WHAT SHALL WE STUDY VS. WHAT MAY WE STUDY.

I.

What Shall We Study? is the question which a writer in the January No. of The Reporter tries to answer, because there has been for years a growing tendency on the part of some to disparage the importance of classical learning. We are told that mathematics are good, that the sciences are good also, the metaphysics ditto, in the modern languages even may be studied, but only "whilst the mind is unenumbered," i.e., in very early youth. Afterwards the student "will prefer the Latin and the Greek to the modern languages" for the usual variety of reasons.

Now, we wish to be considered sincere friends of the ancient languages, we would not say a word to discourage any one from their study, and we rejoice in seeing these studies efficiently taught, not only here, but at many other institutions, but we confess, at the same time, that it seems strange to us that any person connected with this University should use the columns of the only paper published by the institution in order to praise up one class of studies at the expense of any other. Is it to be supposed that "Res" is so intimately acquainted with both the ancient and modern languages that he can venture to pass judgment on them? Does he not know that the Professors and Regents of this institution have established a course of study which places the ancient and modern languages on a perfectly equal footing? Suppose a friend of modern literature should use The Reporter for the purpose of "disparaging classical studies," would it not be a very censurable act? And is it not just as censurable to defend the Greek and Latin languages by disparaging the study of the modern tongues?

Does "Res" know that Harvard, Princeton, and a number of the other old and highly respected institutions of the East, allow their students to discontinue the study of Greek and Latin in the upper years (from or after the Sophomore), and to pursue the study of German, French, Italian, and Spanish instead? Will he make us believe that all the learned and wise men who advocated such a modification of the old course did not know what they were about? At our own institution students have the same privilege; they are not even required to take Greek at all, and may pursue in the upper years, three of the most cultivated of modern tongues. What propriety is there, then, to tell them that these modern languages should not be studied during those years?

We are told that by the "elevating influences which we desire by the contact with the purity and beauty of nature," we lay the foundation of a profitable pastime in years to come. Again, we are told, that the time for acquiring the modern languages, is, "when the mathematics are yet beyond his reach, and when he learns the generalizations of science from books or from his teachers." We have puzzled our brain to find out to what time of youth "Res" may refer, but have to give it up. Perhaps, we have not yet studied language enough, and hence do not appreciate the point. To say the truth, the construction of sentences in the article has somewhat shaken our confidence in our own attainments as a linguist. (This is a "gook" to speak with Artemus Ward.)

"Res" possibly means that the modern languages are the studies for the first three years of life, when the mathematics are yet beyond his power of acquiring, Latin and Greek for the upper. He is exactly half right in the matter. Modern languages should be begun early for the sake of the pronunciation, but if "Res" thinks a child three or four years old can "acquire at that age the modern languages, and garner in their varied stores of intellectual wealth," we can only stand still and wonder. Who would think of reading a modern classic, such as Dante, Goethe, Schiller, Lessing, Moliere, Racine, Cervantes, Calderon, Shakespeare, Milton, etc., during the years from two to five, when the mathematics are yet beyond his capacity of acquiring? If a man wishes to have a purely literary education, let him by all means study as much Greek and Latin as he can, but while doing so, let him not forget that the world has not stood still since the days of Homer and Sophocles, and that our modern times, which have produced authors like those above mentioned, and characters like those of Huss, Zwingli, Martin Luther, Cromwell, Charlotte Corday, Benjamin Franklin, and Washington, need not fear a comparison with antiquity.

Latin and Greek are said, by their special advocates, to be better means of discipline than the modern tongues. This is an assertion based on an unfair estimate of the latter. Both have their distinctive points of excellence, the ancient abounding in definite forms for the various relations of words to each other, the modern being richer in their vocabs.
to the expression of thoughts of Lessing and Goethe, and that the same is true of the Italian, Danish, Norse, Russian, and other modern tongues. If mere difficulty is to be the test, let it be borne in mind that scholars are now pretty well agreed that German is more difficult than Latin. But this argument is of no value whatever. It is impossible, as our colleges are organized, to master correctly even the simplest language in the ordinary course. Those who see superiority in the number of endings, etc., of which a language can boast, might as well assert that a centipede is a more perfect creature than a man, because the former has a hundred feet, the latter only two.

A singular plea for the Greek is made on the ground that the New Testament is written in Greek, and that the majority of our scientific terms come from the Greek. It is sufficient to answer to this that, 1st. That Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament, and 2d. That the majority of our foremost scientific men readily use and form scientific compounds without having studied the Greek language at all. This proves that the leaders, i.e., the theologians (not every one else), should study, not only Greek, but Hebrew also.* If it further proves that if scientific scholars can get along without a special study of Greek, scientific students certainly can. Scientific terminology is a work solely of the memory, accomplished by means of the text-book and dictionary. Hebrew and Greek are necessary to the theologian; so is Sanscrit to the professional philologist; perspective drawing to the artist; general bass to the musician! Fortunately the more general study of Greek can be recommended on more satisfactory grounds than these, and we sincerely hope that all the cultivated languages of ancient and modern times will always be extensively and thoroughly studied in our classical institutions. If we are obliged under certain circumstances, to recommend a selection, it is on account of the known imperfection of human nature, which makes a division of labor the condition of all intellectual and social progress. The writer of this article has himself made languages a specialty, and he will certainly be very far from undervaluing the importance of the study of languages.

The idea which he wishes to impress upon the readers of The Reporter is, that at this institution, no invidious distinctions between any of the branches taught should be tolerated, that every one should be allowed to judge for himself what branches he had better pursue, and that in every study, for the purpose of discipline, far more depends on the manner of study than on the subject which is studied. Before arrogantly setting up as a judge of any of the modern tongues, let every candid student first try to make himself perfectly master of that tongue. He will, possibly, find the job far more difficult, and far more interesting, than he at first supposed. The wonderful clearness and charming elegance of the French, the unsurpassed flexibility, logical structure, and poetic charm of the German, the sonorous, picturesque character of the Spanish, the richness and beauty of the Italian, and the weird and melodious nature of the Scandinavian languages—each and all have qualities which make them worthy objects of careful study, each opens a literature that contains the rarest treasures, and each gives discipline to the mind. If he can add to the study of these the study of Latin and Greek, Persian and Sanscrit, Russian and Lithuanian, he will be on the road of becoming a real philologist, like Max Muller, Bopp, Schleicher, or Grimm. But if he studies a language for the purpose of enjoying its literature, let him bear in mind that a modern tongue possesses one advantage of which the ancient is undoubtedly deprived, viz: That it can be taught as it really is, and that he may get a true idea of it, not an inaccurate picture, such as we necessarily have of any language the exact pronunciation of which is not known. Let us not forget that language is, above all, sound, and that the written and printed characters, if they do not represent to us the original sounds, are very imperfect substitutes indeed.

"SPE".

**WHAT SHALL WE STUDY?**

11.

In the Latin and the Greek we find the germs of all history, poetry and art; and if we wish an intelligent knowledge of history, if we seek the highest intellect,
ual and aesthetic culture, we must go to these ancient, unrivalled models.

