnesses had been subpoenaed by the District Attorney, of whom were present Mrs. Ann Murray, Mrs. Mary Anne Weaver, Mrs. Catherine Hayward, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Boyce, and Mr. W. H. Weaver. The children brought into Court by request in compliance with the writ were John Quinn, Ann S. Brymanwell, Isaac Wis, and a White, James, and a colored, and Josephine Jenkins, a sane child.

In presenting his return in the writ, Dr. F. K. Skinner made several statements, the truth thereof wherein he denies the charges of cruelty and ill-treatment of the said children as alleged in the writ of habeas corpus. Dr. Davidson said that though deponent's witnesses were most of them sane, he still believed the case to be insanity, and that the facts therein were in fact the charges of cruelty and ill-treatment of the said children as alleged in the writ of habeas corpus. Dr. Davidson said that though deponent's witnesses were most of them sane, he still believed the case to be insanity, and that the facts therein were in fact the charges of cruelty and ill-treatment of the said children as alleged in the writ of habeas corpus.

THE LATE ISOPER.—The following is the opinion given by Dr. Berry on Saturday last, when examined before the inquest upon the body of the late David Hams: "The ball penetrated the abdomen at the left of the median line of the body, about three inches below and one to the left of the umbilicus, its course was downwards about an inch below the horizontal line, and from the sudden death of disease and the sanguine appearance of the heart and large artery of the body is supposed to have been wounded."

THE GRAND PROMENADE CONCERT AND BALL ON MONDAY NIGHT.—We have only space a day to call attention to the advertisement another column of the Concert and Ball to give on Monday night by the managers of the late grand inauguration held in July last. When we announce that those good men are to manage the affair, that they give the refreshment, that they will give the Marine band and a fine orchestra band; that it will take place in the grand inauguration ball room, and that the tickets are to be on one dollar, we have given nothing more we think, to excite the public curiosity. Mo hereafter.

THE WILLARD GUARD.—This magnificent company left this morning in the early train for their homes in Auburn, N. Y. Their brief sojourn in this city they have regarded with interest on all sides by their soldier bearing and gallant conduct in the inauguration services. Yesterday afternoon and evening, accompanied by their guest, Col. Geo. W. Fowrey, they were in parade for salute, and called to spend the evening at the house upon Mrs. J. N. Kepp at Willard's Hotel and upon Gen. Ward B. Bennett, now stopped in the city.

IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE destruction of 1 workhouse it has been found necessary to make some provision for the disposition of persons convicted of violation of the municipal laws. The Councils on Tuesday night passed a law which provides that all colored persons whether free or slave, who may be convicted of such offenses and cannot pay the fine or costs required by law, shall be punished with stripes, and all white persons similarly convicted shall be committed to the county jail. This act of the Councils is approved on 15th, and is now a law of the corporation.

THE MONTGOMERY GUARDS of Richmond partook of a fine entertainment yesterday evening at the residence of Mrs. James Maber. The Captain of the Guards made a fine speech, which he returned the thanks of himself as companion for the same. The evening was a very pleasant one, and the company of the Guards made a fine speech, which he returned the thanks of himself as companion for the same.

THE GRAND HOTEL was crowded last evening with the most motley set of profligate seen there. Some of them boasted that the workhouse was destroyed, the Corporation could pay them, by confinement, they were sure; when told that, for the present they were to be confined in the county jail. A large number of vagrants were dismissed upon promise to leave the city immediately.

THE CRIMINAL COURT is sitting to-day to receive the returns of the Grand Jury. Trials will be commenced on Monday. WATSON REYNOLDS.—Louis Kobinski, druggist and distiller; \$500 and 30 days; John Maber, druggist and a vagrant; jail 30 days; Charles Carroll and Wm. McPerron, druggist; jail 30 days each; Charles Morgan, druggist and a vagrant; Charles Herald, druggist; jail 30 days; Lewis Richardson and John Barr, druggist; gambling; \$500 and 30 days; and a number of other persons, including a vagrant, imprisoned. J. Anderson, do; J. M. Anderson, do; J. Jefferson, do; Joseph Dever, do; do; George Whitehead, do; do; Richard Ferde, do; jail 30 days; George Hamilton, do; do; Patrick Kane, do; Michael Daly, do; do; Alexander Dever, tearing down the eastern pile at 7 o'clock.

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# EVENING STAR.

**OF THE STAR.**—Readers now have concluded that the very best way in which they can keep correctly and promptly posted with reference to its doings and sayings at the Federal Metropolis and concerning events elsewhere, of which correct information is so desirable in Washington, is to subscribe for The Star. The subscription price for the Daily, when sent by mail, is \$3.50 per annum; for the Weekly, \$1.25 per annum.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

**THE DRUG, DUES AND DUES AGAIN CONVENTION.**—In the testimony in this case published yesterday, two or three inaccuracies occurred of sufficient importance, perhaps, to demand correction. The first was, that it is represented as saying that "inductors out of the District are not binding here." It should be "inductors made" as, as Agria, at the conclusion of Mrs. Raymond's evidence the word "made" was said, she having really said she "would not be on good terms with such a man."

The following is a continuation of the testimony: Miss Alice Adams deposed that she went to Dr. Skinner's, to act as a teacher in the school, on the 16th of September, 1855, and continued till the 15th of December, on the 15th of September the Doctor rode out with his wife; Ann Symanski came to deponent and asked and obtained leave to go out; whilst out, Dr. S. came home, and when the child again returned to the school room deponent saw her face out and bruised; she said the Doctor had whipped her, he did it with the horse whip; it was the only time she saw him on her; the Doctor after whipping the children, say three times a day, had seen him on one occasion whip with a piece of rope about a yard long; he whipped the child on the hand, her hand was very much bruised; the bruise passed from the palm through to the back of the hand; the child cried; does not think he gave them food enough; they have for a meal sometimes one large or two small potatoes; sometimes they had pudding, made of ship-stuff; the family, which sat at the head of the table, were fed differently from the children; the meals were two a day; sometimes for perhaps five thousand persons to witness it, though the weather was disagreeable. The artillery was that which figured so favorably in the inaugural procession, i. e. company K, 1st artillery from Fort McHenry, commanded by Major French. The firing was executed with remarkable rapidity, and the other evolutions were well performed, and were not without being carried out with greater precision; but for the crowd of boys who covered the ground, and obliged the troop frequently to stop in mid career to avoid trampling the little fellows down.

It was astonishing, the amount of civilities upon the ground. What has happened the women are to be sure, professing such respect for powder, such horror of war and all its surroundings; yet they stamp to a parade as fast as their pretty feet will carry them, give their civis bene slip, and ten chances to see march home on the arm of a "military" man, "keeping step to the music of the union," as Rufus Choate says—Val, vot of it?

**ROBBERY.**—On the night of the fourth, Mr. R. Cohen's residence was entered by thieves after the family had retired, and the entire family placed under the influence of chloroform. It is believed, after which the thieves ransacked the house. A gold watch valued at \$100 was stolen and a small amount of money. In one spot \$1,100 were placed, but which was untouched. The watch was a thirteen jeweled watch and attached to a silk ribbon about as thick as half an inch, cracked across the crystal.

**A NATIONAL LOSS.**—We hear it stated that the draft of the Farewell Address of Washington has been stolen from the library of the State Department. A most rigid search has been instituted for its recovery, which it is to be hoped may prove successful; as upon the possession of this original document, with its interlinations, depends the proof of its authorship by the Father of his Country—a point contested, it will be remembered, by the historian of General Hamilton, who claims for that eminent statesman the honor of its composition.

**FOCUS AT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.**—A memorandum book was found at the President's last night. Also, one on the night of the 27th of February, which appears to belong to a conductor on the Cincinnati and Chicago railroad; and on the same night a portmanteau, which appears to belong to some member of the mission at St. Patrick's church. They were placed in the possession of Captain Mills of the Auxiliary Guard, who left them at the corner of the Star office, where the owners can get them.

was to chance for the children to escape from Skinner's cruelty; the place was kept locked up; deponent did not know who kept the keys.

