# The dityh 

A LITERARY AND EdUCATIONAL JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Vol. III
 Human nature, and ness and purity in this world. 'Tis of
our boasted civilization we should alas! who trusts in human nature will never be deceived, who trusts in oaths,
and forms, and ceremonies, cannot
guard his posessit guard his possessions with a thousand
eyes. Laws are made, they say, to prevent escheating and villainy, but these
very laws make more escheating and very laws make more escheating and
villainy than they prevent. We have
firm, abiding and humanity, not the cultivated, affected tible, heaven-sent instinct that is plancod in every human heart, and no other code of laws than this-let each one
follow the dietates of his human nature. Error might enter there, but murder debauchery and deceit, never. They
are not the crimes of nature, but the
crimes crimes of civilization. How strange it is, that when some great deed of bravery or self-sacrifice is performed, we to man's natural benignity? How strange that we never hear men cry out, how grand, how noble is human na-
ture? And yet it is the prompter ture? And yet it is the prompter of
all noble and generous acts. What else keeps a man honest and just in his dealings? not civilization surely, since it bows down to and maintains in high places, men whose dishonesty is most
notorious. What else prompts a man to share his wealth with his starving brethren? not civilization, for it values a man more by the number of dollars he has put in the bauk than the number of dollars he has put in the hands of the poor. Still, we fully appreciate the blessings of civilization,
and only despise and condemn it when we hear it lauded and worshipped, while human nature is calumniated and while human nature is calumniated and
held up for scorn. We are tired of held up for scorn. We are tired of
hearing all that is just and virtuous in a community attributed solely to worlda community attributed solely to world-
ly motives, and fear of the laws-tired of hearing that reviled, which next to God, we reverence most-human na-
ture.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Mineola, Texas, April 23, 1876. Editor High School:
I have not forgotten the favor you asked of me when I left Omaha, namely: to act as correspondent for the $\mathrm{High}_{\text {in }}$ School, but like the illustrious Micawber, I have been waiting
for something to turn up, in the shape of news, and I have at last come to the conclusion, that if I wait for news, you
will never hear from Texas, so I will write anyway. The first thing of importance is the weather, which is been as warm aa summer for the past three months. The country around robed in the habiliments of spring, and with the endless variety of the plumaged songsters, you have a picture
that will surpass the great masters. The thought occurs to me of the unequal distribution of trees, for while the gigantic pines and oaks are slaughtered
here, in Nebraska we cry out to the woodman "spare that tree." Bishop Garrett was here April 10th, and held service in the school building, which divine His sermon was characteristic of himself, though not as profound as many I have heard him preach, but perhaps better suited to the audience,
and with its beautiful comparisons, and simple facts, held the audience spell bound, and I trust that the effect will be partially realized in the donaEpiscopal Church here. It is useless to add that Bishop G. retains all his energies, and is as jovial as in days
when Omaha claimed his presence.


The Bishop informed me that the Episcopalians of Dallas were about to fifteen thousand dollars, and judginging from the the design, it will be a fine structure. I am aware that the "brevity is the soul of wit," and as I least give you the benefit of the forme and close by sending best wishes for the High School.

## HOW TO STUDY.

Much is said and wittel about the memorizing of lessons. The practice is described by all. But in
spite of them, the fact remains, whether the lesson be from the text book or
the teacher's topic book, nine pupil out of ten will endeavor to flx the words in the mind. They may be told
not to do it, as is generally the case ; but they do it because they have no clear co
study.
No o

No one High School student in dozen can read a topic in Natural Philthe particular gain the idea as free from habit of word retainiug is so strong pon them that they cannot shake off. Where such a pupil recites a def-
inition, he has the book in the mind' eye; he is thinking of and following a certain paragraph
page in the book.
The pupils are not wholly to blame or this. They have never been shown the proper way in which to study ; the proper way to read; the proper way to
think. Farther than this, most teachers encourage memoriter work by their way of qestioning. They, too, have them, and their qestions are so put that they draw more upon the memory than any other faculty.
The greatest difficulty against which teachers of the natural sciences have to
contend, is the wretched habits of study the pupils bring with them from the lower studies. It is the writer's the beginning of these courses to the formation of correct habits of thought It cannot be done entirely in th a pupil
room. An hour spent with over a lesson will be of far greate lecture or recitation. They are taught to study with the understanding;
grasp the leading ideas upon which the whole lesson depends; and to bring
the whole into a unific form. In the
lass room considerable time is given to of topics, and to the analysis of subects into their parts. And, finally, the pupils are not allowed to lose sight of the fact that the narrow view of these subjects obtained in a short Normal
course is valuable chiefly as a foundaion for future study and reading.
THE CLAIMS OF CUSTOM.
"Man yields to custom as he bows to fate,
In all things ruled - mind, body and estate,' "Human nature is weak." How often do we hear this offered as an ex the tempter and committed a sin, and in how many ways is the truth of that imple sentence proved