There is a class of ambitious writers who, in true Quixotic spirit, are waging an unending war against the classics as being medieval, useless and unpractical. In place of these they recommend the sciences and mathematics which, notwithstanding their supposed mysterious connection with the activities of the world, are of all studies the most unpractical to the majority of students. These self-styled reformers, these irrepressibly voluble advocates of a scholastic Millennium, tell us that our views of education are narrow, contracted, disingenuous, antiquarian; that we must stop trudging indolently in the beaten track; must enlarge our sphere of knowledge by the study of the "principles of things," by which alone we may

*look through nature up to nature's God.*

Franklin and Faraday, say these Lilliputians who would fain be Brobdingnags, were men of the widest scientific knowledge, of the highest literary culture yet were ignorant of the classics. Franklin's beautiful diction was imbibed from the Latin, and the Greek at second hand by the long and arduous study of the most classic authors of classic England's most classic period. He thoroughly studied those authors who had drank in most deeply the spirit of the classics, who thought the longest life too short; chiefly because some relic of antiquity was still unmastered; the brightest flame too humble because its brightness faded in the presence of Roman and Grecian genius. It is no more to the purpose to cite Franklin and Faraday as arguments against the study of the classics than it would be to condemn our public schools because a few of our literary men were not educated in them. It is more than idle for him who has never studied the classics to deny their utility; or for him who has to deny having received any benefit from them. It is for others to judge what the one would have been with them; what the other would have been without them. The reason of the excellence of the one is not his ignorance of the classics any more than is the mental incapacity of the other caused by his knowledge of them. A college education can only develop what is in the man, consequently cannot render him great who is born essentially small.

Science, it is true, has advanced the material wealth of the world, and greatly increased our comforts in it. Yet the science to which we are most indebted, Chemistry, is in comparison to the others but little urged upon us; and if it were, it does not follow that merely because it is useful it should be studied. The defect in the study of the sciences is that they only cultivate special faculties, neglecting the exercise of the imagination and the moral judgment, and of the higher mental powers employed upon the immaterial and unseen. On the other hand the classics, the intellectual links that connect us with past ages, that photograph to us ancient, intellectual and moral life, showing the progress of the thought of civilization, come to us with all the mellowing influences of time; and, after molding our modern civilization, have so stereotyped themselves on all our manners, our every mode of thought, on all our literature and language that when we exclude them we lay the ax at the root of the tree itself.

When the apostles of this scheme of study (which "has been weighed in the balances and found wanting") cry "up with the sciences and down with the classics," it behooves us to remember that "to renovate is not to reform," that there is wisdom in the old command, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

With their usual volcanic temperament they ask why need we give so much time to the classics? What is the use of Latin and Greek?

It is because true education is to discipline and strengthen the mind, to give it culture, to stimulate inquiry, to give that knowledge which is power. That such has been the result of the study of the classics is the experience of ages. Since the time when the medieval ages were lighted up by the introduction of the classics into Italy by Boccaccio and Petrarch, followed in less than two centuries by that great enlightenment in Germany, resulting from the *classical* labors of Renæsin and Erasmus, the forerunners of Luther; since the time when the *classical* labors of Wickliffe, feeble though they were, became the germ of an age that produced a Sidney, a Shakespeare, a Spenser and a Raleigh; nearly all the intellectual leaders of the world have been *classically* educated. That the classically educated men have been so successful in life is not surprising when we consider the peculiar discipline derived from the classics. In the mathe-
BOIL IT DOWN.

Whatever you have to say, my friend, whether witty, or grave, or gay, condense as much as you can, and say it in the roundest way; and whether you write of rural affairs, or particular things in town, just take a word of friendly advice—Boll it down.

For if you go spluttering over a page, when a couple of lines would do, your butter is spread so much, you see, that the bread looks plainly through; so when you have a story to tell, and would like a little renown, to make quite sure of your wish, my friend, Boll it down.

When writing an article for the press, whether prose or verse, just try to utter your thoughts in the fewest, words, and let them be crisp and dry; and when it is finished, and you suppose it done exactly yours, just look it over again, and then Boll it down.

For editors do not like to print an article badly long, and the general reader does not care for a couple of yards of song; so gather your wits in the smallest space, if you'd win the author's crown; and every time you write, my friend, Boll it down. —[Selected.

"WIRE PULLING."

Among the many things that are to be detested, in the various relations of men with each other, that familiarity called, and appropriately named, "wire pulling," takes a prominent place, and yet, one would be almost justifiable in calling it a virtue, were he to make the prevalence of it a considered respectable circle, a criterion. Nay, it even arrogates to itself respectability. From the low politician and candidate for petty office, to the aspirant for the highest honors the country can bestow, it finds men who would not scruple to make it the means for the accomplishment of a desired end. It is an element that enters, more or less, into all organized bodies, and into parties, whatever may be their object. We see its workings more especially manifested in the arena of politics. The chances for becoming a candidate for office, often do not depend so much upon one's fitness for the place, as his ability to "work his wires" well; and, if our institutions are ever caused to totter, it will be because of the subserviency of the public good to the interests of individuals.

When a party becomes a school of "wire pullers" for political purposes, then should the better sense of the people rise against it, and sweep it out of existence.

But great political parties do not absorb all the "wire pullers" by any means; we may find them (embryonic, perhaps) even in such small bodies as the societies and classes of Colleges and Universities. They furnish excellent fields for "wire working" and "skull-duggery;" nor are cultivators generally wanting, but "wire pullers" and "elites" are frequently the controlling powers. When we see a person chosen to a position, in which the whole school has an interest, by some "elite," class, or society, simply because he is their man, we are ready to wish that the object for which he was chosen might be swept away. Since students are obliged to come in daily contact, it is highly desirable to preserve as far as possible, a harmony of feeling, so that there shall be the least friction.

The Edinburgh University has declared itself upon the matter of instructing women in medicine. At the competitive examination a young woman won the scholarship, but the Faculty refused to grant it on the ground that, although women are entitled to tuition, the University prizes belong to men exclusively.

The Professor of chemistry, Mr. Crum Brown, was disgusted at this action, and made an application to the corporation to put young women on the same footing as young men. The professors of surgery and anatomy appealed to the members of the corporation not to do it, asserting that they could not perform their duties decently when women were in the lecture room. The professor of surgery declared that he would rather resign than lecture to a mixed class. He read a memorial from one hundred and sixty-one male students protesting against the admission of females to the classes. But the professor of physiology replied that he found no difficulties as suggested; he could lecture to a mixed class as easily as to one composed of male students exclusively; women make the most expert dissecters, and in his judgment they are by nature better fitted for surgeons than men. The women were in a fair way to carry the day, when Dr. Christison, physician-in-ordinary to the Queen, came to the rescue, and informed the corporation and professors that "the highest lady in the realm" had instructed him to represent to them that the greatly disapproved of women studying medicine. Professor Burn's request was voted down by a majority of one.

NUTRITION FOR THE BRAIN.

Some time ago, Professor Agassiz, in a speech before a Boston assembly, asserted that a fish diet, on account of phosphorus contained in it, is especially adapted to nourish the brain, and that those persons who subsist upon it largely are, consequently, more likely than others, possessing the same natural powers, to be distinguished for their brightness and intellectuality. Professor Agassiz is generally regarded as being, in such matters, the highest authority in the United States, if not the very highest living, and this estimate is undoubtedly correct; but Dr. G. M. Beard, excellent scientific authority, opposes the Professor's theory, in an able magazine article, arguing that brain workers require richer and more substantial food, and a larger quantity of it, than mechanics and laboring men, because:

First. Labor of the brain causes a greater loss of tissue than labor of the muscles, three hours of hard study producing more important changes of tissue than a whole day of muscular labor.