**MR. KEYS, sworn.**—When Skinner's first case was called on deponent is not allowed having been called on to go to his subject; he pronounced the house like a prison; deponent said he would give him the key; deponent said he would consent his wife on the subject; Skinner said it would not cost deponent anything; deponent at length consented, and said if he found he could contribute anything he would do so; so which Skinner answered, "It was not because he had great respect of money, and did not want any about;" deponent went several times to see his child, but would not get to see him; the Doctor at length brought the child home, and deponent found he had whipped him; for Skinner acknowledged it; Skinner came several times to get the child back, but deponent refused; deponent said that as far from better it to raise children, Skinner is not fit to raise a cock.

The Judge then adjourned the examination, requiring the children to be brought before him again on Monday, the 24th March, at 10 o'clock a. m.

**U. S. POLICE REPORT.**—Before Justice Dowse: Mary Mann was arrested for committing a violent assault and battery on a woman named Shear; she gave security in \$500 for court.

Wm. Martin, committed to jail for being an examination, on the 4th inst., under the suspicion of having been concerned with James Wilson in stealing a watch from Hercules Keys at the Annapolis Junction, which watch was found in this city, was released on bail in the sum of \$500, his presence being necessary in Philadelphia, on the 26th, as a witness in an important case.

Patrick Hanlon was arrested by Officer Parkman for an assault and battery on his wife; gave security for peace.

Washington Goodrich, an officer from Baltimore, was arrested by Officer King, on the 4th inst., for committing an assault and battery on Wm. M. Johnson. The proceeding with him not being present, the defendant gave security to appear at a subsequent time, of which the prosecutor had due notice, but not appearing to prosecute the case was discharged.

James Carr, Thomas L., and John Jones, three young pickpockets from Baltimore, were arrested by Special Police-men McHenry and Williams at Baltimore, and there not being sufficient evidence to convict them of an overt act, although taken under suspicious circumstances, they were dismissed upon promise of leaving the city immediately, which they did.

**THE LATEST ARTILLERY DANCE**, which took place on the 24th inst., yesterday afternoon drew perhaps five thousand persons to witness it, though the weather was disagreeable. The artillery was that which figured so favorably in the inaugural procession, i. e. company K, 1st artillery from Fort McHenry, commanded by Major French. The firing was executed with remarkable rapidity, and the other evolutions were well performed, and were not without being carried out with greater precision; but for the crowd of boys who covered the ground, and obliged the troop frequently to stop in mid career to avoid trampling the little fellows down.

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citizens than Mr. Shreve has exhibited during the past winter. His building was comfortable, his company selected with excellent taste, and the performance of a character tending to elevate the mind. His principal argument was in favor of the free trade, and paid almost irresistible force for their services. Not a single disagreeable scene has occurred in his parlors during the season; and still he has been paid for his expenses and exertions. Tonight has been appropriated for his own benefit, and will close the season. I hope, therefore, the public will show a just appreciation of his merits, and fill the house from riser to riser.

**AMONG THE MANY USEFUL AND VALUABLE THINGS** on exhibition at the Fair we notice some specimens of "Tanner's Improved Building Block," which is coming into such general use in the North. We call attention to this material as being an improvement calculated to revolutionize the cost of building. It is and remains in use, and is understood that a few competent persons can obtain valuable agencies for the sale of the "rights" to this invention by calling at the "Union Land Office," No. 409 1/2 Seventh street.

**DEATH AND RECOVERED BY THE FIRST PATRIOTS.**—Mr. Rally's celebrated Parties de Belle, or Equil Longages; as the most convenient, pleasant, safe and efficacious remedy in use for the various affections of the throat and lungs, such as coughs, colds, croup, hoarseness, sore throat, asthma, &c. &c. &c. is sold by every druggist in this city, Georgetown, Alexandria, Va., and Baltimore, Md.

**WATER BROTHERS.**—O. Ritter, drunk in the street, fined \$2 and costs; Lucius Oliver, vagrant, jail 90 days; Henry Shette, attempt at robbery, dismissed, drunk, costs. The number of lodgers has dwindled down to the old standard—only five were accommodated last night.

The Robert Middleton that was in the watch house last night is an Irishman of 49 years old, and a stone cutter by trade. J. Mills, March 24, 1857. Captain A. G.

**PERSONAL.**  
... Hon. O. B. Ficklin, of Illinois, has taken lodgings at the International Hotel.  
... The Hon. Mr. McCordick, formerly a member of Congress from California, is among the host of distinguished public men now in this city. He has apartments at the Kirkwood.  
... Mr. Samuel Butterworth's wound is by no means as severe as was represented a day or two since; nor did the accident by which he was shot occur as represented in the letter from Baltimore on the subject, from which we made up the account of it previously published in the Star. It appears that the overcoat containing the pistol was laying with many others, and that some person is seeking for his own among them threw the one with the pistol on the floor, and that the concussion thus taking place exploded the pistol while Mr. B. was standing near, in such a position as to receive the ball in his thigh.

**DEED.**  
This morning, the 7th instant, in the third year of his life, ANNE K. W. French child of Edward M. and Jane S. Clark.

**Wants.**  
**WANTED—A WOMAN TO DO THE GENERAL HOUSEWORK** of a small family. Good wages will be given. Apply No. 424 Broadway, corner of F. mar 7-30

**DRUG CLERK WANTED—NONE NEEDED** apply near the corner of good street, as to character and capacity. Address "Philo," through the Post Office, in the hand writing of the applicant. mar 7-30

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY—A SERVANT** Woman, to do the Cooking, &c. of a small family. Inquire at No. 28 1/2 11th street, between Massachusetts avenue and M street. mar 7-30

**WANTED—A BOY WISHES A PLACE** where he could learn a trade. He is intelligent, and of good habits, and has the best of references. To a good home immediate attention will be given. Call at Messrs BRACKETT & BRO' corner of 7th and F streets. mar 7-30

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY—A STEADY** Man to take care of a horse and do office work. To a competent person a permanent home and good wages will be given. Call at FLETCHER'S Tin's Confectionery, Penn. avenue, between a 10th and 11th streets. mar 7-30

**WANTED—A WHITE MAN AS COACHMAN** He must thoroughly understand his business as a groom and coachman, and be willing to make himself useful about the house when not employed with his horses. To one who can produce the necessary recommendations will be had employment at the north west corner of Franklin Square and 12th streets. mar 7-30

**WANTED—A GIRL TO ASSIST AS A** Nurse for Children, who can bring good recommendations. Inquire at No. 306 New Jersey avenue, Capital Hill. mar 7-30

**WANTED—TO PURCHASE, A FOLK** An altered 1/2 Georgetown, from \$100 to \$150. Apply to E. S. T. CUREN, corner of Bridge and Congress streets, Georgetown. mar 7-30

**WANTED—TWO GIRLS, ONE AS Nurse** the other as cook, washer and ironer. Must be competent and faithful. Apply immediately at 42 1/2 E street, corner of 11th street. mar 7-30

**WANTED—A COOK FOR A SMALL** family. Inquire at 11th street, corner of N. W. Chamberland. Good wages and good references. mar 7-30

**FOR SALE AND**  
**FOR RENT—A PALMORA** A new 5 single Rooms, well furnished, at No. 3 opposite to Lincoln Hotel, Price of the premises.  
**FOR RENT—TELEGRAPH** A new building, with all conveniences, situated on K street, between 2nd and 3rd streets. Terms of rent will be sent on application. Inquire at No. 224 E street.

**FOR SALE—A FRAME** building 5 Rooms, good Fire Locomotive on Massachusetts avenue and 12th street west. A press the door, and convenient to be sold low for cash. Inquire of City Post Office.

**FOR SALE—A FARM IN** a good county, Md. 9 miles from the Potomac, near the National Church. The farm contains 100 acres, with a good building, including a 5 for four acres.

Also, a new Brick Dwelling near the National Church, containing 5 Rooms, and a large City Water Closet, Force Pump, It is one of the most convenient in the city. Near the Market street, and convenient to be sold low for cash. Inquire of City Post Office.

