

# The University Reporter.

VOL. 2.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

No. 1.

IOWA CITY, IOWA.

"SUCCESS CROWNS EFFORT."

OCTOBER, 1869.

## PONCE DE LEON.

On the morn of a day in years gone by  
Beneath a glorious southern sky,  
A ship was astray, on its splashing way,  
Flecked with the sparkling gems of spray  
Which the waves tossed up on high.

The tropical breeze, heaven drawn and free,  
Whispering, floating over the sea,  
Its music lends, and the harmony sends  
Even to earth's remotest ends,  
Of the winds rejoicing in glee.

At the vessel's prow, looking over the waves  
To the distant land which the ocean laves,  
A chieftian stands, whose grim commands  
Declare him bound with the iron bands  
In which war binds her slaves.

Far over the sea in that unknown land,  
Still in the clasp of the mystic band,  
A fountain springs, which forever sings,  
As over the rocks its foam it flings,  
Eternity to withstand.

Romance had made it a land of flowers,  
Studded with Flora's fragrant bowers,  
Where the fountain's charm would disease disarm,  
And bring to the mind an eternal calm  
And immortal youth in its showers.

Ponce de Leon gained that blooming shore,  
On the beach he rested his dripping oar;  
But he never found the silvery sound  
Which told of that fountain's rippling bound  
Though he searched the country o'er.

There many still in the present age  
Who in a fruitless search engage;  
Like the chief of old they ne'er behold  
What their restless longing would fain unfold,  
Till deaths complete life's page.

—Trinity Tablet.

## CHEMISTRY IN SCHOOLS.

BY PROF. GUSTAVUS HINRICHS.

The demand for scientific education is increasing in this country, although we cannot say that there is any real agitation, as in England, to secure the teaching of the elements of science in the common schools. But also here public men commence to see that the rising generation has a right to be instructed in those principles of natural science, which form the basis of modern civilization. How often do we hear older people express the deep felt regret, that they in their youth had no opportunity for such studies! They feel themselves strangers in the material world that surrounds us, and of which we form a part; they are subject to all sorts of impositions, from the "spiritual" exhibitions of the Davenport Brothers, to the "vegetable" Sicilian Hair Renewer\* of Hall.

\*This we have found to contain much lead and hence is not vegetable in its composition.

But the introduction of science and especially of chemistry into our schools is a very difficult matter, even if no ill-will of the enemies of a liberal education had to be overcome. The great majority of the schools of the land are in the hands of persons who never had a liberal education at all, but were in their school and college years restricted to pure mathematics, the dead languages and other book studies. In such schools the curriculum is likely to be a copy of what it used to be thirty years ago, and their graduates will leave the college with the glorious and satisfactory conviction of having "completed" their education, "because they have studied the absolute, the fixed, the eternal principles of thought, and obtained mental discipline in the course of such study."† So great is the culture of these young men, that it takes them even under favorable circumstances several years to find out that they, after all, have gained but a superficial polish.

Fully as great as this resistance on the part of the older school, are the difficulties inherent to the subject itself. The introduction of science into the common school, not only requires the consent of the authorities in power, but also *the men and means to furnish that instruction*. Of the means, the rooms, apparatus and books are theoretically all equally important; but since there is a very great lack of men capable of giving *live* instruction in science (because there are so few places where facilities for such studies can be had in this country,) the importance of the *books* used becomes really dominant. Too often the teacher and pupil *study* the same book, and the teacher will follow to the letter the book in reference to the necessary equipments. It may therefore be of interest to say a few words about our "textbooks of chemistry"—the only branch of science about which we speak with some assurance.

Upon a careful examination of the tolerably numerous textbooks of chemistry said to be written for colleges, high schools or schools, it soon becomes evident, that not one of these books was written for real beginners. They at times, like *Stockhardt*, omit the customary shallow essay on chemical philosophy wherewith authors delight to introduce their work to the bewildered student, but I have not yet found one author who does not think it absolutely essential to begin chemistry proper with the metalloids, and especially with oxygen! Now, the processes whereby oxygen is extracted are comparatively intricate, so much so that only a "*predisposing affinity*" can help the beginner through the mysterious generation like that of hydrogen from water, iron and sulphuric acid. Besides it is exceedingly difficult for the real beginner to get familiar with gases as bodies, and the peculiar chemical re-actions all at the

† This is as near as I can remember the phrase of a young graduate, not from the State University.

same time. In fact, it is a common observation among the teachers of chemistry, that students only begin to have some understanding of the subject after they get into the latter part of the book, or when they commence the review.

In regard to practical instruction in chemistry, our books are equally deficient. Some books only give the necessary directions for preparing the various compounds spoken of in the text, whereby real *student's practice* becomes almost an impossibility; or they are a kind of receipt book for making a great number of interesting experiments, without aiming at any real and thorough instruction in chemistry. The most excellent representatives of these two types are respectively the books of Silliman and of Stockhardt; and both of these books are so antiquated that they would be utterly unsalable in any country but this.†

The principal cause of this condition of affairs is evidently the fact, that our American text-books of chemistry are more or less close imitations or even copies of European books. But the European originals were not intended for *beginners*; the student usually is supposed to have completed one or more strictly elementary courses in chemistry before commencing the study of these larger books which have served as a basis for our American authors. A truly original American text-book of chemistry, especially adapted to our schools, does not exist yet.

The great division of labor so peculiar to European society has led to a strict exclusion of quantitative operations from more elementary chemical works. This is without serious inconvenience in Europe, because the student will in year or so take up the branch omitted; but it is very different here, where the student has only a limited time to give to the study of chemistry. If quantitative operations are omitted, the student will think chemistry a tissue of precipitates of different colors, effervescences of diverse odors, and incrustations of various dimensions. He is not impressed with the great fundamental truth that *weight and number rule supreme* especially in chemical science. He fails to recognize the qualities as only different in quantity or degree for the various elements, and thus is firm in his conviction that the chemical elements, are indeed *ultimate* elements of matter! And the crystals he only knows as tabular, prismatic and pyramidal, a diversion equalled by the famous division of all plants into trees, shrubs and herbs—and yet the crystalline form is recognized by every chemist as a fundamental property of the compound!

These are among the reasons which have led me years ago to supplement the books used in my classes by lectures. After much hesitation—especially because the taking of regular lecture notes is uncommon in American schools—several years ago we commenced to use the text-book only for reference in my classes, and arranged the lectures with especial reference to the peculiar wants of our American students, so as to give them in a limited time a thorough introduction to the science of *chemistry as it really is at present*, the course of lectures progressing in harmony with the principles of didactics, and being accompanied by a regular course of *typical experimentation* for those students who desire to gain that more

†This refers only to the edition of Stockhardt in the American market.

thorough knowledge of chemistry, which can result only from systematic practice in the laboratory, where goniometer, burette and balance are as freely used by the *beginner*, as the test-tube and the blowpipe.

The great pressure of work in my department§ has prevented me from completing this course in chemistry for the press, although many colleagues at other institutions have repeatedly urged me to complete this course, and although a distinguished professor in one of the Universities of Germany is waiting for the proof-sheets in order to translate the work into German. I regret the extra work imposed upon my students in writing out the lectures; perhaps the next class will have at least a short synopsis of the lectures in print, together with ample printed directions for their work in the chemical laboratory. Minor portions of the manuscript have at different times been published. This is especially true of the chapters on "*Chemical Operations*" which appeared from January to July, 1869, in the American Journal of Mining of New York, and the "*classification of the elements*," the first separate English publication of which is in the September number of the Chicago Pharmacist. This classification was also presented by me to the chemical section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, (1868 and 1869).

#### ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT.

BY C. A. E.

When a truly great man departs this life after a long and useful career, the loss is felt by all good men who are capable of appreciating true greatness.

This was particularly the case when, ten years ago, Alexander von Humboldt died. Every one, who was in the least interested in the cause of civilization, felt that in Humboldt science had lost her most illustrious representative, the cause of human progress its most devoted friend, and modern culture one of its most successful as well as most gifted advocates.

On the 14th of September of this year, the whole civilized world gratefully remembered the day which, one hundred years before, had given this man to the world. Many may have asked the *question*, why it was that so much feeling was manifested on such an occasion. The spectacle was indeed a novel one. Less than half a century ago, it would have been impossible. That it was possible in the year eighteen hundred sixty-nine, is a significant fact, and one that deserves to be carefully studied by all who would know the signs of the times.

The world had been too long accustomed to worship the destroyers of the race instead of its benefactors. How great the change! The same year that gave birth to Humboldt, the great hero of modern culture, was also the birth-year of the great hero of the battlefield, the Corsican Napoleon.

Yet while mankind remembers with feelings of devotion and gratitude the name of the one, it stands almost ready to commit to everlasting oblivion the memory of the other.

That such a change has been brought about in the minds of mankind is due solely to the efforts of the great champions of science and modern thought, pre-eminently among whom ranks Alexander von Humboldt.

§ The Laboratory is open from 8 A. M. until 5 P. M. every day.

It would be impossible, in a brief sketch like this, to give even the faintest idea of the great merits of Humboldt, as a man of science, and we, therefore, abstain from the attempt.

Besides, those who never heard of Humboldt before will not be likely to gain a correct estimate of him unless they study his works, and as far as the mere external circumstances of his life are concerned, any one may derive the necessary information in a dozen different books. Yet, while we wish to be silent on these points, we would like to give a brief answer to the question, why it was that the centennial birth-day of Humboldt was so enthusiastically celebrated, not only by the Germans, but also by the thinking portion of all the civilized nations of Europe and America.

The principal reason for this remarkable fact consists of course in the superiority of Humboldt's genius, but another reason, no less potent and which accounts particularly for the great veneration in which he is held by even those of his countrymen who are not able to appreciate the full greatness of his mind, is found in the nobility of Humboldt's character. His whole life furnishes one of the rarest illustrations of unselfish devotion to the cause of truth and human progress. A considerable fortune inherited from his father he sacrificed to science, and died a poor man, rich only in the love and respect borne him by his friends and followers, and in the wealth of his own genius. A character so spotless, a devotion to the greatest interests of the race so genuine and so lasting, a genius so grand, and a life so noble could not fail to command the admiration of the better portion of mankind, and above all of his countrymen.

His liberal views particularly endeared him to the people at large. His warm sympathies with the progressive movements in the United States, and his friendship with nearly all the most prominent and most liberal minds of this country, are matters of history. In Germany the name of Humboldt, together with the names of Schiller and Goethe, is a household word, and the influence of his mind, the same as in the case of Schiller and Goethe, is rapidly spreading among all classes of society.

The long political impotence of Germany had forced the current of national life into the region of thought. This explains the unprecedented advance of German Literature within the past hundred years. But it explains also why the Germans, as a nation, set such a high value on their great thinkers, poets and men of science, and why they so devoutly cherish the memory of the mighty representatives of their national genius.

Humboldt's works, particularly his "Cosmos," and the "Views of Nature," are unsurpassed models of style. The Germans as well as the French count him among their classical writers; in both these difficult languages he was perfectly at home, and in both he has left us works which will always deserve to be studied, not only on account of their contents, but also of the exquisite language in which these contents are expressed.

It has been a matter of comment that no American college, excepting Harvard, had taken any step to commemorate Humboldt's centennial birth-day. We hope that this has been a mere oversight, and not a wilful omission.

The colleges should be, above all others, the places where modern culture should find ready recognition, and the representatives of that culture the warmest welcome and the most enthusiastic appreciation.

It has become evident to all accustomed to independent thought, that the grand change in the aspect of modern civilization necessitates a corresponding modification in our system of collegiate education. The great object of such education should always be the expansion of the minds of the young, the development of a higher and fuller manhood than is attainable in a merely practical course of life. But in order that this object may be gained, our education must be so directed as to open the eyes of the student to the greatness of the work done around him; to awaken his sympathies for the great and good who are clearing the way for future progress, and, above all, to enable him to recognize the true proportions of the great minds who are the leaders of mankind in the great onward march of civilization. Of the latter who deserves more our careful study than the subject of the sketch?

It was said of Shakespeare "that he was not of an age but of all times." It must be said of Humboldt that he belonged not to a nation, but to all mankind, and that all future ages will render homage to his mighty genius.

LAW DEPARTMENT, SEPT. 17th, 1869.

At a meeting of the students of this Department in the Lecture Room, the Wright Society was reorganized and the following officers chosen for the ensuing term:

J. D. Glass, Speaker; W. F. LeRoy, Chief Clerk; Wm. E. Fuller, Engrossing Clerk; W. A. Mills, Treasurer; N. H. Redman, Sergeant-at-Arms. There are twenty-three names at present on the Society roll. J. H. KOGLER, Sec'y.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—We would call the attention of student friends to our new advertisements. Many of our business men who patronized "THE REPORTER" last year, have found it to their interest to do so again. With these the most of you are probably acquainted and should soon become acquainted with those who have placed their cards in the paper for the first time. We can recommend all as honorable dealers, and hope that they may receive your patronage.

The second week of the present term, Judge Wright delivered a course of lectures to the Law class which cannot be spoken of in terms of praise too high. The third week, Judge Cole conducted the class through a considerable portion of "Walker's" American Law. Judge Hammond is now in charge of the class. Every thing moves along harmoniously.

This number of the Reporter, by the kindness of friends, is sent to many who are not regular subscribers. We hope, if our paper meets with approval, all will feel free to send us their subscriptions. In so doing, you will help to sustain the first college paper ever published in Iowa.

On Sunday, the 3d inst., Dr. Black commenced a course of instruction to a University Bible Class. The subject under consideration was the Authenticity of the Scriptures. Over two hundred were present.

On the 9th inst. there will be a sociable in the University Chapel. This will be a good opportunity for new students to become acquainted. Let there be a large attendance.

## The University Reporter.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, - OCTOBER, 1869.

### SALUTATORY.

Through Infinite Goodness the students of the Iowa State University have again been permitted to assemble in the class rooms of their respective departments. Students with smiling countenances and happy hearts beating in unison, have greeted one another with a cordial welcome. And all are now earnestly engaged in the prosecution of their studies. The attendance upon the University the present year, is unusually large. Many new students are among us and their presence is cheering to the former student as well as to the teacher. The Reporter wishes to be to them as well as to all old students a warm friend.

Many of our former associates, those whose confidence placed us in the Editorial Chair, have returned and are to mingle with us during the year upon which we are now entering. From them we feel assured of a hearty support in the publication of the University paper. But there are many who have not returned for they are now actors upon the stage of real, earnest life. Their seats in Chapel and in the recitation room will be occupied by others and all pass on as before. But they are not forgotten, for their names will sooner fade from the parchment on which they were inscribed than from the memories of those who now fill their places.

And when from toil and the cares of business they shall seek repose, in retirement for a time, we trust they will remember the students' paper of their Alma Mater. In the past we have received from citizens a liberal patronage and many tokens of regard and appreciation. For the future, we confidently solicit a continuance of your patronage and will strive to merit your approbation.