Second. Brain workers, as a class, are more active in their work than mechanics and laborers, the thinking powers, the tools of trade of brain workers, being always at hand and seldom idle.

Third. Brain workers exercise, more or less, all the organs of the body as well as the brain.

Dr. Beard, to corroborate his views, cites various nationalities. For example, the Romans, Persians, and Babylonians were dominant nations among the ancients, and they were free and luxurious in their habits of eating. In modern times the English, Germans, French and Americans are ruling nations, and they are good feeders, and some of them pretty hard drinkers.

So our brain workers have two theories between them, and they can take their choice. Shall it be fish, or roast beef etc.? —Ex.

The number of teachers employed in the New-York City Schools is 2,683, of whom 363 were males, and 2,320 females. The number in the City Schools of Philadelphia, Pa., is 1,515, of whom 80 are males.
SENIOR EXHIBITION.

The announcement of the "Senior Exhibition" for the evening of the 24th ult. drew out students and citizens in large numbers. The chapel was filled at an early hour, but there was the usual delay before the class took their places on the platform.

The opening prayer was offered by Prof. Fellows, the choir sang a selection of sacred music, after which J. R. Wylie was introduced to the audience, and his subject announced as "Opposition to Science." The Roman Church, as an opponent, was first noticed, and many interesting facts of the opposition presented. Copernicus, ignoring the theory held by Aristotle with the Egyptians and endorsed by the church, hurled down the chrystalline spheres of Ptolemy, and the Pope thundered for his Anathemas. The late mutterings of a transatlantic council was powerless to hinder the progress of civilization; the superstition of the past ages cannot exist in the light of present scientific truth. The opposition to science today arises from the tenacity with which men cling to established customs. Nature can only be appreciated when the veil of superstition and prejudice are removed. Mr. Wylie spoke distinctly and forcibly.

Nellie Scales read an essay on "Modern Education," called attention to the erroneous views of the many who ascribe scholarship to any one who has a smattering of ancient languages. What is most honorable to know will give the most discipline in its acquirement. Natural history, Christianity, politics, and the nature and duties of men to each other—these should have part in an education. To the educated mind a coarse or licentious thought should be as discordant as a false note to the ear of the trained musician.

E. McClain orates concerning "Clay and his Compeers." No period in the national history is fraught with more interest than the thirty years preceding the late civil struggle; the theories of the founders of the government system, the principles new and untried which formed the basis of the novel structure were tested as they may never be again. John C. Calhoun supporting with vehemence States rights and nullification. Daniel Webster defending the constitution with an eloquence that has made his name immortal. Henry Clay, calm and candid, loving the constitution and striving to reconcile the fierce factions which threatened the disruption of the Union. Want of space will not allow us to follow the speaker as he developed the character and work of these men, their ambition, their strength, their weakness. They were the last of that dynasty of orators which arose with the government, and whose great theme was the Constitution. Their work is finished; the issues which they raised have at last been settled, and they are forever severed from the present to be numbered with the heroes and demi-gods of our National History.

A. Loughridge gave a very interesting address on the "Classie Drama." Every people had its drama, but it was found in its most perfect stage only among the Greeks.

The work of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Aristophanes was reviewed. The great theatre at Athens described, and its tremendous power over the people explained. It taught religion and politics to the Athenians, and was the highest promoter of morals.

Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Aristophanes were giants, but we have these three in one in our Shakespeare, and were his works presented to us as were the works of these old Masters to the Athenians, they too would elevate and instruct the people. We look for the day when the church will go hand in hand with the theatre and the college.

"The Philosophy of Life" was presented by J. A. Fairbrother, in an earnest, pleasing manner, a characteristic of the speaker. Experience, though severe, is an excellent task-master. Time, patience and energy will accomplish much. The river was once a rivulet, trickling down a mossy rock; the tree was once a seed, trod under foot and unnoticed. Too frequently we ascribe a great work in art or literature to a higher order of mind, when they are rather the result of industry. Work is the true policy; never despair,—court the sunshine of life. Nature scatters seed of genius to the winds.

The entertainment closed with an able and carefully prepared oration on "Voltaire," by Lizzie Griffith. We can give our readers but little conception of this address; it requires the calm, clear utterance of the speaker and the whole text to do it justice. We measure men by their influence, not on their own time, but on the age succeeding; then Voltaire was a leader in the revolution following the dark ages. He comprehended all the bearing of a subject, but not to its depths. His theory of history was glanced at; his poems, his dramas, etc., but his great work was his vigorous and constant opposition to Christianity, yet he believed in a just God, and in probable reward and punishment.

From our stand-point we condemn, transported to that time the scene changes. The blasphemous practices of the church—the State of France—the state of religion against which he used his keen satire makes us wonder that our religion survived the time.

Too many of us condemn the man, when we know nothing about him. We speak of him as a derider of Christianity, but it was a Christianity devoid of all but the outward semblance. Disguised at empty forms he attacked them, and history gives him a high place in bringing about the present good state of affairs. The Bible to which he had access will condemn him, but shall we, for whom he blindly worked, not give him at least justice?

The Exhibition was not lengthy, a feature very much to be commended, and we think the large audience dispersed very much pleased with what they had heard. The class of '71 is not large as to numbers, but it makes up in quality, etc.

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SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON ON COLLEGE HONORS.—The intellectual instructor must seek to influence the will of his pupils. But how is this to be effected? Only to render the effort more pleasurable than its omission. But every effort is at first difficult—consequently irksome. The ultimate benefit it promises is dim and remote, while the pupil is at an age at which present pleasure is more persuasive than future good. The pain of exertion must be overcome, therefore, by associating it with a still higher pleasure. This can only be effected by exciting some passion in the cause of improvement. We must awaken emulation and allow its gratification only through a course of rigorous exertion.

Read, not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.
FRAC'TIOUS READIN.

Acquainted, as we are, to such a profusion of reading matter, it is very natural that we should fall into the habit of promiscuous reading. And we are led sometimes to wonder how our ancestors could live and be happy in those days in which literature was almost unknown. Then the question was, What can I get to read now, What of all this mass of reading matter at my hand can I find time to read? Then, they treasured up what they had read, for their own pleasure and for the benefit of others. Now, we read for the sake of reading, and to name and number the books we have read, perhaps without having treasured a thought from their pages. As professional and business men, and as students, we are apt to settle down within the limits of our professional reading, with matters that relate to the interest of our business, or limit ourselves to textbooks and society work, so that when we enter the circles of the world we feel out of place. In our retirement we have left the world to go its way, and it has gone its way, and left us hopelessly.

One object of reading, and a laudable one, is for entertainment. When the body or mind is wearied by exertion or long continued labor, a simple story will speedily relax the system and restore it to its wonted vigor. It is by means of reading that we become conversant with the world around us. When we see a man's house destitute of books and periodicals, we regard him as little better than a heathen, or even worse, while living in a land of plenty.