**TWO LET—BY THE MONTH** A new building, containing 5 Rooms, and a large City Water Closet, Force Pump, It is one of the most convenient in the city. Near the Market street, and convenient to be sold low for cash. Inquire of City Post Office.

**THREE HOUSES AND 1** lot, near the National Church, containing 5 Rooms, and a large City Water Closet, Force Pump, It is one of the most convenient in the city. Near the Market street, and convenient to be sold low for cash. Inquire of City Post Office.

**VALUABLE FARM IN** a good county, Md. 9 miles from the Potomac, near the National Church. The farm contains 100 acres, with a good building, including a 5 for four acres.

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PLEASE READ THIS.

A BRIEF NARRATIVE

OF THE LIFE OF

MRS. ADELE M. JEWEL,

(BEING DEAF AND DUMB.)

"As you would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."

Mrs. JEWEL presents this little sketch of her life as a means of support, with the hope of meeting with friends, and some degree of sympathy from the benevolent and traveling public.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.:

DR. CHASE'S STEAM PRINTING HOUSE, 31 & 43, N. MAIN ST.

PRICE FIFTEEN CENTS.

We saw many Indians and Squaws sitting about on the shore, with their little children playing about them. Many of them were nearly white and very pretty. They were employed with bead-work which they wrought with great ingenuity, and offered for sale to visitors. I brought away several little relics which I prize highly.

The Suspension Bridge is a wonderful structure. In the distance it looked like a spider-web. It seems almost incredible that such a bridge could be built strong enough to bear up a heavily loaded train of cars. Yet it is true. It would be fearful to fall at such a time!

At the Suspension Bridge we found an Asylum for the deaf, dumb, and blind. It was a private school kept by Dr. Skinner and his wife. The Doctor had been blind two years—his wife, though she could see, was a mute. This worthy couple, though white themselves, were deeply interested in the poor colored children afflicted like themselves, and their pupils are all colored. Those who could see had bright sparkling eyes, and were quiet and respectful. The blind were very tidy and attentive. They all seemed very contented and happy, and it was interesting to see the dumb scholars converse with their blind associates.

The institution is supported partly by donations and contributions from those who sympathize in the good work, and partly by the publication of a paper—the work is done by the pupils who are printers and compositors.

We came away much pleased with our visit, and praying for the success and prosperity of the

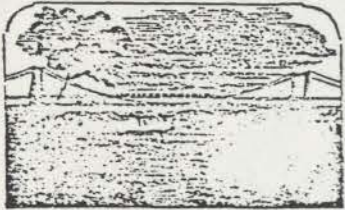
Asylum, and for the welfare of the generous instructors and founders.

At the Suspension Bridge we took the cars for Portage, passing, on our road, Perry, Wyoming and several other little villages. When we left the cars and took a carriage, our way lay along a high ridge of hills. The carriage track was very narrow, with scarcely a foot space between it and a frightful precipice on one side, and a high, steep bank on the other. I trembled and clung to the side of the carriage, fearing every moment to be dashed to destruction—a single mis-step of the horses, or mismanagement on the part of the driver, making such a result inevitable. But we passed over safely. Every now and then entering some densely wooded dingle or tangled wild, which made it seem as if we were hundreds of miles from any human habitation, and then a sudden turn in the road would reveal the most enchanting little village imaginable, nestled in a warm valley at our feet; we could look directly down upon the roofs of some of them. It seemed to me like fairy land. Thus we were several times surprised and delighted during our ride.

The Portage Falls, though much smaller than the Niagara, looked very beautiful, flying and flashing in the sunlight, and pouring its sheet of white foam down the rocks.

Messenger's Hollow was another beautiful town, situated at the foot of the Alleghany Mountains. Indeed, I could fill a large book, describing what I saw through that country, but I can only briefly allude to them here. All along this delightful tour I found much pleasure in conversing with some of

# THE HERALD.



NIAGARA CITY, N. Y.  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1858.

## Dr. Skinner—More Evidence.

Although we had once determined to occupy no more space in our paper with notices of Dr. Skinner or his affairs, we cannot refuse a compliance with the request contained in the letter we insert below, signed by the entire Eldership of the Presbyterian Church in this village; and we accordingly publish to-day, to the exclusion of other matter, a letter from Rev. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D., of Washington city, and commend its careful perusal to our readers.

We deem it necessary to make no further comment editorially than to say that, so far as we have been able to judge from personal observation, the conclusions arrived at by Messrs. Adams, Day, Royce, and Culver, are in accordance with the views generally entertained by our citizens.

The reader will notice that Dr. Sunderland refers to certain extended reports of the legal investigation in Washington, as published in the Daily Star. These reports have since been furnished us by another party and may be examined at pleasure in our office. They present evidence of gross inhumanity on the part of Dr. Skinner towards the children under his charge, and of personal unfitness to have

other persons who become actively engaged with Dr. Skinner in his effort, was Hon. Amos Kendall, who had made a subscription to the object of Four Hundred dollars, payable one hundred dollars per annum, for four years. Mr. Kendall had also placed at the disposal of Dr. Skinner a house and premises for his use free of charge, until some more suitable accommodations could be provided. It was, I think, towards the close of the year 1856, that Dr. Skinner availed himself of this generosity and took possession of the house for the winter. Before this, however, rumors unfavorable to Dr. Skinner, from N. York city and other sources, began to be privately circulated, but as they were known to comparatively but a few, and as there was no disposition to inquire into them or to embarrass Dr. Skinner in his new field, he was permitted to go on with his effort without a public exposure.

About the time of his removing to the house proffered him by Mr. Kendall, he seemed anxious to have a Board of Directors or Trustees, composed of persons well known in the community, and among others he earnestly solicited me to become a member of that Board. By his invitation, I did attend a sort of preliminary meeting, where I met Mr. Kendall and several prominent gentlemen of the city, who were disposed to act as Directors, and proceeded to take the proper measures for the establishment of the proposed Institution.—Among other matters discussed, it was determined to constitute a committee to inquire into various subjects connected with the establishment of such an Institution, and report for our better information, at a subsequent meeting. To this Dr. Skinner, with a good deal of excitement of manner, seemed to object, as he was not made a member of the committee, being already made the Secretary of the meeting, having the records of our proceedings committed to his keeping, and being treated and regarded by us all at the time as the principal and head of our forming Institution, and as the individual from whom chiefly

shadow of foundation for such a suspicion being the fact that Mr. Kendall, being the President of the Board, did in his own individual capacity, permit the District Attorney to use his name, as the "next friend" of the children, in the prosecution commenced by that officer. But I give the articles as follows:

## CIRCUIT COURT.

Wednesday, April 8.

Yesterday the Court was engaged with the consideration of the case of Dr. Platt H. Skinner, recently referred to this Court by Judge Morsell, after trial of the habeas corpus commanding said Skinner to bring forward the bodies of certain mutes and blind children in his keeping. Several witnesses were examined.

The defence, by Messrs. Bradley and Davidge, read a declaration, the leading point of which seemed to be to charge that the initiation of these proceedings was due to Mr. Amos Kendall, who is understood, with other gentlemen, to have set on foot an institution of a character similar to that of Dr. Skinner.

Mr. Key, in reply, explained. He said that at least a month before the publication of Mr. Kendall appeared in the "Union," characterizing Dr. Skinner as an imposter, he (Mr. Key) had himself been informed by several ladies of the highest respectability, and who resided in the neighborhood of Skinner's school, of the wretched condition in which the children were kept and provided for; that on seeing Mr. Kendall's letter in the Union he addressed that gentleman a letter soliciting information, and requesting the names of parties who could give testimony in the matter. In short, Mr. Key assumed for himself the whole weight of responsibility of bringing the case before a judicial tribunal, deeming it one demanding the humane interference of the law.

The witnesses who testified were, first, Mrs. Raymond. This lady had lived with Skinner on 4½ street, and at G street, First Ward. She deposed to Skinner's severity towards the children, to the insufficiency and poor quality of the food, and their general bad treatment by their keeper.