We extend to all a cordial greeting and will say that it shall be the aim of the present corps of Editors, supported by their student friends, to make the Reporter a literary paper of peculiar attraction and special merit.

We live in a great age, when rapid strides are being made in intellectual achievements. The world at large is making conquest after conquest in the realms of science and of art, which are developing a more perfect civilization.

The telegraph is of itself a great civilizer. It gives life to trade and commerce, by enabling business men, although separated thousands of miles, to communicate daily with each other. By its swiftness of dispatch it unites all the nations of earth, so that they have intercourse with one another like unto a neighborly community. Questions are arising in the political world of absorbing interest to the public, and statesmen are wanted who will strike blows in favor of truth and justice that will be heard round the world.

The professions seem to be moving forward. Investigations with valuable results are being made, the field of thought is widening and deepening, and we are happy to say the course of instruction in all departments is becoming more systematic.

Does the student wonder, when in active life what position he will take in the great busy throng? If so, his cogitations

while choosing his profession and contemplating his location are of the highest value. For, upon a wise selection of these, much of his success in life depends.

But much more depends upon the discipline acquired while at College. Every essay written, every oration delivered gives experience and stimulates to new exertions with grander results.

Hoping to be kindly remembered by all former friends, we present our first issue of Vol. II. to the public.

### HISTORY.

The voice of mankind has assigned to the Muse of History the second place among the Sacred Nine. That it has not occupied the first, has been owing more to the misconceptions of men than to any want of dignity in its nature, or of interest in its subjects. Recording, as it does, all that the human race have ever achieved or suffered, its themes are far more lofty than the action of any epic. Teaching, as it does, the great principles of social, moral, religious and governmental policy, it is vastly more instructive than the best-told story of fiction. It is a great fountain of wisdom, from which the philosopher, statesman and divine may draw most useful lessons; the great depository of facts, by which all may be taught without the sufferings of experience. No branch of knowledge deserves to be more studied, and in none will study be so amply rewarded.

Still, no department of literature at this time receives so little attention. While the writers of fiction and verse may be counted by thousands, historians are numbered by units. One reason for this is very evident. To write history at all, labor and research are necessary. Old records must be consulted, different authorities compared, and nothing left unnoticed which would throw any light on a person or event. Years must be spent in this species of toil before a life is written. This is not the easiest nor simplest way of winning bread by the pen, consequently it is one which few choose to adopt. A young man or woman can be secluded for a few weeks, and, without a literary or any other appliance than pen, ink and paper, can bring forth a passable tale or romance, which yields a handsome remuneration. But the historian must labor longer, and have a stronger faith; for, to attempt to put forth a work without patient study and long deliberation, would be a great piece of folly, were it not, from the nature of things, an impossibility.

History is very different in this respect from what it was in the early ages of the world. Then, the number of events which had transpired were few—the number of important events *very* few. There was, then, none of that *finesse* in statesmanship, nor that secrecy in the policy of government which so baffle investigation. All the motives of *men* lay upon the surface, and the historian had nothing more to do than to mass a simple record of occurrences. They were, too, at liberty to supply all deficiencies in their stock of information by fables, legends and romances of their own creation. Hence, the tasks of historians were much more inviting than at present, and their numbers relatively greater. Of the Greek authors whose works have descended to us, fully one-half are historians; of the Romans, perhaps one-third. We doubt if one in twenty of the writers of the present day are familiar

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with even the outlines of history, and certainly not one in fifty, if one in a hundred, is a historical author.

Few men are intellectually qualified to write history. It requires a rare combination of rare qualities, embracing many of the highest faculties of the human mind. Those who have read history largely and carefully, will fully comprehend this statement. They know how often great natural talent and unremitting industry have failed most signally in this field. In the exposition of the history of our mother country, some of the ablest minds which she has ever produced have been called into exercise. They have spared neither careful research nor laborious investigation. With cultivated imaginations and classic tastes, they have adorned their styles with all the beauty of rhetoric, and none have imparted to their pages that fascinating charm which genius always gives. But it must be admitted that no impartially truthful and wholly reliable history of England has as yet been produced. The brief, meagre compend, that states only a few leading facts, is more reliable, and, from one point of view, more valuable, than the brilliant romances given us by Lord Macaulay.

Error, when taught in history, is more dangerous than in any other form which it can assume. The historian, then, should, first of all, endeavor to be impartial and truthful. He should spare no pains in his efforts to ascertain what is truth and what is false; and when ascertained, he should state it, without increase or extenuation. Whatever his feelings may be, he should never allow them to lead him into perversion or misrepresentation. He should, in fact, so far as possible, train himself into a passionless state, though he should preserve a generous and enlarged sympathy for all the frailties and virtues of his race. He should never judge too harshly of those who were manifestly wrong in action; still more careful should he be in speaking of those who differ from him on all those great questions about which the world has been divided. To a failure in these particulars, we are to attribute most of our false and badly written histories. Men take sides on questions of religion and politics, the issues of which have long since passed away. They no longer look upon the moving scene from some elevated stand-point, but descending, mingle with the crowd, and thence take a one-sided view of all that passes. Upon those with whom they agree they often bestow unmerited commendations; upon those of the opposite party they bestow abuse equally undeserved. Those who act thus are unfaithful, and whatever may be their abilities in other respects, they are morally unqualified for the task which they have assumed. Vide, two-thirds of the "Histories" of the late Rebellion.

An ambition to make a display of fine writing is fatal to the truthfulness and correctness of history. We would not have the historian unmindful of his style. On the contrary, he should endeavor to tell what he has to tell in the best manner possible, and to clothe all his descriptions in the most attractive garb. But the events which he has to record have not been ordered with any reference to the arrangement of brilliant paragraphs and eloquent passages. The characters who have performed parts in that great drama may not be altogether such as a skillful play-writer would bring upon the stage; but it is evidently his duty to relate facts and describe

persons just as they were, without any attempt to shape them to suit his prejudices, or to impart to them the adornings of his fancy. It has gotten to be a very popular notion, of late years, that history should be written like a novel, with the same artificial grouping of characters, the same splendor of scenery, and the same eloquence of language. The idea is an erroneous one, and has been productive of very lamentable consequences. Under this impression, authors have not scrupled to distort and exaggerate facts for the sake of rhetorical flourish. The characters of great and good men have been misrepresented, and their fair fame blasted, in order to mass a few striking antitheses. Authors are lured into this species of dishonesty by a very tempting but unjust ambition, against which they should be on their guard. History should be a record of facts; this is its first and highest office. They should be well told, if possible; but at any rate, we prefer plain, unadorned facts, to brilliant fictions.

#### MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

A Commercial Convention, the chief object of which was to secure from Congress appropriations to improve the Mississippi and its tributaries, was held in Keokuk, beginning on the 7th of September and continuing four days. There were about three hundred delegates in attendance, representing all of the Western States and many of the Southern.

To give a full account of the proceedings of the Convention, would require too much space, and we can only give the following as some of the most important resolutions before the Convention, all of which were passed.

A resolution petitioning Congress to make an appropriation for the holding of a World's Fair, in the Valley of the Mississippi, in 1871.

