VERONA, April 1, 1873.
[SPECIAL COR. OF STANDARD.
LETTER FROM VERONA.
The Debating Club—A Maiden Speech: Nature Stronger than Education.

Editor of Standard:

Hans thanks all who have been kind enough to express an appreciation of his letters and to intimate a wish for his speedy recovery. By way of variety Hans gives a Maiden speech delivered before the Debating Club. The report of the speech is as accurate as stenography could produce it. For fear of wounding his modesty Hans with-holds the speaker's name. By the way the way of the Debating Club is quite an interesting feature of this lively village. Its meetings are held every Friday night at the Collegiate Institute, and are well attended. The proposition under discussion was that education is a stronger element in the formation of character than constitution. After the champion for the affirmative had taken his seat, the timid, blushing champion of the negative arose, and in broken accents delivered the following grandiloquent:

SPEECH.
Mr. President; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Having listened attentively to the gentleman, and having followed him in his devious and tortious voyage on a sea of speculation, I find myself in the gloom of doubt, in the midst of fogs of uncertainty, and overshadowed by the dark and portentous clouds of sophistry. My understanding is inferiour to the present danger of shipwreck from the proximity of Sylia and Charibdis, that on either hand threaten our destruction. The beacon fire of the Gentleman, so far from guiding us in safety, serves only to intensify the darkness by its insipid gaseous exhibition. To speak plainly, instead of elucidating the question, the gentleman has only succeeded in wrapping it in a veil of impenetrable obscurity. Let us take our reckoning and return whence the gentleman led us. Let us glance at the language of the question. Education is a term of broad significance and applied by all to mean the cultivation of our powers, physical and mental. The gentleman had much to say of the importance of education, wishing to put me in a position of seeming opposition. But I yield to no one in the appreciation of the great necessity of a thorough and finished education. But we at not to discuss the importance of education, but are to compare it, as a formative element, with mental character, or constitution, or the native endowments of man which he inherit from his progenitors or receive directly from the Omnipo"min Creator.

The precious diamond that coruscates in the coront of kings is nothing but carbon of pure charcoal in a crystalized form. Its brilliant seclusion is due to polish. Yet imbedded in the ocean in obscurity its glittering splendor all unknown, its character as a diamond still exists. As native carbon is necessary to produce or to constitute the diamond and polish is but an incidental and necessary accessory, so in the formation of mental character, constitution or native endowments is an essential prerequisite to all education. The most assiduous cultivation can not change the apple to an oak. Years of training can not convert a nodule, contemptible as it is, into the matchless New Foundland. Though of the same species, human beings differ as much in their mental character, as animals of lower order. The African can never be developed into a Caucasian. The fool by nature can never, by human device, be made a man of wisdom. Human ingenuity may exhaus itself in seeking expedients and new methods of education, but it will never be able to convert a fool into a man of talents. If intellectual faculties must exist prior to all education, education can not be a stronger element in the formation of mental character than constitution. The proposition is preposterous and absurd.

Thus ended the speech. Hans will not comment, but leave each reader to form his own conclusion. Other speakers followed on either side and the debate was interesting throughout. To fully appreciate a debate, go and hear it.

Yours etc.,

HANS.

VERONA, April 9, 1873.
[SPECIAL COR. OF STANDARD.
LETTER FROM VERONA.

Memphis, Extract from the Appeal. Negro School.

Editor of Standard:

VERONA like old Rome, sits enthroned upon the slopes of the loftiest, and a female college perhaps a mile distant. Every hill-top is adorned with charming little cottages, where there are neatly painted houses of unpretending plainness and simplicity. The prospect of a peaceful and prosperous life is yet wanting some of the substantial comforts of life. There are no mere mere marts of commerce, and good morals distinguish the population of the place, who are strictly observed. The whole population is not only one of the best and good morals and physical healthfulness, but the schools are supplied with children from all and villages. There is a talk of a narrow-gauge railroad across the country to the coal fields and iron mines of Alabama. Manufactures may be established and the village become a city.

The above is an extract from a letter by L. J. D. editor of the Appeal, written to his paper, while on a tour through Mississippi. He spent a day with his brother, Hans, and this part of his letter will interest our people, as it exhibits the impressions upon him of a stranger by a brief visit to Verona. The suggestion of a narrow-gauge railway to the coal fields of Alabama has awakened the interest of the Veronians. In course of time, the half-defined desire will ripen into a determination, and another road will link the mines of Alabama with the rest of the State of Mississippi.

THE NEGRO SCHOOL, though not mentioned by L. D., is one of the institutions in Verona, under the judicious discipline and instruction of Prof. Penny, it seems to be accomplishing great good. A young Echiops is taught spell and cipher with rapidity by Prof. Penny, thoug of African extraction, is Southern born and deservest credit for his advance in knowledge as well as his exemplary deportment. He is no poet, but seems desirous, yea, anxious to ameliorate the condition of his people by continuing all his exertions to the education of the boys and girls. He is right. If they are to be citizens in the future, they need all the wisdom, they can be imparted in the school. Big-foot Bill was asked the other day, why he went to seh