Mrs. E. D. E. N., Southworth had dined three times at the institution. Saw the children at dinner. All they were allowed was one or two small potatoes at a meal. Their food was neither sufficient nor proper. The children sometimes visited deponent's residence, and when there always complained of hunger and got food. They had but two meals a day. A little girl, Mary Donaldson, had bitterly complained to deponent of the treatment she had

the Criminal Court to answer a charge of perjury; in respect to the contempt, that Skinner be held in the Marshal's custody until the procurement of the bail aforesaid, but, on furnishing it, that he be discharged from the attachment and, lastly, that steps be immediately taken for the arrest of Mrs. Skinner and her return to the jurisdiction of the Court, to answer the charge of obstructing the due course of law in carrying off the five mute children on Wednesday.

The Court then entered upon a case in chancery.

April 11th.

**THE MUTE CHILDREN RECOVERED.**—In compliance with the order of the Circuit Court, Deputy Marshal Phillips proceeded to Baltimore on Thursday afternoon to discover the abiding place of Mrs. Skinner and the fugitive mute children, who left the court-house on Wednesday. The search for them was long and tedious, but was rewarded by their discovery at a boarding house about 2 o'clock yesterday morning. The whole weight of this labor fell on Mr. Phillips, for the Baltimore officers seem to have done nothing towards the matter. Mr. P. brought back Mrs. S. and the little flock by the railroad yesterday morning, and the latter are now in the Marshal's keeping, subject to the disposal of the Court which will not meet again until Monday next. The Marshal has committed their custody to the messenger of the Court, Mr. G. A. Clark, and Mrs. Skinner is at large on her own recognizance to appear in Court on Monday. Mr. Skinner himself is in jail, having been unable as yet to obtain the bail required.

April 15th.

**THE CIRCUIT COURT.**—On Monday morning Messrs. Henri Herrisse and Robert K. Scott were admitted as attorneys and counsellors of this court.

The Court then discharged from the control and custody of Platt H. Skinner the mute children, John Quinn, Ann S. Szymanoske, Isaac Winn, William Blood, and James Henry, and the Marshal was ordered to bring them before the Judge of the Orphans' Court to be bound out as apprentices, or otherwise dealt with according to law. They continue in the charge of Mr. G. A. Clark until thus disposed of by the Orphans' Court.

The Court yesterday reduced the amount of bail in the case of said Skinner, charged with perjury and now in jail, from \$2,500 to \$1,000.

Jury trials have again commenced, and the case of Ed. M. Linticum vs. William Robinson was tried, and an inquisition returned for the plaintiff.

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**THE MUTE CHILDREN,** taken from the charge of Platt H. Skinner by the Circuit Court on

pearance at the next term thereafter of the criminal court. The children were brought back, taken from the custody of Dr. S., and placed in charge of the institution under the direction of Amos Kendall, where I believe they are now.† This object being accomplished, the case was dismissed and the Dr. left for the North, where I understand he has lectured quite extensively upon the trials that he has been subjected to in Washington.

He charges I understand wherever he goes that "he was persecuted while here for teaching a poor blind colored girl to read, and that he was pursued with such vindictiveness as to have his house burned down over his head."

If such is the representation that he makes, it is, in my opinion, utterly without foundation in truth. He had in his charge while here a little mulatto blind girl, who, while with him, made great proficiency in reading by the new art, and due praise was awarded him by all classes of our citizens, for the pains he had taken in instructing a child so young to read. If he was persecuted for this, he did not complain of it while here, to those who befriended him, and I am confident that no one here ever heard of these persecutions till after the Dr. commenced his lecturing tour through the North. The persecutions existed only in his prolific brain.

The foregoing will answer your 2d and 3d interrogatories. In reply to your last "did you befriend him and become his bail in any matter before any of the courts in this county—I have to say that I did "become his bail," and befriended him in many other ways, not however in the belief that he was a perfect man, but solely on the ground of humanity—he was without friends, in the hands of the officers of justice, as I conceived without good cause—a mute wife clinging to him in deep agony, within the walls of his prison, and, when asked to aid him, I did so cheerfully, and I regret that he should misrepresent the facts, and attempt, for a sordid consideration, to charge this community with sins which they are not guilty of. His misfortunes here, to a great extent, are ascribable to his own folly and self will. He persistently discarded the advice of those who wished him well and he should not complain if thereby misfortunes came upon him.

Respectfully your Obt Serrt.,  
E. L. STEVENS.

† It is true as Mr. Stevens says, the children are now in the institution under the management of a Board, of which Mr. Kendall is President, but they were first placed under order of the Judge of the Orphan's court.

Thus it may be seen how far the allegation of Dr. Skinner that he was persecuted here for instructing colored children is well founded, and what was the nature of his difficulties and the causes from which they

Feb 26

and Culver, are in accordance with the views generally entertained by our citizens.

The reader will notice that Dr. Sunderland refers to certain extended reports of the legal investigation in Washington, as published in the Daily Star. These reports have since been furnished us by another party and may be examined at pleasure in our office. They present evidence of gross inhumanity on the part of Dr. Skinner towards the children under his charge, and of personal unfitness to have the care of children at all.

NIAGARA CITY, Sept. 30, 1858.

N. T. HACKSTAFF, Esq., Editor of Herald.

SIR:—We hand you herewith a communication from Rev. BYRON SUNDERLAND, D. D., Pastor of the "Four and a Half Street Presbyterian Church," in Washington City, and request that you give it a place in your columns. It treats of the character and conduct of a man who assumes to have established in our village an Institution for the education of Deaf, Dumb and Blind children of colored parentage, and who is constantly traveling among the churches seeking contributions to sustain it. Dr. Sunderland was, for many years, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Batavia, and, for a time, of one of the churches at Syracuse, and is widely known and esteemed by clergymen and christians of all denominations. He has been an eye witness of and an actor in the scenes of which he writes, in Washington, and his testimony added to that of Hon. Amos Kendall and others, already published by you, and to that of our own observation since that individual has been a resident of our village, is conclusive to our minds that Dr. Skinner is unfit for the position he assumes, and unworthy the confidence and contributions of christians and philanthropists.—We will not occupy your space by specifications of circumstances that have come under our notice, but this much we have deemed it our duty to testify to the public and to members of sister churches who may be called on for aid, and who have not the opportunity of personal investigation. Respectfully Yours,

MARCUS ADAMS,  
O. H. DAY,  
P. A. ROYCE,  
WM. CULVER.

WASHINGTON, (D. C.) Aug. 20, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—I owe you an apology for the long delay to fulfil my promise to send you a reliable statement respecting

terminated to constitute a committee to inquire into various subjects connected with the establishment of such an Institution, and report for our better information, at a subsequent meeting. To this Dr. Skinner, with a good deal of excitement of manner, seemed to object, as he was not made a member of the committee, being already made the Secretary of the meeting, having the records of our proceedings committed to his keeping, and being treated and regarded by us all at the time as the principal and head of our forming Institution, and as the individual from whom chiefly the committee raised were to obtain the desired information. All this was suggested to him at the time, but apparently in vain. His conduct on that occasion gave me the first unfavorable impressions of the man from personal observation, and those impressions were subsequently confirmed in the unexpected course pursued by him. The committee notwithstanding was appointed and directed to report at an adjourned meeting. In the interval which elapsed, however, one day during Mr. Kendall's absence from town, Dr. Skinner suddenly removed from the house and left us who had sought to befriend him to make what we might out of our proceedings as a Board of Directors. Mr. Kendall, on his return, learning the course of things and having satisfied himself that Dr. Skinner was not fitted to have the confidence of the community in such an enterprise, published an article in one of the city papers, warning the public of his movements.—This I think was the first public announcement which brought Dr. Skinner into an unenviable notoriety among us. But, having gone so far, it was determined on the part of those gentlemen with whom I acted, to prosecute our purpose of establishing an Institution of the kind contemplated, which has since been done. Meanwhile Dr. Skinner continued his exertions in his own way, and on his own responsibility, till finally rumors of his cruelty to the children in his charge terminated in legal proceedings to recover them from his possession. The first action of this nature was reported in the National Intelligencer of March 2, 1857, a copy of which I send you with the article marked on the first page, from which it appears that Mr. Kendall, as the "next friend" of the children, was complainant, and Mr. Key the District Attorney, the prosecutor—that Dr. Skinner was brought before the court on a writ

The witnesses who testified that Raymond. This lady had lived with Skinner on 4½ street, and at G street, First Ward. She deposed to Skinner's severity towards the children, to the insufficiency and poor quality of the food, and their general bad treatment by their keeper.

Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth had dined three times at the institution. Saw the children at dinner. All they were allowed was one or two small potatoes at a meal. Their food was neither sufficient nor proper. The children sometimes visited deponent's residence, and when there always complained of hunger and got food. They had but two meals a day. A little girl, Mary Donaldson, had bitterly complained to deponent of the treatment she had received. Deponent pleaded for the child to Dr. Skinner.

Mrs. Brown had a child at the institution.—It complained of hunger and looked badly.—It ran away, but was at the advice of Mr. Edes and others, sent back. After two days it ran away again, when Mr. Edes advised that it be sent back no more.

Miss Alice Adams instanced several cases of cruel treatment of the children with fist, horsewhip, and by kicking. The children complained of hunger almost every day.

Dr. Storrow saw Dr. Skinner inflict punishment of a merciless character on a small boy. The child's hand was bleeding from the effects of the lash. On another occasion saw Skinner strike another small boy with the but end of a buggy whip. The first referred to was stated by deponent to be of a most brutal character.

Mr. Seys had a child at the institution, and deposed very unfavorably of its treatment for cruelty and privation by Dr. Skinner.

Mr. O. Olds testified at great length, giving a history of the school during his six weeks' residence there. It was quite unfavorable to Dr. Skinner.

Mr. Burrows was the last witness examined, when the Court adjourned to meet this morning and resume the case.

April 9th.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The proceedings under the habeas corpus upon Platt H. Skinner were not concluded yesterday. Two of the mute and blind children were placed by the Court out of Skinner's hands, but the remaining five were strangely spirited away from the custody of the Court whilst in session, and at a later hour the respondent, Skinner, also absented himself. Skinner, before leaving the Court, had made an affidavit that the children's leaving the court-room was without his knowledge or consent. After waiting several hours the Court issued an attachment against him for contempt, and he was arrested about nine o'clock last night by Deputy Marshal Phillips, just as he was making for Bladensburg, whether it has been ascertained the missing children were taken at an earlier hour by Mrs. Skinner.—The children were carried thence to Baltimore by the three o'clock cars, and are now probably in the hands of the officers of the law, to be brought back to Washington. Mr. Skinner was lodged all night in our county jail, and will be brought this morning again before the Court.

April 10th.

and the Marshal was ordered to bring before the Judge of the Orphans' Court to be bound out as apprentices, or otherwise dealt with according to law. They continue in the charge of Mr. G. A. Clark until thus disposed of by the Orphans' Court.

The Court yesterday reduced the amount of bail in the case of said Skinner, charged with perjury and now in jail, from \$2,500 to \$1,000. Jury trials have again commenced, and the case of Ed. M. Linthicum vs. William Robinson was tried, and an inquisition returned for the plaintiff.

April 15th

THE MUTE CHILDREN, taken from the charge of Platt H. Skinner by the Circuit Court on Monday last, were yesterday brought before the Judge of the Orphans' Court, to be disposed of by him as he may deem most fit. A proposal was made by Dr. Skinner through his attorney, Mr. Bradley, to retake the children. Judge Purcell holds the matter under advisement, and will give his decision to-day at 11 o'clock.

These extracts show the general nature of the transaction, but do not give the final conclusion of Dr. Skinner's operations and difficulties in this city. He did procure bail by the kindly interposition of E. L. Stevens, Esq., a citizen of Washington, who under the impression that Dr. Skinner was not intentionally at fault, came forward as his surety, and procured his release from confinement in the jail. And soon after this Dr. P. H. Skinner departed from our midst, to practice, in a similar way, on his favorite subject of help for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. Supposing that a statement from Mr. Stevens would, under the circumstances, be of importance in deciding as to the real causes of Dr. Skinner's troubles in Washington, I addressed him a note, of which the following is a copy:

WASHINGTON, Aug 2, 1858.

E. L. STEVENS, Esq.—Dear Sir:—Understanding that you became surety for the appearance of Dr. Skinner at Court, in a matter of complaint against him, some time since, in this city, and that you are somewhat acquainted with the nature of his difficulties and the history of his operations, while he resided here, I would respectfully ask, if you have no objection, a reply from you to the following questions:

1. What was the occasion of his being brought before the Court of this County?

2. What was the nature of the legal proceedings against him?

3. How was he received by the public when he first came to this city? and what was the real cause of the withdrawal of the public sympathy and confidence from him?

4. Was he ever persecuted in this city, so far as you know and believe, by any person or number of persons, for his having instructed or attempted to instruct a negro child, or for any such or similar course whatever? Did you befriend him and become his bail in any matter before any of the Courts in this County?

well and he should not complain if such misfortunes came upon him.

Respectfully your Obt. Servt.,  
E. L. STEVENS.

It is true as Mr. Stevens says, the children are now in the Institution under the management of a Board, of which Mr. Kendall is President, but they were first placed under order of the Judge of the Orphan's court.

Thus it may be seen how far the allegation of Dr. Skinner that he was persecuted here for instructing colored children is well founded, and what was the nature of his difficulties and the causes from which they sprung. I have no doubt if he had hearkened to the advice of Mr. Kendall in the first instance, and had consented as a reasonable man should have done, to co-operate with those gentlemen who by his own solicitation had become interested in the establishment of an Institution for the deaf, dumb and blind, he would have saved himself a great deal of trouble. But in regard to the other reports which were gaining ground against him, of cruelty to the children and various other matters unfavorable to his standing here, it is sufficient to say that the public mind in Washington has settled down in the conviction that he is not a suitable person to have charge of such an Institution, and more than all, that he is now pursuing a course of misrepresentation at the North which is utterly unworthy of any one having regard for truth and fairness.

Abundance of testimony can be procured in this city, from people of every shade of opinion and sentiment, as to the justice of this conviction in regard to Dr. P. H. Skinner. And the people among whom he is now operating may rest assured that our population generally in the city of Washington are as full of sympathy, as readily moved and as free to contribute in behalf of any such philanthropic effort, when it is worthily represented among them, as the people of any other town in the country.—It is a slander upon them to alledge that they are guilty of persecution against Dr. Skinner—and fidelity to the facts and history of the case constrains me so to pronounce it, coming from whatsoever quarter it may. At the same time, I do not believe any one here desires to pursue or to embarrass Dr. Skinner, in his future efforts, so long as he adheres to truth and pursues lawful objects by lawful means.

Very Truly,  
B. SUNDERLAND.

churches who may be called on for aid, and who have not the opportunity of personal investigation. Respectfully Yours,

MARCUS ADAMS,  
O. H. DAY,  
P. A. ROYCE,  
WM. CULVER.