Man yields to Custom as he bows Fate:" Indeed we see the truth of this assertion on every side of us,
What man is there who takes the same views of a subject to-day that he did years ago? Ah! few, indeed. His old time thoughts have given way to more "popular views," and why? man is willing to give them; thus yielding to custom even in thoughts. Then again,-the subject of dress : How many persons are there to-day style and material that they did long ago? The came answer is on every
lip: "very few." Not because the clothes of long ago were not as good, but because custom calls for changes we list to the call, give it heed and follow whither it leads. Many persons
there are, who would rather dress as hey did in the "good old times of long ago;" Then why don't they do it would cause remark, it would attract attention, they would be odd ; so, of course, they couldn't do that.
And look, for a moment, at educayon now, compared to what it was
years ago; then it was thought suffiient to study arithmetic only until the rule of three" had been mastered, the languages were thought to be use less to any but ministers; and now, daily striving to acquire a knowledge of the science custom has brought into use Think of the hours they spend in try man lesson. When we meet one o those few persons, who, regardless of custom, still adhere to his "old fash ioned notions," we invariably call him "eccentric." And when these old peo-
ple come in to address the schools, do they ever fail to set forth in glowing
terms the advantages we have in com
parison to what they had, and our good fortune in this age, and all that? Oh!
us, not they; and granted-(that our advantages are superior to theirs, and that we are thankful for the same)-
but very few of these venerable friends but very few of these venerable friends
seem to think that it takes (or ought to take) any more time and labor to acquire the education pupils are now
receiving, than it did when they went to school.
They are more than likely to tell us in the next point they bring out, that young people did not do "so and so" when they were young. Why, of
course they didn't; in fact, allowing course they didn't in fudge from their remarks, peo-
one ple only half lived in those days; if we have to work the harder for a higher education, don't we also desire a different mode of living, a different mode of dress? In thirty years, or more,
from now, many of us will doubtless from now, many of us will doubtless
have the same failing; (if we may be allowed the term,) for custom is ever changing, and ere we are aware of it, cient worthies ; for,
"Man yields to custom as he bows to fate, ", , body and estate.

THE CENTENNIAL YEAR.

