

Buildings

Public apathy and the rush to private schools left the public schools slumped in fiscal and administrative doldrums, a listlessness that was reflected in the condition of the school houses and the quality of the teachers. In 1836 Barnard personally

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Noah Webster's "Blue Back Speller."

visited 62 buildings and received descriptions of 800 more. Over the next three years he would visit 1,000 of them.

By way of summary, Barnard wrote in 1841 that "each building is a class of itself, or rather belongs to what Mr. Mann has happily called, the sixth order of architecture—the wicker-work order—summer houses for winter residences. Many of them are so bunglingly constructed, the shingles and clapboards are so



FABLE VIII.

The Partial Judge.

A FARMER came to a neighbouring Lawyer, expressing great concern for an accident which he said had just happened. One of your Oxen, continued he, has been gored by an unlucky Bull of mine, and I should be glad to know how I am to make you reparation. Thou art a very honest fellow, replied the Lawyer, and wilt not think it unreasonable that I expect one of thy Oxen in return. It is no more than justice, quoth the Farmer, to be sure; but what did I say?—I mistake—It is your Bull hat has killed one of my Oxen. Indeed! says the Lawyer, that alters the case: I must inquire into the affair; and if—And if! said the Farmer—the business I find would have been concluded without an if, had you been as ready to do justice to others, as to exact it from them.

TABLE XL.

Words in which *g* is hard before *e*, *i*, and *y*.

Gear	dag ger	leg ged	gherk in
geese	crag gy	pig gin	hu ger
geld	bug gy	quag gy	bdg gy
get	crag ged	rag ged	fog gy
gift	dig ger	rig ger	clog gy
give	dreg gy	rig gish	oog ger
gig	drug get	rug ged	dog ged
gild	drug gist	scrag ged	dog ger
gill	flag gy	scrag gy	dog gish
gimp	gib ber	shag gy	jog ger
gird	gib hous	slug gish	nog ger
girt	gid dy	snag ged	par get
girl	gig gle	sprig gy	tar get
ea ger	gig let	stag ger	girdle
mea ger	giz zard	swag ger	he gin
gew gaw	gim blet	swag gy	wag ger y
ti ger	hag gish	trig ger	log ger head
to ged	jag gy	twig gin	or gil lous
big gin	jag ged	twig gy	to geth er
brag ger	knag gy	wag gish	pet li log ger

The following are pronounced as though they were written with double *g*. Thus, *Sugar* is pronounced *Shagger*.

Finger	linger	younger	longer
anger	lingo	younger	stronger
hunger	linguist	longer	monger

These with their compounds and derivatives, are most of the words in the language, in which *g* has the hard sound before *e*, *i*, and *y*. But to these must be added the derivatives of verbs ending in *g*. Thus from *dig* come *digged*, *diggers*, *digged*, *digging*, &c. in which *g* is hard before *e* and *i*.

A two-thirds size page from the 1816 edition of Webster's "Blue Back Speller."

loose, the floor and ceiling so badly matched, the under pinning so open, that it would seem as if they had come together 'by a fortuitous concourse' of materials."⁴⁶

These buildings often provided no more than four square feet of floor space for each child. Typically, they were about 400 square feet, designed for the 20 students who would show up regularly, of the 40 enrolled. But it was not uncommon to find 80 or a 100 children jammed in, districts acting apparently "on the principle of packing away as much live matter as possible in a given space." In one rapidly urbanizing mill town, a schoolhouse built for 20 was forced to accommodate 120. These grotesque "schoolhouses," of course, were better than nothing; and nothing is what many districts, disdaining the law, provided.⁴⁷