But the highest object for which we should read, is to cultivate our powers. By the careful reading and study of the best classes of literature, the taste is elevated and refined. Thought is stimulated, and the mental powers quickened. But in order to attain these benefits from reading, we must have them clearly and definitely in view when we begin. If there is no particular end in view it will be a matter of chance if any benefits are gained. And so in promiscuous reading where no particular end is kept in view, the benefits will not probably follow. In indiscriminate reading the taste is not so carefully guarded. "The mind is made familiar with the bad; and at length becomes insensible to its presence. Instead of being stimulated to thought, and developed by exercise the mind becomes dead and listless. There comes to be an aversion to any reading that requires mental effort, and from being merely a promiscuous reader, one comes at last to choose empty, trashy stuff, the reading of which I can call by no other name than a mere waste of the time and powers God has given. The habit, like those of gambling and drinking, grows—the longer indulged, the more pernicious its influence, and the stronger its hold."

FRANCE AND REPUBLICANISM.

There are people in this country who believe that there is such a thing as a French republic, because a few men, taking advantage of the prostration of the government of France, said there was one. This is not the way true republics are made. It was not the way in which the United States became a republic. Louis BLANC, a foremost French Democrat, unites with Gambetta and others in refusing, with many fine words, the people the right of electing a national assembly, lest this assembly should not be Republican. A writer in Harper's Weekly very appropriately remarks that "if fine words could save France, she would never have been in difficulties."

Fine words have been wasted by a meeting in New York, which expressed sympathy with the French Republic. The orators had a great deal to say about the aid which America received from France during our revolution war. Like many other people fond of fine words, they based their talk on misconceptions. It is a misconception to believe that the government of Louis XVI. helped us for any other but the most selfish motives. It cared no more for the freedom of the colonies than it did for that of the African negroes; its action was dictated solely by policy. It was, in point of fact, a continuation of the war France had waged so long with England on account of the possession of the American colonies. Not being able to keep the colonies for herself, she helped them to become independent, in order to deprive England, her mortal enemy, of them. "Is it not singular that those very orators who now are so noisy in their sympathy with the French Republic raised no cry of sympathy or denunciation while the people of France lay prostrate under the imperial heel of Louis Napoléon, and that one of the chief newspaper organs of these orators in New York was, to the very last, one of the most obsequious of the imperial laccies?"

The italicised words are from the same article of Harper's to which we have referred, entitled, "The sympathy of fine words." It is a very excellent article, and appeared in the number of January 14. We will here quote its closing remark: "There is a great deal of real sympathy for France in this country, but it is of a very different kind from that which calls Paris the mother of civilization, and which thinks that all will be well if M. Gambetta and his friends are only called a republic."

GOOD OLD TIMES.

Of all expressions, the ones which convey to our mind the most unutterable disgust, are those which are heard frequently from a certain class of persons, such as "it's getting to be," "what are we coming to?" "what next?" and a hundred other similar phrases intended to convey to the mind the degeneracy and depravity of the present day, compared with the virtue and morality of those "used to" days when our grand-fathers lived. Young wives are said to have an uncomcerable aversion to being enlightened as to how mother used to do the cooking, nor do young husbands like to be told when father used to plant corn or sow turnips, and Young America listens with lily concealed impatience to the oft-repeated stories of the industry, integrity, and stay-at-home-attiveness of their grandfathers and the frugal, retiring, and domestic dispositions of their grand-mothers. It's a pretty state of things, indeed, if you cannot put on a decent coat without being told that your uncle did his courting in homespun, and that during this same interesting process your aunt was industriously converting sheep's wool into stocking-yarn; if you cannot go out of an evening, to a social gathering, without being notified that your blessed ancestors united pleasure and profit in husking-bees and quilting frolics; if you cannot buy a sewing machine without hearing that your grand-mother's sister did the sewing for a family of thirteen with her own hands, and cooked for twelve hired men beside; if every reaper or corn plow or threshing machine you buy, you must hear again, how those invincible forefathers used the sickle, the hoe and the flail; if every case of villainy in politics, hypocrisy in religion, or lax-
ty in morals, must be attributed solely to the
degeneracy of the times; if your
brilliant base-burner must be pronounced
inferior to the old log fire, and the ex-
 pense of your gas light compared with
the economy of tallow dips.

Of course, our ancestors were very
proper, sober people, and no one is more
ready to acknowledge it than we, but to
say that all the improvements of the last
century are only the fruits of an effemin-
ate love of ease, that the men and women
of to-day are but degenerate scions of a
noble race, and that the nation is going
like a locomotive on a down grade to-
ward general vice, corruption, and de-
struction is neither flattering to the pride
of the present generation, nor calculated
to strengthen that faith in humanity
which is preached up to them as so desir-
able. Undoubtedly, with great blessings
have come some corresponding evils but
this does not show that the evil is out-
stripping the good, and the nature of
man was probably much the same as
it is now. The trouble is that these
persons through the eyes of their youth
saw only the bright side of life, and now
by a sight dimmed with blasted hopes
and bitter disappointments they view but
too often only the dark side. They
glance at the surface, but do not perceive
the same heart throbbing beneath with
high and noble ambition, and, best of all,
hearty, energetic, human nature. We
are not yet on the downward grade; and
when we are, and then only, need we
cry, "down brakes!"

THE CONTINENTAL PRONUNCIATION OF LATIN.

As the question has been repeatedly
asked in this paper, Is there such a thing
as a uniform Continental pronunciation
of Latin? it may be well to answer it by
stating that this pronunciation or what
passes under this name, is on the point
of being introduced at the University
of Oxford, and that it has for some time
been in use at Eton and another foremost
classical school of England. It is almost
incredible that the absurd English meth-
od could have been continued so long,
in spite of ridicule and inconvenience.
But pedantry is the very essence of an
abuse once established can be only slow-
ly and gradually overthrown.

The Continental method is simply the
"logical" method of pronouncing Latin.
It consists in giving each vowel only one
sound, not two as in English. Each
sound may be long or short, according to
the rules of quantity, but it cannot be
arbitrarily changed in quality, as in the
inexpressibly ridiculous English method.

Of course there are slight differences in
the pronunciation of some letters between
the different nations of Europe, but these
differences are easily learned and remem-
bered, and present no obstacle to the in-
truction of the system in its essential
features. The great advantage of the
Continental method is not that it is the
true Latin pronunciation (although we
know pretty nearly what that was), but
that it makes the pronunciation simple
and consistent. An incidental advantage
that it affords, is the fact that it facili-
tates the study of the pronunciation of
the principal European languages, with
the single exception of English. *

THE NOSE.