How noisel ess is the tread of advancing time, and what unexpected pleashidden in the folds of its mysterv. It is as unwavering in its course as it inevitable in its consequences. It survives memory, stifles history, and
changes prophecy. In its impenetrachanges prophecy. In its impenetrable recesses are reposing the most venerable relics of antiquity, and when
the present becomes the past, it will as sume its position in the great collection. What signal achievements belong to time? The great ambitions of the care and have attained their highest ends in the present; the heir of ancient idolatry, the revolution of one thousand years, has made it the administrator of Christian religion, and the vagrant liberty of barbarism has, under the perpetual tutelage of time, identified itself with the refined freedom that purifies the political atmosphere of the nineteenth century
Each year that is lost to view in the mist of the past, has its own peculiar history, and while there are many memories connected with it that conreluctant, there are still wounds of reluctant, there and dissappointment inflicted by it that induce us to turn more hopefultowaras the new comer
The year which has just entered upon its career, is particularly inviting oo American citizens, as containing the birthday of American independence. It is a year of general rejoicing. eighteen hundred and seventy-six government ; the rough exterior of her foundation has been torn away by the work of one hundred years, and the sunlight of the centennial morning
reveals the rarest of political jewels. Every nation and every people within the circle of the globe will rejoice with us. Civilization, in whose behalf our struggles have been enlisted, will stand still for the first time since the days of Luther, and thank America. The Christian Religion will lay aside all denomination ties and prejudices and will, with one voice, pronounce sor blessed. Political and domestic society will join hands and proclaim
her achievements. Science and popuher achievements. Science and popu-
lar education will cease their labors, and pay her their humble respects.
What a triumphant acknowledgement
of the foresight and intelligence of our forefathers? We, as Americans, love
onr country ; we love our government, and the cust which have so certainly identified themselves with it, but we are especially endeared to the eternal principles of its national foundation by every tie of nature, and our affection for them is founded upon the same respect and admiration as is that of the chiid for the parent. Our past success is the bond
for our future prosperity, and with for our future prosperity, and with
sundertaking supporting and such an undertaking supporting and
encouraging us, we can well afford to encouraging us, we can well aft
celebrate the Centennial year.
But aside from its national importance, it has its effect for good or evil apon each one who witnesses its advent. To some it brings but the en-
joyment of innocent childhood, upon whose mind it scarcely leaves the impress of its visit. But there are those to whom the new year brings stately manhood and beautiful womanhood ; to these, how solemn is the peal of the bell that ushers in the new year, and opens wide to them the gates of honor and prosperity. Of how great moment is every action? How carefully must they weigh each future step?
They are now to be thrown own resources to battle with the stern realities loosed from those parental moorings, which have so long guided and protected them. The highways of equally inviting in appearance. What golden opportunities press upon them -to the one for advancing the political and commercial status, and to the other for elevating the moral and social condition of our civilization-to what noble results can the proper exercise of these advantages arrive, and of be prostituted!
But, when advancing years and the clamors of public life take them from the home of their childhood, let them not forget it, but rather, as each year takes them farther and farther from those scenes and associations, let the
memory of them entwine itself tighter and closer around their hearts.
And there are many upon whom the ew year casts the silvery touches of life; who have shared its prime of lies; who have shared its pains and
joys, and now seek the quiet and retirejoys, and now seek the quiet and retirement of declining years; and, as they
see the embers of the old year slowly see the embers of the old year slowly
expiring upon hearthstones of the new, they are reminded that the flame that once kindled them into noble and impetuous manhood, must soon give way
to the cold ashes of death. Old age is a season of rest ; a fitting requittal for the knocks and batterings of active life; and when the mantle of decay gathers itself around the form of fai'ing manhood, it should be the most noble and willing duty of strong and vigorous youth to smoothe wrinkles of
old age with the touch of comfort and luxury.
But, through all these varied and changing circumstances, heedless of the incredulity of history or curiosity of auguary, is heard the steady march of progression ; and, although none of us shall ever see time hoary-headed ahd wrinkled with age, let us hope that so long as cternity is its destina-
tion, so long may America and American institutions stand firm in history, so long may they influence the world in its movements, and so long may they rear themselves heavenward as a vindication of liberty. And let us hope when her national position is unrecognized and unclaimed, then may the gates of eternity and immortality
swing open wide, and the poor and swing open wide, and the poor and
the rich, the happy and the sorrowing, have equal right and equal opportunihave equal right and equal opportuni-

Several other interesting facts were developed, and lack of space only pre-
vents us from giving a better review. The officers elected for the ensuing year are C. B. Palmer President, J. H. Worthen Secretary, and J. B. Brunner Treasurer. The executive committee consits of Prof. Thompson, H. G. Wolcott, J. B. Bruuner, J. H. Mockett and Miss Sarah Hawley.
The next meeting of the association will be held at Fremont.