A resolution favoring the removal of the National Capitol. Resolutions looking to a reciprocal trade with all nations; requesting the appointing power to give the Mississippi Valley a full share of the diplomatic appointments; requesting the cities and towns on the Mississippi to extend the municipal facilities and commercial economies; to counteract the rivalry of the cross routes and to regain the foreign and domestic commerce of this Valley; requesting aid from the cities and towns on the Mississippi to establish an immigration depot in New Orleans; requesting a reduction of revenue on some articles of permanent and popular consumption; and that the Representatives of the Mississippi Valley introduce a bill for the increase and equalization of the postal steam system, by giving subsidies to steamers running between New Orleans and foreign points.

The Convention appointed a Memorial Committee to present to Congress its result, in its name hoping that they may attract that attention which they deserve, and accomplish the grand result and purpose which they have in view.

W. J. M.

Thought is the essential prerequisite of true culture. The man who thinks most is the most cultivated. It is the culture of originality, of depth, of character. A man should be measured, not by the number of dates he can give, but by the number of thoughts he can originate.

## IDLING.

Where the forest aisles from the depths within,  
Open up to the glowing day,  
Where the whispered songs of the breeze begin—  
I come to dream an hour away.

At ease outstretched on the fragrant turf,  
The far-up oak-leaves rustling cool,  
With a murmuring sound like the distant surf,  
Or the hidden fall of some sylvan pool.

Watching the cloud-forms, angel bright,  
Floating on feathery pinions spread,  
Clothed in effulgent robes of light,  
Born of the sun and to sunshine wed,—

Listless and happy I lie and dream,  
Beautiful visions, glad and free,  
That flit through my soul like a radiant gleam  
Of sun, on the clouds or rippling stream,  
Dearer than Alladin's treasure to me.

Not, in the busy ways of life,  
Struggling on through the heat and dust;  
Ceaseless in labor, in pain and strife,  
*Living*, only because I *must*.

Not with fixed gaze on the Future's sky,  
And its glittering lights that lure us on,  
To pass the joys of the Present by,  
For those which, perchance, may ne'er be won:—

But soaring aloft, like yon isles of light,  
Free, free! from the fettered and tossing main;  
The Present, for once, hath a radiance bright,  
Dispelling sorrow as day doth night,  
And my soul sails out from her anchor of pain.

Musing and resting and joyous to-day,  
Loving the sunshine, the clouds and the trees;  
Following fancy, away and away,  
Like an air-spirit, borne on the far-floating breeze.

What are life's troubles and sorrows to me?  
I am not one of her spirit-crushed throng.  
Now, this one bright hour at least, I am free.  
"Peace," sings my soul, and I bless the sweet song.

Sighing and toiling, on and still on,  
Why are we anxious each heaven-sent day?  
Rest, without welcome, and peace, without dawn,  
Soul-life for sadness, oh! why should we pawn,  
Throwing God's best gifts forever away?

To-day I have opened my soul to the sun,  
I have shoved back the curtains of sadness and gloom,  
I welcome the breezes and bird-songs that come,  
And rejoice in earth's beauty, her sunshine and bloom.

I lie here and gaze in the boundless blue,  
Till *self* sinks, lessening, out of thought;  
Till the sense-world takes an ethereal hue,—  
Seems of a spirit essence wrought.

The crystal deep, for a moment still,  
Breaks wide into rippling waves of sound,  
Wild sweet notes, with a sudden thrill,  
Startle the drowsy stillness round.

Deep in the shade of the listening wood,  
Those sound-spheres centre at one small breast;  
Their music joins with my dreaming mood,  
And adds to the sense of perfect rest.

A simple bird-note, full and clear,  
With a ringing chime in its bell-like tone;

But, far from the clouds, I seem to hear  
Wonderful melodies wafted down.

There are spirits floating and singing there,  
In the beautiful light of this perfect day;  
On their snowy couches, free from care,  
From earth and its toils and griefs, away.

They sing of a rapture, none can taste,  
While closed in this mortal prison-cell;  
Of the untold joy when the soul, released,  
Strangely *drawn*, shall no more *repel*.

When kindred spirits, coming near,  
Shall join, like the fleecy clouds of heaven;  
Not, each in his fate-bound, separate sphere,  
Attracted but to be backward driven.

While those chords of angel-music swell,  
I know no sense of passing time;  
I seem with the happy throng to dwell,  
Sharing the bliss of their golden clime.

But now, no more I hear them sing,  
I only hear the oak-leaves move,  
For, borne afar on his flashing wing,  
My wood-thrush singer seeks his love.

## IS THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE A NATURAL RIGHT?

The particular objective point at which those aim who are forcing this subject upon public attention is female suffrage. Desiring to make this proposition a *major premise*, to settle the question in which they are immediately interested, they have cried long and loud, "The question is settled, and the proposition true;" while those who oppose this measure have vociferated no less vehemently, perhaps, and with some show for temper, "It isn't" and "it ain't." But before we discuss it, we must *define our middle term*. "Natural rights" are those derived from nature, those which inhere in human beings as such, as distinguished from conventional, political or conferred rights. They are independent of time, place and circumstances. They always attach in all places, under all circumstances and in every possible condition. They cannot be forfeit except for crime, and they cannot be forcibly withheld except for crime without wrong. The question then is whether suffrage is such a right. I think not for the following reasons:

1ST. The exercise of it is impossible, except in a Democracy. To affirm the proposition is therefore to say all other forms of government are necessarily tyrannical—an affirmation I am not willing to make. If it is said, this is a right that in the compact of society has been relinquished in other forms of government, I reply: That is mere theory without a single fact to support it. Moreover, it is an untenable theory, except under an absolute monarchy. For no theory worthy the name would recognize such a principle, as, that in the original compact, some retained and others relinquished the right of suffrage; and this must be maintained for all forms immediate between Absolutism and perfect Democracy.

2ND. I think it not true, because there have been and are many nations where government by the people is impossible, and any attempt at it would result in anarchy, crime and all kinds of social and moral evils. Now it seems something less than common sense to say a people have a natural right to

overthrow all good and bring in all disorder and wrong.

3RD. If any principle is settled, it is that man owes allegiance to his government, and that treason is a crime. But how can a person owe, morally owe, active obedience to laws which wrongfully wrest from him and all his fellow subjects their natural and inalienable rights.

4TH. I think it not true because the Jewish state government, though established by God does not recognize it as true.

5TH. I think it untrue because it is opposed to the analogy of family government which all approve, and civil government doubtless had its origin in the family government.

6TH. I think it untrue because the principle applied would give the right to the infant of a day, as well as to the mature and well informed, to the foreigner as well as the native, to all classes and conditions of mortals who were under the government—a course so hazardous I cannot think the foundation of it can be laid in natural right.

7TH. I think it untrue because there is no reason to think it true, but many to the contrary. I know it is often sought to urge as an authoritative dictum, "There can be no taxation without representation. Our fathers settled that in the Revolution." Our fathers never claimed representation as a natural right. They were contending for their rights as Englishmen and the principles of the common law. They only claimed that they were Englishmen and not subjects of a conquered province. Sometimes too we have quoted, "Governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed." This proposition is not proved, and if it were, it would disprove what those who quote it seek to prove. For if all government is from the "consent of the governed," their consent could and might be withheld. If it were withheld, there would be no government, and we should have the curious spectacle of persons having a natural right to do that which by the exercise of another natural right never could be done—which I think would be an unnatural predicament; for it would be conflicting natural rights in the same individual. And this leads me to remark that it is wholly absurd to say one has a natural right to perform particular duties in an artificial organization which might never be formed; or if formed, might never include in its workings those particular duties or privileges. The truth as I apprehend it is, that governments are organized to promote the safety and happiness of all. If monarchy will best accomplish this, that is right; if oligarchy, that; if democracy with limited suffrage, that; if it needs the votes of all of both sexes to do it, that is right. And no people have a right to lessen the total good by increasing or diminishing the number that take part in the government. Reason and experience then must be the arbiters to settle the female suffrage question and all others in the same sphere.