A hog is said to be a well-named beast,
for he is the most hoggish of animals. So
I think the nose a well-named organ.
For the nose is both a perfect index of
what one knows, and the member which
leads the way into what he knows
not. This is a new doctrine, and I affirm
it to be the germinal proposition of a
new science. In estimating the charac-
ter and destiny of a man, phrenology did
well in disregarding all of him save his
head, but nosology, whose claims we
humbly advocate, does still better in dis-
regarding all the head, save its essential
part, the nose. If science made a gi-
ant stride when phrenology stepped in
to existence, what will the world say
now when they are told that the amateur
nosologist, if he but see the nose of a
man protruding through an orifice (vul-
garly called knot-hole) can read him as
though he were a printed page, and what
is still more astonishing can read the
character and probable destiny of his
friends, and his ancestors and his posteri-
ity to any given generation (say to the
n-1th). It has been long known that
all noses are really of the same length,
only some obtuse, others acute more.
Hence, the longer one's outside nose, the
shorter his inside nose will be; but the
shorter his inside nose, the more room
there is for brains and the more he knows.
This simple fact and a measuring string
are all-sufficient to determine absolutely
one's intellectual caliber. To tell the
disposition, the operator needs a few
hints and a little practice. In general,
an aquiline nose is a mark of adhesive-
ness; its owner will hook on and hold
fast. A pug nose shows general disgust;
and the pugger the nose, the greater the
disgust. A sharp nose shows a cutting
wit; its possessor will probably be sar-
castic and unhappy. A Roman nose in-
dicates an obilging disposition: this
might have been guessed from the fact
that the nose turned from its own course,
so as not to be unnecessarily in the way.

Many very good, and I may say sensi-
tible people, reject phrenology because
its acceptance would be undeniable self-con-
demnation. A small forehead, with a
large hind-head, and phrenology true,
would be extremely mortifying to any
one. This difficulty has been obviated in
the new science. If the regular rules do
not give the subject just the character he
wants, a series of exceptions have been
arranged with such ingenuity that the
most fastidious can be perfectly satisfied
as soon as their desires are known to the
operator.

With this meagre sketch I turn over
my youthful science to the tender mer-
cies of a cold world. That it will be at-
tacked, I am well aware; every great and
useful discovery, since the days of Gal-
lleo, has had to fight its battle with igno-
rance and superstition. But however
bitter the coming contest, I shall be sus-
tained by the reflection that truth is
mighty, and will not only prevail, but
will cast obloquy and disgrace upon the
munions of error and darkness.—Select.

In his "Memoranda" in the January
number of the Galaxy, Mark Twain
makes the following capital hit:

"Young Author."—Yes, Agassiz does
recommend authors to eat fish, because
the phosphorus in it makes brains. So
far you are correct. But I cannot help
you to a decision about the amount you
need to eat, at least, not with certainty.

If the specimen composition you send me
is about your fair usual average, I should
judge that perhaps a couple of small
whales would be all you would want at
present. Not the largest kind, but simply
good middling-sized whales.

Appropriate to the season is the fol-
lowing beautiful stanza, after the style of
"Beautiful Snow," and of equally doub-
tful authorship:

"Softly, softly, while we sleep,
Came the snowflakes gently down.
Came and sorrowfully wove
A shroud of white for the buried town.
We rose with feelings eager and intense,
And hired a middle-aged Anglo African shawler.
To close our sidewalk off for fifty cents."
The University Reporter.

Iowa City, February, 1871.

Managing Editor, E. McCLAIN.
Assistant Editors: W. H. Anderson.
Amanda Rodgers, J. P. Lyman, N. Hiatt.

Terms, Invariably in Advance:
One Copy, one year, ...$1.00; Six Copies, one year, ...$5.00
Published the 1st of every month. Subscriptions received at Beall & Wilkie'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 full name of the author, in a separate envelope, sealed, which will not be opened unless the article is acceptable.
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All articles of a political, partisan, or anonymous nature are rejected.

Address, THE UNIVERSITY REPORTER, Box 44, Iowa City, Iowa.
M. H. Jeannin, Financial Agent.

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Some suggestions were made in the last Reporter with reference to a change in the management of our paper. The Editorial Corps proposed some changes, and requested the students to take them under consideration, so as to be able to act upon them when a meeting should be called for that purpose. We are fully convinced that the request was complied with the letter. The great trouble was that the decided majority were disposed to vote down every motion looking toward Department representation instead of Class representation, and toward the election of editors for a full year instead of for half a year; which were two of the main changes we had in view. At the first meeting the proposition to elect one editor from each department was discussed with a good deal of interest, and when it at last came to a vote on an amendment, we were rejoiced to find that a small majority favored its adoption; but before the original motion could be put the meeting adjourned, leaving us just where we started.

At the second meeting the same motion was taken up de novo. It soon became evident that those interested had not been idle during the interval between the meetings, for there were many more present than on the previous occasion, and appearances indicated distinctly that quite a majority were in the opposition.

We wasted considerable rhetoric and logic in our vain attempt to persuade them to look at the matter through our glasses, but for some unaccountable reason they would persist in thinking that they knew what they wanted just as well as, if not a little better than, we did.

The constitution was so amended as to admit a representative from the Medical Department. The time of election was also changed, so that the Editors from the Junior and A. 2. Classes, and the one from the Normal Department shall hold over till the first of next term, thus preventing an entire change in the corps at one time.

The question how much does it cost per year to attend the University is so frequently asked, that we thought it would not be amiss to make a statement of the facts, as for as we have been able to ascertain them. Of course this cannot be positively set at any figures, for the expenses vary very much with the person who is interested.

The highest price that we know of being paid at present in private families is $8.00 per week; this includes all necessary expenses connected with boarding. Highest, $5.00 per week (36 weeks) ................................ $180.00
Average, $4.00 per week (without washing) .............. $144.00
Boarding in clubs, $2.50 per week ......................... $90.00
Rooming, $1.75 per week ........................................ $66.00
Average Room rent, $2.50 per week (10 months) $35.00
Average Wood and light ...................................... $30.00
Washing, $2.00 per year ....................................... $20.00
School books, note books, stationery, etc. ............. $20.00
Incidental expenses .............................................. $15.00
Highest board and necessary expenses, per year $229.00
Average ........................................................ $200.00
Club ............................................................... $200.00
Rooming and expenses, per year ........................... $229.00

This last estimate is, perhaps, too high; for the rent of rooms varies from $2.00 to $8.00; where two are together and rent a small room at a low price it reduces the expense. Some few of the students went through last year with a tribute over $150 each. When students are near enough to bring fruit and such things from home it reduces the expenses of rooming; this is also reduced by two being together. Of course, some other expenses may be necessary, but the diversity of persons and their previous habits, have much to do with these, so we will not attempt to give any average for them, but simply say a student is not judged by what he wears, if it is neat and becoming, but by what he does.

The members of the law class gave a supper on the evening of the 3d inst. at the Clinton House, in honor of Judge Wright, who, on that day closed his connection with the Law Department of the University. There were present as guests, besides the guest of the evening, Judge Hammond, Attorney General Henry O'Connor, and the representatives of the city press. After some time spent in social enjoyment, and in the no less agreeable occupation of supplying the wants of the inner man with the many good things which were bountifully supplied by mine host of the Clinton House, several toasts were proposed, to which responses were made by guests and members of the class. The evening passed pleasantly, and will be long remembered by all who were present. Judge Wright leaves soon for Washington, to take his seat in the U. S. Senate, where he will be an honor to our noble State.

An association, under the name of the Christian Association of Iowa State University, was organized by the students on Monday evening, Jan. 23d. This organization may be considered as the transfer of the old Y. M. C. A. of Iowa City to the University. Its object is more particularly, the dissemination of religious influence among the students, by keeping up noon-day and weekly evening prayer meetings, and other means, made more efficient by organized effort. The officers of the Association are: Pres't., Prof. S. N. Fellows; V-Pres't, Miss S. Hisman; Cor. Sec., Miss Nettie Dick; Sec. Sec., D. S. Wilson; Treas'r. A. B. Byram,—who hold office for one year.