## EXCHANGES.

There is a general lack of interest and vitality in our exchanges for the past month, which may, we suppose, be accounted for by the fact that commencement days ar schools and colleges are engaged, either in writing their orations, or in pondering on that most unanswerable of questio
shall I write about?"
The Berkeleyan contains some of the very best reading matter published in our college exchanges, but its mechanical make up is very bad.
The Salesianum is a new exchange; we welcome it heartily and hope our future opinion of its qualities may correspond with our first impression There is not much of the McGin Ga to do a little well. The Franklin Educator, another new exchange, contains a great many short essays on interesting themes. These are written by the students of the senior or junior classes and some of them are of more than usual merit. The Central Collegian treats us to an editorial on "Creation." If they could find anything farther back to write about we would be sure to have it. To call the Collegian antiquated wow then and having the that stupid is about the orer word
The Cornell Review publishes an excellent article, entitled "Ivy or Oak." The Oberlin Review seems to be
assuming the place of an ishmaassuming the place of an ishma
lite among the college journals; however, the Review is well able to hold its own. Besides the above we have received, Yale Literary, Bates Student, Alumni Journal, College Herald, Wesminster Monthly, Neb of Education, Common School, Colleg ian, College Journal, School Bulletin, Niagra Index, Wells College Chroniole, Roanoke Collegian, University News, Eerlhamite, Western College Chronicle, University Reporter, College Record, College Journal, Rural Home, Pleasant Hill News, Woman's Journal, Newspaper Reporter, Chicago Teacher, Simpsonian and Institute.

## THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR.

The school committee man has ently been elected in the New Eng land states. Nearly all towns hav three, who are supposed to look after the interests of the schools. Some ers are officious, and the plague of the teacher's life. The average committee man if elected to the legislature, would endeavor to post himself on parliamentary usage; if sealer of weights and measures, to study up enough to do his this position he knows all about the work, for he has been there himself. He needs to consult no one; as for reading up school lierature, and finding how the world has progressed educa-
tionally, that is preposterous. So only one in a hundred ever takes a school joural unless the State pays for it, and then he dors not read it. The problem
Can any one suggest a plath the teacher. place educational literature in his hands. $\xrightarrow[\text { EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION }]{ }$ The Editerial Association of Ne raska, will meet at Fremont, Ne braska, on the 24th day of May, 1876. Every editor and publisher in the election of officers and other important business is to be attended to.

Pres't Neb. Editorial Ass's
McMurphy, Secretary.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

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and late President of the n Medic
of the State of New Y .
Ther
The plan of the work is to prese he leading facts and principles of human Physiology and Hygiene in lanily comprehended by pupils in sehool and colleges. The style is terse and concise, yet intelligible and clear. The range of subjects treated includes those on which it is believed all persons should work of this and th
Retail price, 81.50; sample copies to teachers at half price. Clark \& May nard, publishers, New York; A. Brow western agent, Chicago, Ill.

##  

 This work has recently by the State Superintendent to the list of text books recommended for use in the common schools of Nebraska, and the only thing we have to say is that Price, $\$ 1.20$ IntuductioPrice, $\$ 1.20$. Introduction price, 80 cents, or in exchange for any his-
tory in use for 60 cents, postpaid. Clark \& Maynard, publishers, New York; A. Brown, general agent, 56 Madison st., Chicago.
 The author very aptly remarks that a new treatise on Geometry to be of sufficient merit to claim attention, must be both conservative and progressive. It should lay firm hold on the past, embody the present state of the science and anticipate future developments. A work claiming to be wholly new might, perbaps with justice, be at once discarded ns improvements, could not
taing no taining no improvements, could not
justify its own existence. This work, from such an eminent author, contains many improvements, and is fully up
the wants of our schools of to
the wants of our schools of to day.
12 mo. cloth, 372 pp. Price, $\$ 1.5$ Wilson, Hunkle \& Co., Cincinnati and New York.

## 

ticles on Ref Hier cona Dean Swift, the United Statees Land Grant Policy, Checks and Balances in Government (by Judge Cooley) Inter-
national Prison Reform, and many other excellent articles by the best writers in Europe and America.
Mr. A. A. Brown, local editor of the
Nebrask City Press, placed us under many obligations to him while we were
at that place last month; accept our come to Omaha, call around. (By the way-if you ever do leave home again,
be careful not to sit on such uncertain supports as peach-boxes: also, don forget
pants.)
While on a visit to Nebraska City last month, we were shown through Principal, Prof. P. L. Woodbiry This institution has been in operation eight years; a new addition has recent-
ly been made by the erection of a large brick house for the use of the faculty. The attendance roll numbers about

The Globe, of Lincoln, a spicy and newsy evening journal, now successfully carried on by Mr. Hedges, ap-
we are glad to welcome it
THE speech of Hon. A. S. Paddock
delivered in the senate chamber March that, was a very able effort and
tained many eloquent passages Chancellor Benton is credit with saying that "public opinion is a noun of multitude, signifying many but not much."
Another dam disaster in Worcester Massachusetts, destroyed immen
quantities of property.—Watchman.
The High School of this city will