WASHINGTON, (D. C.) Aug. 20, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—I owe you an apology for the long delay to fulfil my promise to send you a reliable statement respecting the troubles of Dr. P. H. Skinner, in this city, in the early part of the year 1857.—But this delay has resulted from various unavoidable circumstances, and not from any forgetfulness on my part, or any want of appreciation of the matter involved. In making the following communication I have no desire to speak ill of Dr. Skinner, or to injure his influence or reputation, but inasmuch as we are informed that he is making the representation in various places at the North, that "his troubles in Washington arose wholly from his offering or undertaking to teach a colored girl amidst the slavery of that city," and in as much as there is not, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, a particle of truth in the above statement, I feel bound, in justice to all concerned, to submit to you for publication, if you deem it expedient, the following facts:

When Dr. Skinner came to Washington, bringing, as he did, several unfortunate children with him, he was received by our people with much kindness and cordiality. Notices of his movements appeared in the city papers, of the most friendly character, and a general sympathy seemed to be awakened among all classes toward his professed object. Various sums of money and other articles were contributed to further the aims he proposed in the support of himself and family. Leading citizens manifested a kindly interest in his undertaking, which was understood in the community to be an effort to establish an Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, particularly of this District, and for those from other sections of the country. Among

bility, till finally rumors of his cruelty to the children in his charge terminated in legal proceedings to recover them from his possession. The first action of this nature was reported in the National Intelligencer of March 2, 1857, a copy of which I send you with the article marked on the first page, from which it appears that Mr. Kendall, as the "next friend" of the children, was complainant, and Mr. Key the District Attorney, the prosecutor—that Dr. Skinner was brought before the court on a writ of Habeas Corpus, on Saturday, Feb. 28, 1857—that evidence was given in the case, before Judge Morsell, and a protracted examination had. Some of the other city papers, especially the "Evening Star" of the above date, have a very full report of the evidence given on that occasion, but though the files are accessible here, I regret to say I have been unable to obtain copies to send you. But the result of the whole investigation at that time, was, that Dr. Skinner was held to bail in the sum I think of \$700, to appear in the same manner at the Circuit Court on a future occasion, the children meanwhile being left in his custody.

Accordingly, at the Session of the Court in April, the case was brought up and I clip from the files of the "Intelligencer" the following paragraphs which though not as detailed as they might have been, still give the matter substantially as it occurred.

The first is from the "Intelligencer" of Wednesday April 9th, 1857, and from which it will be seen that Dr. Skinner's counsel attempted to connect the fact of our proceeding with the work we had commenced as a Board of Directors, with some unfair treatment of Dr. Skinner on our part, and to make it appear that the ground or motive of the present action was the rivalry and opposition of a similar institution. But nothing could be further from the fact than this, since it was at Dr. Skinner's own solicitation that we were enlisted in the matter, and then left by him in the manner already described. Nor were the legal proceedings against him suggested or instigated by our Board as such; the only

issued an attachment against him for contempt, and he was arrested about nine o'clock last night by Deputy Marshal Phillips, just as he was making for Bladensburg, whither it has been ascertained the missing children were taken at an earlier hour by Mrs. Skinner.—The children were carried thence to Baltimore by the three o'clock cars, and are now probably in the hands of the officers of the law, to be brought back to Washington. Mr. Skinner was lodged all night in our county jail, and will be brought this morning again before the Court.

April 10th.

Circuit Court.—The Court yesterday morning continued the consideration of the case under the habeas corpus, to which Dr. Platt H. Skinner was respondent. He was arrested, as we yesterday stated, on Wednesday evening, on an attachment for contempt. Yesterday morning, he was ordered to be sworn, when the Court apprized him that he had been arrested and brought before them on an attachment for contempt, in having left the Court on Wednesday afternoon pending the consideration of the habeas corpus to which he was a party. He was then required to account for the absence complained of and purge himself from the contempt, if he could; but before doing so the Court allowed him time to consult with his counsel. Dr. Skinner then entered into an explanation that was ingenious, if not in all points satisfactory. He reiterated the statement in his affidavit, denying all agency in or knowledge of the abduction of the mute children, but admitting that there had been conversations between him and his wife as to how the children could be honorably got out of the possession of the Court.

Deputy Marshal Phillips deposed to the circumstances of the arrest the night before, and of Skinner's representing himself as on the point of going to Bladensburg or Baltimore to look for the children. The white hackman who took the party, including Mrs. Skinner and the children, to Bladensburg, made a deposition by which it appears that the hack was hired two or three hours before the children absconded from the court-house.

Mr. Key moved the Court for further action both in respect to the contempt and to what he deemed to have been perjury in the affidavit, and supported it by an address to the Court.

Mr. Bradley replied, throwing the weight of the error in the matter of the abduction upon the womanly feelings and individual impulses of Mrs. Skinner, and of which abduction his said client had sworn himself free. The Court also heard Dr. Skinner in further explanation, and at length gave its judgment that in respect to the affidavit, made the day before by Dr. Skinner, he be required to give bail in the sum of \$2,500 for his appearance at the next term of

before the Court of this County.

2. What was the nature of the legal proceedings against him?

3. How was he received by the public when he first came to this city? and what was the real cause of the withdrawal of the public sympathy and confidence from him?

4. Was he ever persecuted in this city, so far as you know and believe, by any person or number of persons, for his having instructed or attempted to instruct a negro child, or for any such or similar course whatever? Did you befriend him and become his bail in any matter before any of the Courts in this County?

It is but fair to advise you, my dear sir, that the information you may communicate, in answer to the above questions, is desired for publication.

Very Truly, &c.

B. SUNDERLAND.

To which note I received a reply from Mr. Stevens, of which the following is a faithful copy:

WASHINGTON, (D. C.) Aug. 10, 1858.

REV. B. SUNDERLAND, D. D.:—Your note of August 2, making inquiries in relation to Dr. Skinner, came duly to hand, but a press of business prevented an earlier reply. You ask first, "what was the occasion of his being brought before the Court of this County?"

I reply that, to understand his case it will be necessary for me to state briefly what the facts were. Dr. Skinner undertook to establish here a school for deaf, dumb and blind children, brought four or five with him from New York and gathered into his school a number from the District. He next enlisted in his enterprise several prominent citizens, but a difficulty soon occurred which induced him to withdraw from their support and co-operation, and set up for himself in a more independent form. Soon thereafter, it was noised abroad that the poor mutes under his care were badly treated, and in due course of time, the story gathered such strength as to induce the officers of justice, on complaint of parties interested in another school of the same character, to investigate the matter, with a view, if the reports were true, to take the five children indentured to him from him, and place them in charge of the Directors of the other school.\* Pending the trial the wife of Dr. Skinner, in rather a summary manner, took the children from the jurisdiction of the court, and left the city. Her husband was questioned under oath by the Court as to his knowledge of their being carried off, and his answers not being satisfactory he was held to bail for his ap-

\* It is quite obvious that Mr. Stevens in this part of his letter is, no doubt honestly, under the impression sought to be made by Skinner through his counsel on the trial, and which has been already sufficiently explained.

they are guilty of persecution against Dr. Skinner—and fidelity to the facts and history of the case constrains me so to pronounce it, coming from whatsoever quarter it may. At the same time, I do not believe any one here desires to pursue or to embarrass Dr. Skinner, in his future efforts, so long as he adheres to truth and pursues lawful objects by lawful means.

Very Truly, B. SUNDERLAND.

THE COMET.—This celestial visitor is now playing a most successful engagement, and is greeted every evening with crowds of admiring spectators. It has now a tail six millions of miles in length, and is rapidly approaching the earth, and will continue to do so until the 13th of October, when it will disappear from sight in consequence of proximity to the solar luminary. It will soon return and change its course to the south, but will not again be visible save for a few moments after twilight, in consequence of its geocentric position and its rapid motion. From the present time until the 8th of October, from 12 minutes past 8 to 30 minutes past 4 o'clock in the morning, will be the most favorable period for observing it.

IN BAD ODOR.—Sir Edmund Head, Governor General of Canada, is getting into bad odor. He has been in the streets at Toronto, snubbed, and coolly treated at Montreal and Quebec, and addresses to the Queen are circulating demanding his recall. The French dislike him for styling them "the inferior race," and the politicians complain of his interference with the late Brown ministry.

Some writer says that the word would, in Rufus Choate's handwriting, resembles a small gridiron struck by lightning.

Prattsburg N. Y. April 9<sup>th</sup> 1866

DEAR FRIEND:

I am receiving letters daily, asking for a statement of the particular circumstances attending the death of my husband, DR. P. H. SKINNER, and of the fate of our School for Colored Deaf, Dumb and Blind; and the little paper we published, viz, "*The Mute and the Blind.*" These letters and inquiries are so urgent and numerous, that it is utterly impossible for me to answer them by written letters to each, and I have therefore resolved to attempt to answer by a printed letter addressed to all, in which I will try to give you a brief but correct statement of all the essential facts in the case.