SIXTY-NINE.

It will be seen, by reference to another column, that the most of the members of the Class of '69 are engaged as teachers in promising positions. Besides those, W. C. Preston is assistant in Chemistry in the University, and G. L. Pinkham is assistant in the Collegiate Department. Miss Anderson is at her home in Washington. Koogler is attending the Law School. Remley is at his home in Oxford and Cowgill is Editor of a paper, Mayor of a city, and Corresponding Secretary of an Immigration Society at Enterprise, Mississippi.

BOOK TABLE.

THE SUBJECTION OF WOMEN, BY JOHN STUART MILL, Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.—For sale by Beach & Allin of this city. As a statement of the author's design, and as a model preface, we quote the first paragraph of this little book:

"The object of this essay is to explain as clearly as I am able, the ground of an opinion which I have held from the very earliest period when I had formed any opinions at all on social and political matters, and which, instead of being weakened or modified, has been constantly growing stronger by the progress of reflection and the experience of life: That the principle which regulates the existing social relations between the two sexes—the legal subordination of one sex to the other—is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief hinderances to human improvement; and that it ought to be replaced by a principle of perfect equality, admitting no power or privilege on the one side, nor disability on the other."

Mr. Mill asserts the origin of woman's subjection to have been in the earliest twilight of society and from the barbarous rule of force. It is a form of slavery, the worst form of slavery; but whilst other forms of slavery have passed away in most civilized countries, this remains because it is so universal as to seem natural. The author claims that experience has not pronounced in favor of the present system of equality; because there has only been experience in the one system. He then discusses the capabilities of woman as compared with those of man, showing that what woman might be and might do cannot be justly judged of by what she has been and has done, and claiming that no one knows enough of the nature of the two sexes to assert that they are adapted to their present functions and positions only.

The present legal inequality of married persons is shown next, and the "morality" of command and obedience is condemned in the following language: "Existing moralities, accordingly, are mainly fitted to a relation of command and obedience. Yet command and obedience are but unfortunate necessities of human life; society in equality is its normal state." "We have had," he continues "the morality of submission, and the morality of chivalry and generosity, the time is now come for the morality of justice." This morality of justice, argues Mr. Mill, will give to women equal rights with man to choose the calling she may desire, to govern and possess in the family, to vote and hold office under the government. The arguments of the author are put in a clear, bold, forcible style, and worthy the fair and faithful examination of all.

COLLEGE EXCHANGES.—We have received for the school year of 1869-70 the following exchanges: *The Trinity Tablet, The Harvard Advocate, Miami Student, American Educational Monthly, The Vidette, The Evergreen, The Free Trader, The Chronicle, The Laws of Life, The School Master, The Cornell Era, The College Items, The College Argus, Davenport Democrat, Muscatine Journal, Iowa Tribune, Iowa City Republican and State Press.*

We trust that by our next issue our exchange list will be as large as at the close of last year, when it numbered fifty-two college and state papers and magazines.

Religious denominations of this city, the present year, have been making marked improvements in their houses of worship. The Congregationalists have erected an elegant building. But for the present, they hold services in the basement, the audience room not being completed. The Presbyterians have improved the appearance of their church by the erection of a fine tower, and their audience room is now being refrescoed. Such improvements add much to the attractiveness of our city. The Catholics have erected the most imposing structure. The finish on the inside is equaled by none. Their altar alone cost \$5,000.

## The University Reporter.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, - - - OCTOBER, 1869.

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Terms, Invariably in Advance:

One Copy, one year,..... \$1 00 Six Copies, one year..... \$5 00

Published the first of every month. Subscriptions received at Beach & Allin's Book Store opposite University Square, and by the Editors.

All communications must come through the Post Office or the Contribution Box in the University Hall, accompanied by the real name of the author, in a separate envelope, sealed, which will not be opened unless the article is accepted.

Communications are requested from our friends on matters of interest.

All articles of a political, partisan or anonymous nature are rejected.

Address, THE UNIVERSITY REPORTER, Box 279, Iowa City.

JOHN A. PICKLER, and J. C. MATTHEWS, Financial Agents.

### BIOGRAPHY.

We have the pleasure, in this issue, of presenting to our readers a biographical sketch of the life of Hon. G. G. Wright, LL. D., Prof. of Constitutional, Criminal and Real Property Law, in the Law Department of our University.

Judge Wright was born Mar. 24th, 1820, in Bloomington, Ind. Was a charity student of the Indiana State University, from which institution he graduated in Sept., 1839. Studied law with his brother Joseph A. Wright, [afterwards Governor of the State and U. S. Minister at Berlin, Premier,] at Rockville, Ind., and came to Iowa in 1840. Settled in Van Buren Co., from whence he removed to Des Moines, in 1865. Was County Prosecutor in Van Buren Co. for one year, and served the county for two sessions in the State Senate, (1849-50.) He was then a Whig and so continued until the organization of the Republican Party. In 1853, he received the votes of the Whig members in the Gen. Assembly for U. S. Senator. This was without his solicitation or knowledge, but as the Whigs were in a hopeless minority, it amounted to no more than a compliment.

By the Legislature in May 1854, he was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, Isbel and Woodward being Associates. The Capitol was then at Iowa City, and Court was held in the present University building until 1858. A nomination for the same position was declined by him in 1859. Judge Stockton, of the Supreme Court, died in 1860. And Gov. Kirkwood, unsolicited, tendered the position to Judge Wright, which was accepted. This was in June. In November he was elected for the unexpired term by the people. In 1865, he was again nominated, elected, and is now serving out this term, which makes near 15 years on the bench. In that time 24 Vols. of Reports have been published, and before the 15 years expire two more will be completed, making in all 26 Vols. The Judge was tendered the Presidency of our University in 1867, in which position he declined serving. Assisted in organizing the Iowa Law School in 1865-6, from which three classes graduated before the union with the University. After which he was selected by the Board of Trustees to take charge, in part, of the Law Department which was organized in 1868, and since that time has given part of his time to this work. He has served for five years as President of the *State Agricultural Society*, and was Secretary of the

first Agricultural Society ever organized in the Territory—in 1841. In addition he has served for years as President of the School Board, director or otherwise in the School Districts where he has resided; has also delivered addresses before Agricultural and Literary Societies and other organizations.

The degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by the Iowa College, afterwards by the Iowa State University, and his *Alma Mater*.

This is a short sketch of a busy life, and the student will do well to consider it. Commencing at the *very* bottom round in the ladder, he has risen to positions of honor and trust in the State. He is a valuable instructor in the Law Department, and his whole connection with the University has proven him to be a talented, genial, good man.

The opening address by Dr. Black was delivered in the Chapel, on the 16th inst., at 8 o'clock A. M. The attendance for the first morning of the year was encouraging. Cheerful countenances with rosy cheeks bespoke a happy vacation to all. The Doctor at first, on account of ill-health, was scarcely able to be heard, but as he proceeded his voice acquired strength and he spoke with his usual interest and earnestness. He spoke of the pleasures of vacation to the diligent student, expressed himself as feeling very happy to meet so many familiar faces, and extended a cordial greeting to new students, asked the question to all "what are you here for?" and showed by forcible illustration that a *mere attendance* at college is not sufficient, but must be accompanied by earnest labor. He spoke of the relation of the student to the Professor, developed some methods of study and exhorted all to be faithful to themselves and to their work.