## LINCOLN. and the State Unive <br> sity-Personal aud other matters.

The writer paid a four days visit Lincoln last month and found eyer progressing very smoothly and satiofactorily in the capital city.
Through the kindness of Prof. G. E. Bailey, we were shown through the university and while there gained considerable knowledge of the workings of this magnificent institution. The university is a brick structure about one and one-half times the size of our Omah
High School. The museum is 36 by 50 feet and contains a large collection of
mineralogical, ornithological, piscatorial, conchological, osseous and carbona ceous specimens. The laboratory con-
sists of two rooms, $26 \times 40$, for tus, chemicals, etc., and a class room $26 \times 30$. The class rooms
dious and well furnixhed.
the hesperian student.
Calling at the printing room
office of the Hesperian Student, we me Mr. A. W. Field, editor-in-chief, and W. A. McAllister local, both of whom are well
hold.
The High School building was next visited. It is a very fine structure, and capable of holding about six hundred students.
We next visited the capitol, and there met Gen. J. C. McBride, State Treasurer, Hon. Silas Garber Govenor,
and J. M. McKenzie State Sup't., each and J. M. McKenzie State Sup't, each
one of whose names were added to one of whose names were aded
our ever increasing subscription list.
We also met Geo. E. Howard, for merly editor of the Student, Will H Lynchard, Jonny Roggen and Will Sweet, formerly of the Star, Gen. Hedyes of the Globe, Carl Funke, Geo Ballentine, Jonny Rush, Ed. Knight, Geo. Harris, Maxey Cobb and many others, all of whom used their utmost exertions to make our stay a pleasant
one, and for the many courtesies extended by them, and others, we hereby return our sincere thanks.

エ. $\begin{aligned} & \text { W. L. PEABODY. } \\ & \text { A. } \\ & \text { TE }\end{aligned}$
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## The dingh sthoul

## OMAHA，NEB．，MAY， 1876.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS．

［This column is open to school students
and amateur writers．
All questionst ob answered in next
succeeding number must be sent in before All questions to be answered in next
succeeding numbermuust be sent in before
the 20th of each month．
Historian asks：＂What was the name of Napoleon＇s mother？＂The
mother of Napeleon the Great，was named Letitia Ramolini，and was a very remarkable woman．
A young lady writes：＂When a girl receives a card from a gentleman whom
she does not wish to accompany，what reply should she make？＂If he is a gentleman and has given her no cause him or stay at home．He doubtless intends to compliment her，and she should appreciate accordingly．It is
neither polite nor wise to make invidi－ ous distinctions in a social circle com－ posed of true ladies and gentlemen，no matter what the peculiar preference of one for another．
＂Will the Higid School please tell me how to pronounce the last novel by Mrs．Augusta Evans Wilson ？＂It is followed by＂$i$＂or＂$e$＂has the sound followed by＂$i$＂or＂$e$＂has the sound
of＂chy．＂ W．T．A．＂Please explain the phil－
osophy of putting out fires by the use of carbonic acid gas．＂The principle is one very simple，and should be known by every ohe in the land．Students in chemistry can illustrate the method by mixing water，soda and sulphuric acid， one part acid，two parts soda and eight parts water in some inolosed vesse， proper care being aken to have the vessel very stron．The above solution contains about forty times as much car－
bonic acid gas，as water does in its nat－ ural condition．Fire is the combustion of oxygen and cannot burn a second without oxygen．Carbonic acid gas shuts off the supply of oxygen and immediately smothers the fire．Fire goes out immed：ately in an atmosphere containing five per cent．of carbonic acid gas．
For examples of this you may put a light into a small vessel，cover it so as to exclude the air，and the fire will go out the moment there is no fresh
supply of oxygen． supply of oxygen．
EDUCATIONAL.