During the past week the following have been elected editors, to fill the places of those whose term expires with the present issue: A. Longbridge, from the Senior Class; H. H. Seery, Academic First; R. C. Patterson, Academic Third; Wm. Kinsay from the Law, and Dr. Page from the Medical Department. The Juniors elected Miss Lida Eaton, to fill the place of W. B. Anderson, resigned.

Married,—January 15th, by the bride's father, at his residence in Oxford, Iowa, John D. Glass, Esq., of West Union, Iowa, and Miss Alice, daughter of Rev. James Remley.

Mr. Glass graduated in the Law Class of '70, and Miss Remley in the Collegiate Class of '68. We offer our congratulations and good wishes, and return thanks for cake.
We were called upon, a short time since, by J. P. Bushnell, formerly a resident of this city, and a student of the University, now residing in Des Moines. Mr. Bushnell is collecting material for a "Directory of Iowa" to be published soon. The work is to contain historical, statistical, and commercial information of every county, city, and town in the State; also information in regard to all branches of business, trades, professions, public offices and institutions, churches, societies, etc. It is to contain a list of all the newspapers and periodicals published in the State; also a list of all the post offices, and a complete map of the State.

Our own city, as the former capital of the State will receive particular attention. Our University, also, is to be fully represented in the work. The materials for the work are to be compiled from the most reliable sources. We feel confident that the work will be prepared with care and fidelity, and will be one of value. It will contain about 800 pages, and be furnished to subscribers at $5.00 a volume.

Prof. Huxley declares that "our knowledge of the soul is more intimate and certain than our knowledge of the body." We commend this utterance to the attention of our friends, who are wont, with such assurance, to claim that all real science pertains to the material world. In a late lecture before a Young Men's Christian Association, Prof. H. takes ground against the Materialists, and plants himself firmly on the side of Descartes and the Idealists.

A neat telescope has been added to the apparatus of the Laboratory. It may not rival the famous instruments of Chicago or Cincinnati, but it is certainly a most convenient and useful, not to say pretty instrument. It has a remarkable power for one of its size, showing the spots on the sun and other interesting phenomena.

We understand that public rhetoricals are to be resumed soon. The first division of the Normal Class appearing one week from next Friday.—Feb. 17th.

Noonday Prayer Meeting is held in the South Hall under the auspices of the Christian Association of the Iowa State University.

We find the following responses received from candidates for teachers' certificates in The Michigan Teacher, for February:

Q.—Describe the manner in which Congress is organized.
A.—Delegates are sent from each State to the capital, where they elect Congressmen, and also, President and Vice-President.

Q.—Describe the Esquimaux.
A.—The Esquimaux are of low stature and filthy in appearance they live in houses made of ice, they do not hesitate to attack the formidable walrus of which they eat the fat or blubber and their sleds are drawn by dogs.

Q.—Oregon has a warmer climate than countries in the same latitude on the Atlantic coast. Why?
A.—The Atlantic coast has a gulf stream passing from the Arctic Ocean into the Gulf of Mexico, as Oregon has not making the difference, also the mountains of the Atlantic coast.

Q.—Define a neuter verb.
A.—A neuter verb is without sex.

Q.—Give examples of the different forms used in the comparison of adjectives.
A.—Big, bigger, biggest, most biggest, least biggest.

Some stilted or waggish pedagogue at Houghton is credited with the subjoined rhapsody, on being presented with a pair of skates: "When the boreal enamelist shall have glazed the bosom of our limpid bays, and the luciferous queen of night glided on in her mild radiance, dispelling every vestige of melancholy sadness, and the whole stellar concave, too, seems to twinkle acquiescence to the merry scene, it is possible, yes, highly probable, that your obstreperous laugh will sustain an appreciable diminution by a veritable demonstration, on my part, of an incapability to support my center of gravity."

A late number of The Independent contains a capital engraving of Nichols's picture entitled "Both Puzzled." It represents an Irish schoolmaster trying to aid an embarrassed pupil in primary arithmetic, as saying, "But, sir, if wrong, nought be nothing; then twice nought must be something; for its double what wrong nought is!" Our "methods" would remove this difficulty.

Harvard College has property worth about $4,000,000; Yale, $1,350,000; Amherst, 1,000,000.

The general cadaverous appearance of the Class of '78, was, a short time ago, the occasion for our President to encourage the formation of a base ball club. This having done noble service has had its day. And now, for their further benefit, some kind friend has sent to each member of the Class, the "Laws of Life and Woman's Health Journal." It is useless to add that a thorough perusal of the journal is having a beneficial effect on both the ladies and gentlemen, and soon all hope to be strong enough for all the duties of life.—Qui Vive.

Another illustration of the wisdom of leaving money by will to charitable and literary institutions, and restricting the use of it to special purposes, has been afforded by a recent bequest to Amherst College of the sum of forty thousand dollars, with which to build a new chapel, which the college does not need, while it is in straits for a new library building, which it has not money to pay for.

A junior student at Cornell University, in rendering an account to his father of his last term's expenses, entered an item: "Charity $30."—His father wrote back: "I fear that charity covers a multitude of sins."

Three Japanese have just enrolled themselves in the Berlin University, two in the department of Medicine and one in that of Law. They can speak the German language with considerable readiness.

The University Press, from Madison, Wis., has changed from a monthly to a semi-monthly, retaining its former size. Thus while some College Journals are dying out most of them are advancing to greater merit and pretensions.

It is stated that the public library of Dubuque, Iowa, owes its eight thousand standard volumes mainly to the efforts of a lady—Miss Martha Chaddock.

A soul without a passion is like unripe fruit; not until the sunshine of a real love touches it, does it develop sweetness and perfection.

A poor man, who, less than one year ago, had only one suit of clothes, went into the newspaper business and now has eight suits. Seven of them are for linen.
LOCAL

—Ice has rendered the outside steps disagreeable, not to say dangerous.
—Several crystals of Hydric Oxide have been found in the campus lately by a student.
—The hall floor in the Stone Building, worn out in places by the tramp of past Governors and future Presidents, has been repaired.
—The “Syntraps” would request the young ladies to desist from throwing snow-balls at the windows when passing their building.
—The Rapid Writer is on our table. Success to anybody who can invent some way to lessen the drudgery of the present absurd orthography and chirography.

We notice on our table a new exchange, Dalhousie College Gazette, from Halifax, N. S. It presents a very creditable appearance. Hereafter the Rarournus will go to Halifax.

—The other day an exceedingly small package, securely wrapped, was laid on our table. We at first thought it a love letter, but examination showed the welcome face of the Indian student. "Multum in Parvo."

—We understand the hint given to dispeptic students in our last has been assiduously followed out by a few of the enthusiastic, and the north-east stile has been in constant use;—result: bruised shins, sprained ankles, cracked skulls, etc.

The Juniors at Princeton are wrestling with McCosh’s logic.—Ec.

So are the Juniors here, and its “nip and tuck” which will come out best. McCosh seems to have the “under hold” now.