The address was listened to throughout with attention.

OUR CAMPUS.—All old students doubtless remember the holiday of last June, which was spent in trimming and straightening paths and in various ways improving the appearance of our campus.

Since that time much pains has been taken by those having the work in charge to keep it as attractive as possible.

And as we look out upon it from our window, it is gratifying and soul-reviving to behold its beauty. The grass looks like a mat of velvet green, and the rich foliage of the trees is truly beautiful. We trust, when another holiday comes round, all will be ready as before, to lend a helping hand, and by so doing still greater improvements will be made.

NEW CATALOGUE.—In our catalogue of 1868-9 the time honored names of Senior, Junior, Sophomore and Freshmen have been dispensed with and in their stead the names of First year, Second year, &c. substituted. We understand that the lady members of the Freshman class approve of the change, but are not sure that the members of the College classes in general will be so well satisfied with this innovation on the vernacular of college terms. But we presume that time and frequent use of the new terms will remove our prejudice in favor of the old ones.

LATIN PARADIGMS.—Prof. Parvin desires the student (name not recollected) who borrowed his volume of Latin Paradigms to return the same, as he needs it.

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THE STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Which convened at Marshalltown, Aug. 23d, was a decided success in numbers, enthusiasm and general results. A number of the speakers announced on the programme failed to appear, but the time allotted to them was so well occupied in the discussion of practical questions, that there was little cause for regret.

Perhaps the best paper read was that of Mr. Stuart of Tama county, on County Superintendents. School superintendency or inspection was ably discussed, its value as determined by experience in this country and Europe well set forth, and very valuable suggestions were made in reference to the special work of the County Superintendent.

The topics discussed most at length by the Association were Normal Schools and High Schools. The value of normal instruction and the need of greater facilities for it were not in question. How shall this admitted want in our State be met? was the inquiry.

Some favored the passage of a law allowing counties to tax themselves for the support of County Normal Schools, while others would ask the State to found and support four or five schools at once. But after a full and free discussion of the whole subject, it was unanimously resolved to ask the Legislature to enlarge and fully equip the Normal Department of the State University—and besides this, to establish one separate Normal School.

This action looks to the eventual founding of a system of such schools in the various portions of the State, with a limited course of study, aiming to prepare teachers for the common schools, looking to the Normal Department of the University as their head, and leaving to it the instruction of teachers for the High Schools.

In reference to High Schools two questions were discussed, viz: Can we depend upon our High Schools to prepare students for College? and, ought they to do this work?

It was unanimously conceded that our High Schools do not now offer facilities for this preparation, and generally agreed that the Colleges and the University must continue this preparatory work or suffer serious loss of patronage. Special solicitude was expressed lest the University should lessen its usefulness by ceasing to give elementary instruction at too early a period.

The second question led to an animated discussion upon the proper aims of High School instruction. Some would limit the course of study to the lower English branches, including elementary science, and leave all beyond this to the Academies and Colleges, but the general sentiment was that while the High School should fully meet the wants of the great masses who never go beyond it, ample provision should be made for instruction in all branches required for admission to Colleges and to the University. It was earnestly urged too that principals and teachers instead of conveying the impression that this limited course of study is sufficient for all practical purposes, should exert a powerful influence in the direction of a higher education. A committee is to prepare a plan of studies for such schools and report next year. It should be mentioned here that the University was the subject of frequent inquiry and favorable notice, and that there was manifested a cordial disposition to extend and strengthen its influence.

Nor would this hasty and imperfect sketch be excusable if it did not bear testimony to the bounteous hospitality of the good people of Marshalltown as shown in the free entertainment of the whole Association. A.

JOHN B. GOUGH is writing a work, "Reminiscences of Travel in England." He works on it from nine at night until three in the morning, because he can think better at night.

We read from the "Trinity Tablet" an account of the class histories as they were read at Yale, during the last "Presentation week" at that College. One was amusing and we give it. "Statistics of Mr. Blank. Drink? Yes. Cards? Yes. Smoke? Yes. Billiards? Yes. Profession? Ministry."

If this Mr. Blank in his moral character is a fair representative of those who graduate from that institution and study for the Ministry, we would recommend a regenerating process.

Cannot phonography or short hand writing be introduced into our Academies and High Schools in such a manner as to be of advantage to the students, who desire to take a college course of study? It would be a great saving of labor, besides enabling one to take fuller notes of the best lectures delivered in the class room and in public.

Will any one enlighten us on this subject?

We are indebted to Dr. White for the following notes from Prof. Emery, late assistant chemist in our own institution and who was recently elected to fill the Chair of Chemistry in Genesee College, Lima, N. Y. The institution is liberally endowed and the Professor receives a salary of \$1,700 per annum. He writes concerning his department as follows:

"The laboratory occupies two rooms, each about the size of Dr. Black's recitation room. This is in addition to the lecture room and a small private room. I have a set of Becker's (Brussels) best analytical balances, costing at Luhma's (N. Y.) \$150 in gold, and sensible when loaded to 1-10 of a Milligramme. I did not see a finer pair of balances when in Europe. In addition there are two other pairs of balances, besides ordinary scales for coarser weighing. We have a very superior spectroscope, imported direct from Heidelberg, &c.

There is five times as much apparatus as I anticipated, and I could commence quantitative work in five days, if I had nothing else to do. Nothing was done in the chemical laboratory last year, and it will take several days to set things in order. The Cabinets of Geology and Mineralogy fill a good sized room, and that of Zoology another.

I like what I have seen of the village and people very much."

We are glad to hear thus much concerning Prof. Emery's new situation. May success crown his efforts.

PROF. SHROCK, Principal of the writing Academy of this city, has placed upon our table a copy of his "SYSTEM OF PRACTICAL PENMANSHIP." We have examined it and are convinced of its superiority over other systems with which we are familiar. It is remarkable for the simplicity of the analysis of the letters and the free movement exercises commend it to special favor. The self-explaining copies are all neatly engraved upon plates. We would recommend the system to students who desire culture in this useful and ornamental art.

ROWING.—This is a pleasant and healthful exercise and at most of our older colleges is quite popular. The Iowa river flows hard by our institution and offers every advantage for this amusement. Can we not have a rowing Club? The defeat of the Harvard crew at the international race should not discourage us, as we need not compete for championship at once. Let some one make a move.

The editors of the Miami Student, of the Miami University, Ohio, are chosen from members of secret societies. Each society being entitled to one representative.

## UNIVERSITY PERSONAL.

We ask the students and Alumni of the University to send us, for publication in this column, the names, residences and occupations of former students and graduates of the University. This may be made a very valuable column to our subscribers if all will assist us in filling it.

W. H. Fort, Graduate of '69, is teaching at Liman, Ark.

Ada Rankin, Graduate, Normal Class, '69, is teaching at Winterset.

C. H. Preston, Graduate, '69, is Principal of the High School of this city.

W. E. Fuller Class, '69, is attending the Law Department at this University.

C. P. Rogers, Graduate, '69, is Principal of the Marengo High School.

Miss Clara Harris, Class '70, is teaching in the High School at Aledo, Ill.

C. E. Marvin, a former student, is now in the agricultural business at Monticello.

J. W. Davis and W. E. Crum, Law Graduates, '69, are practicing Law in this city.

Abe Swisher, Class '72, is Principal of the 1st Ward, Grammar School of this city,

Mary E. Colburn, Graduate, Normal Class, '69, is teaching in the Marengo High School.