The bill for＂compulsory education＂ failed to pass the Iowa Legislature． The public schools of Philadelphia have no superintendent，are not popu－ lar with the wealthy classes，and are generally susceptible of improvement， Let the people of that city duly profit by the educational display that will be
brought to their doors through the brought to their door
Centennial Exposition．
There is now an orthographic reform in progress in Germany．It has reached a stage at which the Prussian
Minister of Education thinks it wise among other things，to legislate out of the literature all silent letters．There is danger in this，of tinkering at a trade never yet learned by human trade
hands．
The Smithsonian Institution is making a collection for the Centennial to illustrate the animal kingdom of the United States，embracing specimens of the animals collected for economical uses；the products derived from the and other materials ers，trappers，and others engaged in ers，trappers，and others engaged
the pursuit of the various animals． A salary of ten cents per day each pupil in actual attendance，is the compensation the State of Texas has fixed，by an act of the Legislature，for those who engage as teachers in its
thickly populated confines rather admire this novel idea，which marks a new idea in educational pro－ cess．It must make a very gratifying outlook to the teachers in the Lone some counties，of $2 \frac{1}{2}$ whites，and 20,000 cattle to a square mile，a teacher＇s com－ in it in its proportions．We are not in－
formed whether the pupils are confined to whites，or whether there may not also
be admitted blacks，half－breeds，
squaws，pappooses，and even the Cam－
anches．－N．E．Jour．$E d$ ． anches．－N．E．Jour．Ed． The Semi－Annual Report of the Su －
perintendent of the Davenport scose just published，shows that of the just published，shows that of the
8,280 enumerated youths， 3,786 are in the public schools．Of these 194 are in the High School． 91 teachers are employed，of which 12 are teachers German，one of drawing and two of penmanship． 591 pupils were pro－ moted during the half－year－these in
addition to regular class promotions． addition to regular class promotions．
The average per cent of daily atten－ dance was 94．3．Amount paid Teach－ ers，$\$ 55,195$ ．
National Educational Associa TION－1876．－The next annual meet－ Mary Body will be held at Baltimore， Maryland，on Monday，Tuesday and
Wednesday，the 10th，11th and 12 th of July．A most cordial and gen－ by the State and City authorities，and every preparation will be made to in sure a success worthy of the Centennial year of the Republic．
The general order of arrangements and programme of exercises will be is－ sued in circular form during the month of May．
A session of the first International Educational Congress ever assembled in this country will immediately follow， occupying the remaining three days of the week．The Congress will be or－
ganized on Wednesday evening July 12th，and receive its welcome from the National Educational Association on Thursday morning，at which time its regular order of business will be com－ menced．Many distinguished Foreign Educators and Publicits will be pres－ ent to participate in the deliberations of both bodies，and subjects of the highest interest and importance will be brought up for discussion．The plan of the Congre
an early day．
Editors of Educational Journals and of the Press generally are respectfully requested to give this announcement place in their columns．

Wm．E．PHELPS Pres．Nat．Ed．Asso＇n．
April 17， 1876. HUMOROUS．
The question now arises，where shall we spend our money this summer？ Those who have no money to spend
are ruled out from this discussion． A Chicago lady，whose lord and
master indulges rather freely in the master indulges rather freely in the
convivial glass，says he is a kind but convivial glass，says
indulgent husband．
When the loafer enters the sanctum of a busy editor，and the editor says， ＂Glod to see you＇re back，＂what does he mean！－Herald．
A sharp Englishman has written＂a treatise on razors．＂By the way，we have never seen a razor with a treatise written on it．－$E x$ ．
At a wedding recently，when the clergyman asked the lady，＂Wilt thou have this mạn to be thy wedded hus－ band ？＂she，with a modesty which lent her beauty an additional grace，replied， ＇If you please．＂
＂I will give you my head，Sir，＂ said a story teller to Montssquieu，who had seemed to doubt his veracity－＂I will give you my head that what I say
is true．＂ is true．＂
＂I accept your offer，＂said the the other calmly，＂presents of small value strengthen friendship，and should never be refused．＂
The objections raised against danc ing in a moral point of view are very strong，but they proceed entirely from a contemplation of the recreation as it is
absurd．This is an interesting ques－ tion，as it must be patent to all who have considered the matter，that the tendency to the present day is to its abuse，and that it is tending to jus－ tify the opponents of the art in de－ youug men of modern society，have got in a free and－easy way of conducting themselves in a ball－room．They do not go to a dance to contract the habit of easy gentleman deportment，which is essentially one of the most important phases of the recreation；they go to
hug the girls and they do it．－St．Louis

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