—Prof. White lectures to the Juniors twice a week on comparative anatomy. He has given this branch of science much attention, and by years of patient research, he has gathered matter and means for making the study very interesting to the student.
—Gov. Merrill, of Iowa, has tendered the presidency of the State University to the Hon. Newton Bateman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Illinois. —Courant.

That’s news, indeed. We were not aware that the Governor ran the University, nor that the Presidency had as yet been offered to any one.

PERSONAL

—Miss Grace Lawton is teaching in Dubuque.
—Sadie M. Watters is teaching in Downey.
—Miss Lou Kaufman is teaching in the City Schools.
—Mr. S. B. Zimmerman is teaching at his home in Mo.
—Miss Nellie Zimmerman, Normal Class ’07, is teaching in Knob Noster, Mo.
—Miss Lottie A. Rugg, Normal Class ’07, has removed to Kansas City, Mo.
—Ned Wyant, formerly of ’73, is teaching in the Academy at Ankenyville, Iowa.
—Miss Angie Deeds, Normal Class ’01, was married a short time since to Dewitt Mingett.

J. P. Bushnell, formerly a student of the University, is President of the Capital City Publishing Co., at Des Moines. Will Rood, class ’74, looked in upon us a few days since. He is teaching in Springfield, Iowa.

I. H. Hole and H. Hilles, law students of last year, have opened an office in Os- kaloosa since leaving the University. Mr. Hole has formed another partnership which is expected to last some time, in short, &c.

OTHER COLLEGES

—The Yale navy owns twenty-three boats.
—William’s Review has twenty Editors. It ought to flourish.
—There are 750 students at Yale, and less that number at Harvard.
—The chime of bells at Cornell University can be heard for ten miles round.

—the Irving Union commences a new year with a new dress—”of amber hue.”

The total number of Freshmen at Cambridge University, England, this year is 888.

There are two hundred and eighty-seven incorporated colleges in the United States.

Seniors take notice. The estimated number of hairs on the head is 130,000; the number on the face 14.—Ec.

—There are one hundred and sixty-five students in attendance at “Odd Fellows University,” Bryant, Texas.

—“Why cannot an astronomer solve the formula B = __ ?—It’s because he can’t (B cosecant).”—Irving Union.

A literary society at Albion, Michigan, has supplied its hall with a six octave, double reed organ, valued at $200.

The College Courant says: “Professor Hartt, of Cornell University, intends to demolish Agassiz’ glacial theory.”

Some one preparing for the Michigan University translates the sentence, “vendi­dit hic auro patriam,” by “this one hangs up his father by the ear.”—Ec.

There has been a Ladies’ Secret Society organized in Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Women and secrets. Oil and water.—Ec.

The Chronicle, of Michigan, says: “A pompous ‘Soph.’ was heard to sing the other day,

Shoo fly, don’t bother me,
For I belong to 78.”

Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H., was burned to the ground on the morning of December 15th. An incendiary was at the bottom of the affair.

We learn that Dr. Haven has already secured $27,000 for building the ladies’ college in connection with the Northwestern University.

Two hundred Cornell students voted in the recent election, which they decided in favor of the Republicans. The case will probably come before the courts.

The eclipse of the moon on the sixth, was total in all parts of New Haven, from moon rise to moon set. The weather greatly favored the completeness of the occultation.—Yale Courant.

It is to be hoped that the Seniors will desist from study in chapel during the coming term, and look after the inner man.—University Press.

Peanuts or Apples?—Michigan Chronicle.

A Michigan University Senior gives a new version of the fate of Agricola. He translated a passage in Tacitus the other day, “His army having been divided, he himself marched in three parts.”

A facetious Sophomore who has been “reading up” faithfully on his prize composition, says it should be in the subjunctive mood, since it “expresses the thought of another.”—Ec.
The Cornell Collegian comes to us in a new dress. Its appearance is decidedly improved in every respect, and it is more pleasurable to read it now than formerly.

The first college in the United States, which was chartered with collegiate powers for women, was Cincinnati Wesleyan College, founded in 1812.

The terrible report reaches us that the Sophomores of Williams are collecting skeltons for the College cabinet. Freshmen have our advice to lay low until the collection is completed—Harvard Advocate.

The following is credited to the Sophomore class: A student in Horace met the phrase which should be translated, "Proene was changed into a bird," but confounding avia and amus he rendered it, "Proene was changed into her grandmother."—Etc.

The Grisewold Collegian has been discontinued. In its place comes The College World, of a little more modest pretensions. The first number, however, is very good. We are glad to be enabled to still hold communication with Grisewold.

The Professor of Physics having requested that some man should go to the President's office on an errand, nearly the whole class rose to their feet. The professor's question, "How many of you think it takes to make a man?" quickly brought them to their seats again.—Chronicle.

—The Chronicle thinks it very probable that the presidency of Michigan University will be again offered to President Angell, of Vermont University, and that it will be accepted by him. The position was offered him last year, but yielding to the solicitations of the friends of the institution over which he now presides, he declined it.

Mt. Pleasant Iowa, the seat of the Wesleyan University, takes the lead for morals among all the towns we know of. It contains 6,000 inhabitants with 15 church organizations, no liquor saloons, and no billiards. Add to this the moral influence of the Iowa Classic, and no wonder that perfection is almost reached.—Yale Courant.

The Professor of Mathematics sent Mr. Toodles to the blackboard to find out by calculus the dimensions of a spherical soap-bubble. After Mr. Toodles had figured extensively with the chalk, the professor asked if he had solved the problem. "No, sir," was the reply, "I like to have got the answer, but just when I was about to get it, the darned thing busted, and I could n't work it."—Etc.

Several of our exchanges complain that their college libraries are open for only one or two hours a week. We often think that students here do not always appreciate the unusual advantages of having a general library open nine hours a day six days in a week, well warmed, well lighted and furnished.—Michigan Chronicle.

The Trinity Table dates in the way of poetry, which we have rarely seen equaled:

"The midnight and the setting sun
Are rising in the wide, wide west;
The rapid rivers slowly ran.
The fog is on his dewy part.
The patient goat and sporting cow
Ililatos hop from bough to bough.

"Enough Prof. were around college to catch a Senior and a few Juniors keeping up their old excitement of snowballing, with what result the reliable local knows not. According to the worthy Senior's account the Juniors ran madly into the adjacent Farmall College, but "I walked slowly up the walk and kinder "smoled" on him (Prof.) and he "smoled" on me, and I guess he won't do anything to me." We hope not surely. Such manly independence joined to such artless trust, in one so young, should not be nipped in the bud."—Yale Courant.

He is our friend who helps us to one new thought, or who inspires us to one noble action.

When does an editor play a singular trick with grammar? When he declines an article.

Time, with all his celerity, moves slowly on to him whose whole employment is to watch its flight.—Johnson.

Fanny Fern is now 60; Alice Cary, 48; Harriet Beecher Stowe, 56; and Catherine Beecher, 70. So it is said.

Why is a clock the most modest piece of furniture? Because it covers its face with its hands and runs down its own works.

Without love we are unhappy; with it, we are still unsatisfied, and long ever for our ideal, which we can only reach in heaven.

When Sir Walter Scott was urged not to prop the falling credit of an acquaintance, he replied: 'The man was my friend when friends were few, and I will be his now that his enemies are many.'