Mary A. Johnson, Graduate, Normal Class, '69, is teaching in the High School, at Des Moines.

T. S. Bailey and Geo. Earhart, Graduates '69, are attending Theological Seminary, at Chicago, Ill.

A. B. Lemon, Graduate Normal Class, '69, is Principal of the Public Schools at Clarksville, Arkansas.

T. O. Walker, Class '68, is now publishing a newspaper at Bloomfield, Davis Co., Iowa. Success to you "T. O."

N. Jasper Jones, a former student of the University, is now a practicing Physician and Surgeon, with a lucrative practice at Indianola.

G. S. Toliver, a former student of the University, is the Republican nominee for Representative from the thirty-ninth Representative District.

W. D. Wilson, Class, '70, has been spending a week with his friends at the University prior to an intended trip to Europe. "W. D." left school last May on account of ill-health. Since that time he has been to California, seen some of the curiosities and beauties of the Golden State, and returned looking much healthier than when he left. We hope that the climate and the pleasures of travel in European countries may prove salutary to his health, and that he may soon be able to resume his studies at the State University.

The Graduating Class, for the present year, of the Collegiate department numbers 14, of the Normal 16, and of the Law 23. Total, 53.

The number of students in attendance upon the University, the present term, in all departments, is 350.

## OTHER COLLEGES.

President Angell, of the Vermont University has been tendered the Presidency of the Michigan University.

The Fall Term of School at Dartmouth opens with ninety-six freshmen, and more are expected.

One hundred and thirty-five have been admitted to all departments.

Indiana University, (Bloomington.) Tuition is now free to all in every department. Young ladies are admitted to the college classes on the same terms as young men. The Trustees have enlarged the Law Department by the establishment of two Chairs instead of one. Tuition is now free in this department, and two thousand dollars have been appropriated for the increase of the Law Library.

We notice by the Lawrence Collegian that the faculty of the Lawrence University have prohibited the appearance of a paper at society exhibitions. It seems that personalities and "sharp witted jokes" have been indulged in too freely.

We bespeak for their entertainments in the future a higher tone and better standing among the more intelligent members of their audiences.

## SOCIETY REPORTS.

ZETAGATHIAN SOCIETY, Sept 17th, 1869.—The first meeting of the term was very interesting. The members assembled, invigorated by a long vacation, eager to greet old friends, yet somewhat anxious to know how many of the old, familiar faces we had lost in the interim. A large number of the graduating class of last year were Zetagathians. Some of the oldest members of the Society, we could not expect to have them meet with us again, but others whose return had been doubtful we were glad to find in their places, making a larger number of veterans to commence work than we could have anticipated. The inaugural address of the incoming President, Mr. J. E. Cook, was pertinent and practical, and dictated by a long experience in the Society. Spoke of Mr. Remley and others "whose pictures adorn our wall," who had been faithful workers to promote the interests of the Society, the present welfare of which is our charge; of equality, old members and new having equal rights and privileges; of the importance of the discipline obtained in the Society, etc., etc. A discussion followed on the "Immigration" question, the marked features of which were earnestness and "John Chinaman." It has not been the custom to have public exercises at the opening session in a new year, but the attentive audience present on this occasion, indicated the propriety of the change. Business of importance was transacted at this meeting. New names were received, old members signified their "intention" and work commenced.

Sept. 24—The most pleasing feature of the meeting was a visit from the "Erodelphians," *en masse*. It gives us pleasure to acknowledge our obligations. This sisterly courtesy cannot be too highly commended. As societies, we should visit one another as often as practicable, and we hope this will make such visits fashionable the coming winter. Concerning the exercises of the evening, the opening address by Mr. Macy, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever;" Mr. Gordon's essay on "Originality," and the closing address, "Independence of character," by Mr. Davis, may be commended for practical treatment of the subjects, evident preparation and creditable delivery. The discussion of the Mormon Question, in Committee of the Whole, was animated, and by a small majority decided in favor of the Mormons.

Oct. 1st.—The propriety of organizing a "Third Party" in the present condition of affairs was considered, and after a

well contested debate was decided by the judges, one in favor; two against.

W. B. CRAIG, Cor. Sec.

**THE IRVING INSTITUTE.**—Sept. 17th and 24th 1867. The Irvings held the first two meetings of the term in close session, for the purpose of transacting new and important business.

Oct. 1st.—The work and business which have engaged the Society for the past three weeks, terminated this evening; at which time the Institute held its first regular meeting of the year. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the hall was well filled with visitors, and all seemed well pleased with the appearance of the newly furnished literary home. This being the evening for inauguration of officers, the retiring president made a few remarks; after which the audience listened to the inaugural address by the incoming president. The address needs nothing more commendable than to state that A. Loughridge delivered it. The question "*Resolved, That Catholics should not be taxed for the support of Public Schools*" was discussed in committee of the whole. The debate was opened by Messrs. Koogler and Hiatt, who were followed promptly by other members who spoke with that usual degree of earnestness that has ever characterized the members of Irving Institute. The Society was separated into two new divisions, thus giving each member the privilege of debating once in two weeks, as formerly. The literary exercises consist of two essays, one declamation and two orations. During vacation the hall was neatly frescoed, which has made a remarkable change in its appearance. The rostrum has been taken up and arranged in better form; and the pulpit like receptacle, behind which some of the former presidents were only one-third visible, has been removed, and in its stead an elegant arm-chair and a very becoming stand.—Those circular tables, heretofore arranged in Congress like form, and occupying so much space, have been disposed of, and replaced by arm chairs and marble-topped center tables.

Additional engravings have lately been procured, and now decorate the newly frescoed walls in a very symmetrical manner. The bust of Irving, just above the president's chair has also been beautifully adorned, the appropriate plan of which was suggested by those ladies who always know how to adorn such things, whose choice tastes will ever be admired, and whose kind services will not be forgotten. In fine, the hall now presents a very inviting and literary appearance, and the additional furniture is so arranged as to give that much needed convenience to the Society, and accommodation to the many welcome visitors.

W. H. ROBERTSON, Cor. Sec.

**THE HESPERIAN SOCIETY** has not had the pleasure of welcoming back near all of its old members; we miss them, yet cheerfully take up the additional work to be performed.—Names for membership have been proposed, and all are busy working to secure good members. Vacation gave us new energy and determination and we intend expending a double portion upon Society. Visitors will be cordially welcomed at all regular meetings.

E. J. WILLIAMS, Cor. Sec.

#### PRAYER MEETING NOTES.

For several years, a Students' Prayer Meeting has been held on each Tuesday evening during the University year, with the happiest results. This meeting was opened the first week of the present year with an attendance of forty, and has been steadily growing in numbers and interest. The earnest desire manifested by those present to seek and lead a higher life, and to prevail upon others to come that way, has been marked.

How beautiful to see so many in the years of maturing manhood and womanhood, treading these ways of pleasantness, and learning *life* lessons from the meek and lowly Teacher who spoke as never *man* spoke.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

DENVER, Sept. 3d, 1869.

Some months have passed since I promised to write some

account of the West for the columns of **THE REPORTER**, still it may not be less acceptable now than it would have been at an earlier day. On first arriving in the Territory, I was agreeably disappointed to find in all the larger towns, and, indeed, nearly everywhere, a state of society that was fully equal to that of most places in the "States." The people are intelligent, agreeable and sociable, and a man is respected according to his merit, and not as is too often supposed in proportion to his skill with Bowie-knife or pistol. Indeed, so far as security of property is concerned, articles of value are left in safety here, where we would not think of leaving them in Iowa. We have often left an entire camp equipage for days in the mountains, and nothing was ever molested. This results from the fact that the miners and others "bach" it, and in consequence are obliged to leave the house alone when at work, and have by custom made theft a more heinous crime than where public laws are better enforced and property better guarded.