DR. SKINNER was taken seriously ill on the 25th day of December last, and after much suffering died on the 1st of January, 1866. His disease was not named to me by his physicians. On the morning of the day he died, his physician pronounced him better, and I was encouraged to believe he would recover. But soon after, he became worse, and died about an hour after his physician left him. He was conscious to his last moments, and died happy, leaving the brightest evidence that he had a full assurance of entering that immortal life, where the blind can all see clearly, and the deaf and dumb can both hear and speak distinctly. Among his last words he expressed an earnest wish and prayer that some one might be raised up to take his place and continue the School and Paper, and thus care for the unfortunate ones for whom he had given his life.

Previous to his death, we had issued an earnest appeal to our friends for contributions to help pay the heavy debts incurred by purchasing the land, and building a House and Barn thereon. In answer to that appeal, we received sufficient money to pay off all claims that were due, or pressing for immediate payment. Encouraged by this response of our friends, our House and Barn being sufficiently completed to permit us to occupy them in all their parts; our pressing debts being thus paid, and, better than all, the persecutions and slanders of our opposers having seemingly ceased for a time, we therefore felt that our opportunity for greater usefulness had come, and we had resolved on taking an additional number of pupils in our School during the year 1866, and were making our arrangements accordingly. Just at this time the sickness and death of my husband occurred, and frustrated all our plans and designs.

What to do then I did not know. I tried to think of some one who had the ability and would make the sacrifice, to undertake the work with me, and most earnestly did I pray that God would raise up some one for the place. But no one could be found; and then my friends and advisers at Trenton, said, "*you had better send your pupils to their homes, and go yourself to your friends, and rest a year.*" This seemed to be my only alternative, and I commenced to plan accordingly about the 10th of January.

About one week after DR. SKINNER'S death, I sent a small printed notice to most of our friends and subscribers, in which I asked for help to pay up our debts, thinking and hoping that within one year I might be able to pay off all claims against the institution, rest myself and find some one competent and willing, to undertake with me to open the School again. In answer to this request, several friends have sent me small sums of money which have helped me very much in my present afflictions and necessities. And to all such as have thus kindly remembered me, I wish here to tender my most sincere thanks, and wish them to accept this as my acknowledgment of their donations, in place of a personal letter to each, or a published list as we formerly gave in the *Mute and the Blind.*

About the last of January I had sent all our pupils to their homes but three, viz, one blind girl, one deaf and dumb girl, and a deaf and dumb young man. I then left the young man in the care of our buildings and started with the two girls for Corning, N. Y., where I hoped to find a friend to take the girls to their homes. Before I had sent the girls on from Corning, a letter overtook me informing me that on the night of the 3rd day after I left, our House was burned, and soon after the arrival of the letter, the young man I left in care of the buildings came in, and confirmed the sad intelligence of the letter. I then learned from him that at about 12 o'clock in the night of February 3rd, he was aroused

from sleep by a shock and the smell of powder, and found the House so fully on fire, that he could save nothing therefrom, but barely escaped with his life, by jumping from a window.

I immediately sent this young man and the girls to their homes, and then took a friend with me to Trenton. From the best information I could gather there, I must believe that the statements of the young man are true, and conclude the fire was the work of some vile wretch of an incendiary, as is the opinion of the neighbors in the vicinity. My friends can easily understand that my afflictions and bereavement were much increased when I was compelled to look upon the ruins of a home, which I hoped to see remain during my life-time at least, and one that was indeed a beautiful monument of the contributions of many valued friends, and the industry and economy of my dear husband and the deaf and dumb and blind colored ones who assisted in erecting it. And my sorrow and poverty were still further increased when I found that all the valuable furniture, books, tools and apparatus for the use of the School were destroyed with the building. Now all there is left of the whole is the ten acres of land and the Barn on it. On this there are claims as follows: a bond and mortgage to the amount of four hundred and fifty dollars, due on the 1st of October next; and claims for materials furnished for the buildings to the amount of about four hundred dollars more, which must be paid on or by the 1st of January next. Unless these claims are paid the place must be sold to pay them.

What money I have received is nearly all spent, in the funeral expenses of my husband, sending the children to their homes, and in settling the small bills and accounts that were out against us, and must be paid. Now I have no way of earning money, and the only hope I can have of saving the place from a sacrifice to pay these claims, is in the kindness and generosity of those kind friends who have so long adhered to and supported our school heretofore, and I hope they will assist me in saving this property.

To those who have recently subscribed and paid for the *Mute and the Blind*, I must say, I am sorry that we cannot furnish you with the Paper as you expected and we designed to do, but you will see by the explanations in this letter that it is by misfortunes that we could not control or avoid, that we are rendered unable to do it, and by the same misfortunes we are unable to return your money to you, and may I not ask you to consent that the money you sent for the paper may be appropriated to pay the debts against the place.

I am asked by many, "How will you and your child be supported?" My answer is this, my husband undertook the cause of the poorest and most unfortunate class in the world, and trusted in God for help. God undoubtedly put it into the hearts of many good people, to send him the necessary temporal aid to carry on the good work, until he succeeded in it beyond the expectations of his most sanguine friends.

Now I believe that the same kind Father still rules in Heaven and on earth, and I can still trust in Him, and believe that the kind friends who rendered my husband so much aid in the cause in which he sacrificed his life, will not allow one who has tried to be his faithful helpmate, to go suffering, or in want, nor his child to go entirely portionless. My faith is strong in God, and though He suffers me to be afflicted for a season, He will still care for me.

As to what I shall do, I can only say, I shall be ready and willing to teach the poor colored deaf and dumb, and blind, or any others so far as I am capable, as soon as I shall be rested from the severe labors and afflictions of the last two months, if the opportunity and means are offered, or do anything that under God, my friends shall advise.

I shall be glad to hear from all. Please direct all communications designed for me, or as for the *Mute and the Blind*, to me at

Prattsburg Steuben Co. N. Y.  
Yours Sincerely  
Jerusha M. Skinner

Copy

Volta Bureau  
Feb. 6, 1893  
Washington, D.C.

Clonissa, N.Y.  
Feb. 2nd. 1893

Mr John Hata,  
Dear Sir:-

Learning that you are going to put in history every institution for the Deaf-Mutes, in the United States, and are looking for Dr. Skinner's. I am his widow (9) think it necessary to write a few lines to you, for I wish you to know the truth.

I have written two pieces concerning Dr. Skinner, One of his doings in Washington and another, his work in the North. Had written in haste for I had no time to spare, of what I wrote, I wish you to read and understand but do not care to put in history about his trouble with Mr Kendall, if a history must be written, say as little about Dr. S- as you can and I am sure God will bless you for your kindness to the injured man, it is true that he was quite an abolitionist and made some enemies, he actually had in school more than one or two colored children with the white but it is not necessary to notice this. There is one story and another which had been kept in sight to this day, that Dr. S-



was only an adventures cruel, Se, Sc-  
which is not so, I have known him always  
good, kind and benevolent in all his actions.  
He even sacrificed his all for the benefit of the  
Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, He had never  
received Compensation for all his work,  
neither had I.

When Mr. S- became acquainted with  
Mr Kendall, He begged Mr K- to help him in  
his undertaking to establish a school for the  
Deaf and Dumb in the District, He told Mr  
K- that ~~it~~ showed there be but a few pupils  
found in this District, that Mr. K- could  
establish a College for the Deaf-Mutes and get  
students from each institution in the U.S. as  
there was no College for this class in the U.S.  
which pleased Mr K- but he did what he could  
to get a school on his place. If there is  
anything you wish to know, please write me,

Yours sincerely

J. M. Skinner.

Dr. P. H. Skinner was born in Prattsburg, N.Y. March 12th. 1824. He was educated at Oberlin, Ohio. When he left his school he went into the Dental business in New York City and at the same time was an earnest worker for the poor and the outcast. In 1854, he was married to Miss Jerusha M. Hill, a teacher in the N.Y. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. She was semi-mute.