William Cullen Bryant, poet and editor, reached his 70th birthday, November 3d, having been born in 1794. We are happy to learn that he is still intellectually vigorous and in excellent health, long may he remain so.

Mrs. Bloomer writes to the Council Bluffs Nonpareil that the Woman Suffrage work in Iowa will now go bravely forward, and that a strong corps of speakers are to be put in the field, prominent among whom are Henry O'Conner, Judge Cole and Mrs. J. C. Savery.

A society of ladies is being formed in Lafayette, Ind., "the general objects of which are to free the members from the thraldom of fashion, intellectual improvement and ennobling pursuits, such as every true woman's heart craves."
PURCHASE OF PROFESSOR RAN’S LIBRARY.

Perhaps all remember the notice a few weeks ago of Prof. Ran’s library, said to be the richest collection in the world in the departments of History and Political Economy. They may recollect, too, that Yato College and Michigan were, unconsciously, competitors for its purchase, and that Western agility was an overmatch for Eastern gravity, and won the prize. It may not be so well known that it is paid for by Philo Parsons, Esq., of Detroit, or that he is one of the three trustees of the “Parson’s Fund” which promises to be of so great interest to our State. Mr. Parsons ranks among the noblest friends of learning in the West, among those whom wealth has no power to subsidize or materialize. Olivet College, of which he is a Trustee, owes much to his counsels and to his purse, and now the University of his State has received a treasure from his munificence.

Is our Iowa “Parsons” inquiring what to do for us? We hear a whisper, “Library,” “Observatory,” “Telescope.”

MIDNIGHT OIL.

After the admonitions and warnings of man and nature, it is astonishing that some persons seem still to suppose that they are benefitting themselves by studying till the small hours; seem to suppose that an hour stolen from sleep is an hour gained, that this same abused nature will not avenge itself a hundred fold on the mind and the body. After all that has been said on the subject, after the hundreds of young men and women who have gone from college only to find an early grave just as they should have begun an earnest life of usefulness;—it is nothing but a most criminal and wicked foolhardiness to continue in thus missing those faculties and powers which once trifled away can never be restored. It is merely a vain and imbecile attempt to imitate what great men are supposed to do, a foolish desire to be “heroic.” The result is poor lessons, impaired health, dullness; in the end—the end is well enough known to every one, and yet there are plenty of persons willing and ready to rush into those ranks of useless invalids which death is every year decimating.

Man is capable of a certain amount of work, and no rushing or cramming, no sleepless nights or hasty meals can permanently increase it. Action is followed by reaction. Over exertion to-day will bring dullness and stupidity to-morrow.

Every one admits the truth of this, yet scores go on, systematically pursuing a course which they must know will soon ruin all hopes of their usefulness. The world don’t want dispesie, weak, invalid minds; it needs those that are strong, elastic, manly. It is astonishing, disheartening to see students speaking with sly concealed pride of having studied till midnight, when they ought to hang their heads in shame for having so trifled away the day that they had to use up the time of darkness for their work.

No teacher has a right to impose unreasonable tasks. No student has a right to undertake so much work that he cannot perform it in a reasonable time, and whether he can finish the work or not, his first and most imperative duty is to take care of himself.

SOCIETY REPORTS.

ERODEPHIAN SOCIETY.—The Erodephians commenced their work at the beginning of this term under a new arrangement of the several divisions. The members generally endeavor to do what they can for the advancement of the Society, their own personal improvement, and the edification of spectators. A proposition was recently made to limit Reviews and Historical Essays to twelve minutes each, but a majority of the members manifested their zeal and fortitude by voting it down.

Several new members have been received since the last weekly of the fall term. The opening meeting of the term was a joint session of the Irving and Erodephian Societies. These union meetings seem to awaken a mutual interest in the Societies. Some good people who don’t exactly understand us are a little bit disposed to impugn our motives, with regard to the contemplation of a permanent combination of forces, but there is no occasion for alarm at present.

At the second meeting of the term Scott and his works were the principle theme of essays and reviews.

The exercises and productions of the third meeting were miscellaneous. We might mention a review of “Among the Hills,” an essay on the “South Sea Scheme,” “William Penn,” etc. We are always encouraged by the presence of visitors.

ZETAGATHIAN HALL, Jan. 1871.

ZETAGATHIAN HALL, Jan. 1871.

The work of the Society for another term was resumed Jan. 6th.

The valedictory of the retiring President was characterized by sound thought and feelingly expressed. While the address of the President elicited an affirmative, successful administration.

After the execrations of New Spain, the expediency of adopting a compulsory system of education in the United States, have in turn been earnestly if not ably discussed. Of the literary exercises it is unnecessary to speak farther than to remark that they have exhibited a degree of careful preparation gratifying to witness.

We are pleased to recognize among our visitors the faces of many friends who frequented our Halls last term, and hope that they will continue to encourage us by their presence.

IRVING INSTITUTE, JAN. 31st.—Owing to some misunderstanding among the members who were to take part in the joint entertainment of the Erodephian and Irving Societies, which was to have been given the first Friday of this term, our regular Society work has been delayed. But now everything bids fair for good work. Friday evening, Jan. 19th, the officers of the present term were installed. Mr. D. S. Wilson upon taking the chair delivered a short address, which was very appropriate and encouraging to each member. Upon this evening the following question was discussed by the first division after the regular literary performances. Resolved, That a common education should be made the limit of suffrage. The debaters were in earnest. Jan. 27th the second division discussed the question. Resolved, That Theatres are more injurious than beneficial to the community. This was a practical question and each speaker endeavored to establish his point. We are happy to meet our friends at society, and will endeavor to make our exercises short and entertaining. Friday evening, 7 o’clock.

W. F. R., Cor. Sec.

SYMPHONIC SOCIETY, JAN. 31st, 1871.

Since our last report the Society has discussed three questions. On the first evening we discussed the following:

Resolved, That England should be held responsible for the damage done by the Alabama Claims. The decision was given in the affirmative. On the next evening we discussed the question:—

Resolved, That President Lincoln was not justifiable in removing George B. McClellan from the command of the Potomac Army. After a warm discussion the question was decided in the negative.

At our first meeting we listened to an eloquent address by our Pres. Elect, Mr. R. C. Patterson. Mr. J. A. Walker then delivered an oration on the Russian Treaty.

This term has been characterized, so far, by good and well prepared exercises. We have been pleased from time to time by visitors taking part in the exercises; and we cordially invite all those who can make it convenient, to visit us. Exercises begin at 7 o’clock.

EUCLID SANDERS, Cor. Sec.
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At the opening of the Academy classes will be organized for the special accommodation of those who wish to review their studies preparatory to entering in winter schools. These classes will begin the first week of September.

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CALENDAR FOR 1870-71.

Sept. 15—Examinations for admission to Collegiate and Normal Departments.

Sept. 15—First Term begins.

Oct. 21—Term of Medical Department opens.

Dec. 21—First Term ends. Vacation, two weeks.

Jan. 3—Second Term begins.

Mar. 28—Second Term ends. Vacations, one week.

April 4—Third Term begins.

June 28—Examinations for Admission.

June 28—Graduation of Law Class.

July 1—Vacations for admission.

July 1—Graduation of Normal and College Classes.

Sept. 15—First Term following begins.

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