Theft will hang a man in the more remote districts, while murder will not, unless under aggravating circumstances.

Colorado was, for some years, known by the name of "Pikes Peak," and only known from the fact that gold was found there.

Of the tens of thousands who in 1859 and 1860 made the long, tedious and perilous trip across the plains, perhaps not one believed that the country to which they were going would ever be productive of any thing but gold. How they were mistaken has since been demonstrated. All that vast tract known in the geographies of these days as the "Great American Desert," is now capable of supporting millions of people. The valleys, by irrigation, produce crops superior to Iowa, even. I have never seen crops better either in quantity or quality than those which have recently been harvested in the Platte and other valleys in this section. The higher lands are most admirably adapted for grazing. And that their value is appreciated is shown by the herds of cattle that are thriving thereon. Thousands and tens of thousands of cattle and sheep are now here and on the way. Here they can live and flourish twelve months in the year, with no food except as nature provides it. The mines are no small item. But for several years, as a result of speculation and stock swindling, more money was expended on them than they yielded. Now there is a change. Men have found that with energy and common sense mining pays not only as a means of speculation but as legitimate labor. Formerly some General or Colonel or other noted party was commissioned with a few hundred thousand or more to come here and build a mill, reduce the mountains, thus hoping to make money for the greenies who had invested their money in such uncertain enterprises. The result was often an expenditure of the funds in some rickety structure called a mill, and in machinery that would not work. The whole investment, a total loss. The monuments of such folly can to-day be seen in nearly every ravine in the mining districts. But the years 1868 and 1869 have marked an era of successful mining in Colorado.

Bars of gold and silver bullion to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars are shipped monthly. I have frequently seen "buttons" of silver weighing four hundred pounds and more run off. But while a few mills are doing all this, there are thousands of lodes lying idle for want of mills and cheaper labor.

(To be continued next month.)

"A BIG THING."

We have long heard of the Big Trees in California, but not until lately have we had the privilege of seeing some of them. So much has been written and said about them that it seems scarcely necessary to give a description now, and yet some people who have never seen them, and who have lived for ten or fifteen years within fifty miles of them, read with wonder the accounts of their gigantic proportions.

The most interesting grove of large trees is in the valley near the head of the San Antonio river, Calaveras Co., Cal. It is 75 miles east from Stockton by stage road, 4,200 feet above the Bay of San Francisco, in a mountainous region, and in the midst of a vast forest of pine and cedar together with some maple, ash, hazel, willow and other shrubs. The soil is of great depth and richness, and the sound of foot-steps on it can be heard at much greater distance than common. In this grove there are between 90 and 100 of these wonderful trees, called *Sequoias Gigantae*. It is a red-wood and makes excellent lumber for building purposes, being easy to work and very durable. As our measurements of a few of the trees agree nearly with the statements given us there, we are satisfied to give the dimensions attached to the others—that there are ten trees thirty feet in diameter, and over seventy that are between 15 and 25 feet in diameter. These trees are nearly all named, (by a placard of marble, iron or wood nailed to the trunk,) mostly after distinguished individuals, a full catalogue of which would not be interesting here. Two of the most noticeable are the "Father and Mother of the forest," the former of which was blown down several years ago, and is estimated to have been 450 feet high, and 40 feet in diameter at the ground, which cannot be ascertained at present, but we measured 300 feet along the trunk from the base to where it was broken by the fall, and its diameter there without the bark is over eight feet. The Mother of the forest is still standing, 320 feet high, but her bark has been taken off to a height of 116 feet. We took a small cord and measured the circumference about 6 feet from the ground, which we leave together with a piece of the wood with the Franklin Scientific Institute of the University. We place here also a piece of wood and a specimen of the bark from the "Old Maid," which fell in 1865 with such force as to split and break it in many pieces. One of the largest and most conspicuous trees was bored down in 1853, when it is said five men worked 25 days in felling it. On the stump is built a dancing room, the irregularities being filled out to make the floor octagonal. The diameter of the stump alone is 27 feet, on which 32 dancers have frequently been accommodated, and the *Big Tree Bulletin*, a newspaper, was printed there in '52. Near this house lies a section of the tree with steps to ascend it. This section is literally covered with names of both noble and ignoble. Another tree bears the following; "Benito Juarez Octubre 21 de 1866 par el consul de Mexico," and some one placed the name of the poet W. C. Bryant on a nice tree and "The Groves were God's first Temples." The Pioneer's cabin is a hollow tree 30 feet across on the inside. The Miner's cabin also has a hollow 20 feet in diameter.

The Siamese Twins are two trees which grow separately, except at a height of about 30 feet, where they are united by

two knots growing together. Each of these trees is over 10 feet in diameter. In the southern part of the grove is a tree with no limbs for 150 feet from the ground, and an immense trough is burned out on the north side, 8 or 9 feet in diameter, and 100 feet high. The tree is still alive. The "Starr Ring" is the highest standing tree in the Grove, being 366 feet. These trees in general have no branches the first 100 feet, above which the limbs are very short and small compared with the body of the tree, which is straight.

There is a large hotel in the western part of the grove for the accommodation of those who visit there, and also for the protection of the *Sequoias*, and a lead pipe conveys water to a fountain near the centre of the grove. Quite a source of revenue is the bark, which is from 6 to 24 inches thick, and when sawed into inch sections with a sharp saw and bound with cloth so as to expose the end, makes very fine red velvet-like pin-cushions.

Fire broke out in the grove several years ago, and did much damage to the trees, but it is to be hoped that means are now secured to prevent the injury of these "vegetable monsters."

W.

MARRIAGES.

At the residence of the bride's brother, Geo. W. Gee, Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the 8th of July, by the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Mr. T. S. BAILEY, Iowa City, Graduate, '69, to Miss NELLIE M. GEE, Council Bluffs.

No Cards.

Mr. Bailey had barely completed his course of study when Cupid led him to the fountain of matrimonial bliss.

Friend B. is remembered by the students of this institution on account of his earnest devotion to the work of his Redeemer.

Our best wishes go with the Christian man and his worthy bride.

On the 8th ult., by the Rev. James Remley, at the house of the bride's father, in Clear Creek Township, MILTON REMLEY, Esq., of Anamosa, Iowa, Graduate, '67, to Miss JOSEPHENE DENNIS, daughter of Bryan Dennis, of Johnson County, Normal Graduate, '67.

Mr. R., now a member of the law firm of Stacy & Remley, Anamosa, Iowa, is one of nature's earnest workers, with a heart true as steel. He has wooed and won an accomplished lady, and we believe she has gained a good husband. May their pathway through life be a flowery one, and their happiness be made complete.

On the 12th of Sept., by Rev. Dr. W. Spillman, Mr. E. B. COWGILL, Graduate of class '69, of Iowa City, to Miss HELEN PRESCOTT, class '72, of Enterprise.

Since our scientific friend has "went gone and got married," we join his *other* friends in congratulating him; but we do protest against any more graduates taking their life companions from the Sophomore class.

A Freshman lingered at the gate,  
His cheeks with tears were wet,  
"I vow I'll marry you my Kate,  
When I my sheep-skin get."

A four years passed, the sheep-skin came,  
She lingered at the gate,  
With babies, one and two to tend,  
Alas! the student's fate!

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