In 1856 he went to Washington and was advised by Ex. President Pierce and his wife to establish a school for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind children in the District with a promise that he would help to get Congress to make an appropriation for maintaining and educating them. Dr. Skinner labored incessantly in gathering the children and forming the school and succeeded remarkably well, until he got ~~over~~ Mr Amos Kendall to be a director of the Board of Directors. Mr. K- after ward became the President while Dr. S- was Secretary, when Mr K- made a proposition before the Board which was that should the school cease at any time that the land (given by him) with all the improvements of the school should revert to him or his heirs. Dr. S- did not agree with him. he told Mr. K- he could not consistently ask any man to give money to the object while by any process it could fall back to fill the pockets of any individual. He proposed that the proceeds of the property bestowed on the

institution to be used by the trustees to maintain and educate the indigent Deaf, Dumb and Blind of the District in some other institution, but they could <sup>not</sup> come to an agreement, So Dr. S. removed his family room from Kendall Green. After a while he gave up his school and intended to return to New York with three children who were bound to him in New York formerly, but he was suddenly summoned to appear in the Court by District Attorney Barton Key for Mr Kendall who accused him of being cruel to the children &c, and after a long trial the Court ordered that his children should be delivered to the Orphan's Court with an order that this Court should dispose of them according to the laws of the District as pauper children, The Court never decided Dr. Skinner guilty, Mr Kendall offered the Orphan's Court a large sum of money as security for caring and educating the children and he obtained them and placed them in his school on Kendall Green.

During the time of slavery in our Country there was no school for the education of Colored Deaf-Mutes and the Blind. Dr. Skinner actuated by a desire to obey the great command "Go preach the Gospel to every creature".

devoted his ability during the best years of his life in befriending and benefiting the poorest of the poor, viz, The Colored Deaf, Dumb and Blind Children, he took only those whose education was not provided for in any state before and during the war. In 1858, he established a school in Niagara City, N.Y., where he received some pupils from Canada and the U.S. During this time he published a little paper, semi-monthly, called "The Mute and the Blind". The Deaf-Mute boys were taught the art of setting type, the Blind assisted in printing the paper and the girls folded and wrapped them for mailing.

In the fall of 1861, Dr. Skinner removed his school to Trenton, N.J., in hope of getting more pupils there and from the South, though he sometime met oppositions but he succeeded in carrying on his school until his death in 1866.

to it.

W. E. Curtis for Chicago Record-Herald reprinted in the School Helper, Cave Spring, Ga., March 1, 1907.

Semi Centennial of Founding of Columbia School at Washington, D. C.

Wash., Feb 15 - Fifty years ago tomorrow, Feb. 16, 1857, Franklin Pierce, President of the United States, approved an act to incorporate "the Columbia Institution of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. Its incorporators were:

Byron Sunderland, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington.

J. C. McGuire, an auctioneer and art collector, who lived on E Street, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, in Washington, and was the father of Fred McGuire, curator of the Corcoran art of gallery, and Mr. Joseph D. McGuire of the Smithsonian.

William H. Eder, a wealthy miller of Georgetown, father of the late Margaret Eder.

William Stickney, a banker and son-in-law of Amos Kendall, the founder.

George W. Riggs, the eminent banker,

Judson Mitchell, a dry goods merchant on Pennsylvania avenue, father of John T. Mitchell.

D. A. Hall, a lawyer who lived at Third and C Streets, and was Mr. Kendall's legal adviser.

After the death of Mr. Kendall at the venerable age of 81, Nov. 12, 1869, Mr. McGuire said:

"A despicable wretch in wandering over the earth,

Weekly True American, Feb. 17, 1895 Trenton, N. J., is quoted as saying: "A Dr. Platt H. Skinner, editor of the magazine entitled, "The Mute and the Blind," principal of a school for the colored deaf and blind in Trenton, died there January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866, leaving as reported, a widow and son. The widow was deaf, and her maiden name is believed to have been Hills.

Platt Henry Skinner was born in Plattsburg, Steuben County, N. Y., March 12th, 1824. He was educated at Oberlin (Ohio) College, studied for the ministry there, but went into the dentistry business in New York City. He married Jerusha M. Hills, a semi-mute and a graduate and teacher of the New York Institution for Deaf and Dumb. They went to Washington, D. C., and started a school for deaf and dumb children, both white and colored. He was persecuted by enemies and was obliged to leave Washington City. He went to Niagara Falls and started a school for colored deaf and dumb and blind children, and published a paper called The Mute and Blind. He removed to Trenton, N. J., thinking he would be nearer to where the colored children were so as to obtain more pupils. The building in Trenton was built under the supervision of Mr. Skinner, and the work was done by the pupils of the school. Mr. Skinner was arranging to have his school put into the hands of a Board of Directors, but his sudden death from typhoid fever, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866, broke up the school, as Mrs. Skinner did not have the health to

had fortunately, as it turned out, made Washington his home, where he got possession of a building in the first ward, and fenced it in like a sort of prison, with a high board fence. He then hunted up all the deaf and dumb children in the community, got them in his possession, and took them to his building, pretending to call it a school for them. He would then take them about the city and exhibit them for money. A washer woman from Georgetown engaged in my household, informed some of my family that her son was a pupil of his, and in visiting his place she learned the children in his so-called school were treated with cruelty, almost starved to death at all times, and thrown aside with neglect and brutality when they were so sick.

"Happening to meet Mr. Kendall a day or two at the hearing the account given of this establishment, I stated to him what I had learned, and he at once, with his prompt and characteristic decision of purpose, said: "Let us go and see how this is. On this suggestion we went at once, and finding the gate at the entrance locked and barred we broke it open and entered the building. The miserable sight cannot be described; it was heart-sickening. Two of the unfortunate children lay sick on a pallet, moaning most piteously. Unable to help themselves, it was evident from their horrid condition that their wants had not been attended to probably for days. Mr. Kendall's generous nature was deeply

moved. He called the man to account for the Condition of the Children and the treatment they received at his hands. He promised reform. There seemed no remedy for the evil except through the man himself. But this remedy was not given, and his promise of reformation was not observed. But a philanthropist, who was in earnest to do good, had witnessed himself the suffering that cried for aid, and didn't rest contented with an unperformed promise of amendment. Mrs. Kendall went to work, and by the aid of the law and Courts of the district, obtained possession of the Children and took them to Kendall Green, and there herself became their guardian and their teacher, and that was the commencement of the foundation of this institution for the deaf and dumb.

It was Dr. Skinner's intention to appeal to the Legislature of the State of New Jersey. It seems that the project would have been successful and the school established and supported by the Legislature. Had Dr. Skinner not fallen sick and died suddenly while the Legislature was in session, after his death, the building was completely destroyed by his enemies, who were opposed to educating the Colored Children.

Empty old three-story brick house on either 18th or 19th streets near 6 Street, south of Pennsylvania. It was a cheerless sight - virtually no furniture in the building - mattresses had been secured for the



children to be upon but none for either Dr. or Mrs. Skinner, who slept on bare benches with some old clothing for pillows and covering.

Mrs. Skinner herself did most of the washing, scrubbing and mending, besides frequently cooking. All things about the premises and the children themselves kept commendably clean and tidy, and Dr. and Mrs. Skinner at no time fared any better than the children themselves, these being waifs from New York and other States and the District of Columbia. I at no time saw other than white children in the school - and my well known anti-slavery views at the same time made it desirable, it was said by Dr. Skinner when the school was organized and trustees appointed, that my name should not appear either as trustee or visitor upon the circulars then issued.

John Hitz noted down interview with Mrs. E. D. E. N.  
Reminiscences of Dr. & Mrs. Skinner

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Alexander McColl, pastor of the Presbyterian Church,  
Niagara Falls, N.Y. Derwin W. Sharts (?), pastor of  
Congregational Church

August 10, 1860

Report of the Committee on Exam - Have great pleasure in attesting to the general proficiency of the pupils.

Daily National Intelligencer, June 13, 1856

Evening Star, March 6, 10, 11 + 12, 1857

*From* DAVID L. de LORENZO

"Qui scit ubi sit scientia habenti est proximus"

—William Frederick Poole

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