

The School Law.

EDITOR JOURNAL:—There is one subject to which the attention of the next Legislature should be directed. It is to amend the School Law in such manner as to admit domesticated Indian children to the same privileges of education as are now accorded to the children of white parents. Under the present law such children are placed upon the same footing as children of Negro or Mongolian birth, and are entitled with them to a separate school whenever the parents or guardians of ten or more children petition for it. But in the case of domesticated Indians, it amounts to almost a virtual prohibition of their enjoying any of the advantages which education affords. The amendment should become a part of the general law, and be so framed that the Trustees of each School District would decide whether such children should be admitted to the public school of their district upon the same footing as white children, or not. I can see no good reason why children of Indian birth should be subject to the same restrictions which are placed upon Negroes. They have in most cases been adopted into the families of white persons, associate with them, eat and play with them, and why should they be debarred from being educated with them? No good reason exists, and the only arguments offered are those based upon ideas of bigoted intolerance, which teach us to look upon those whose color is a shade darker than our own as beneath us, and which thank

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look upon those whose color is a shade darker
than our own as beneath us, and which, thank
God, are fast disappearing before the advance of
reason. I believe in universal education as the
fountain head of social and political happiness
and prosperity; none will cavil or deny its mer-
its, and when one portion of the nation realizes
a sense of the happiness and honor which it dis-
seminates, the same blessing should be extended
to all. I believe also in education as a preven-
tive of crime—that education combined with
religion does more to elevate the moral character
of a people than courts and prisons. The rec-
ords of our Police Courts will attest to this fact.
And lastly, I believe it to be a paying investment,
and that the money laid out in school purposes
will be more than repaid in the diminution of
crime. But to be effective it must be universal,
and the advantages which our system of free
schools now offer to the children of white pa-
rents should be granted to all others.

The same reasoning holds good in the case of
negroes and Mongollans, but as they are rarely
found, except in large communities, and there
in sufficient numbers to justify schools by them-
selves, they do not occupy the same position so-
cially, and I have no desire to see the law
applied to them. Domesticated Indians can be
found in almost every School District, but not in
numbers enough to warrant the expense of an
extra school. If the law did not amount to a
prohibition of their admission, by withholding
the school moneys from all schools at which they
are permitted to attend, there would be very lit-
tle opposition on the part of citizens generally.

FRIEND OF EDUCATION.

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The Trinity Journal

Free, Independent in Politics, and Devoted to the Advancement of

WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA, MAY 13, 1865.

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