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The Vidette-Reporter.

VOL. XVI.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1884.

NO. 31

The Vidette-Reporter,

ISSUED

EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON,

During Collegiate Year S. U. I.

Office in Republican Building, Washington St.

J. T. CHRISCHLES, C. W. WILCOX,
Editor-in-Chief. Business Manager.

A. H. GALE, W. L. PARK,
C. H. POMEROY, N. M. CAMPBELL,
Associate Editors.

A MEETING of the students of the University will be held on Monday afternoon, June 2d, at 3 o'clock in Irving Hall, for the purpose of setting a time for the election of editors for the VIDETTE-REPORTER for next year. All students should be present at the meeting.

SOME reference has been made in your columns to the claims of the Literary department of the University. That these claims were justly urged, there can be no two opinions. We shall rejoice to see the ill-arranged and unsightly South building replaced by a building of the present and the coming time, a building in which teacher and pupil may find the pleasure of learning deriving an added charm from the comfort and agreeableness of the surroundings.

In the Library building the space yet remaining to be occupied is so considerable, and the location so nearly central that it forbids the expectation of any early improvement on the building itself. It will be somewhat later when the desirableness of galleries of art, of rooms for lectures and for the work of the specialist, together with the great inconvenience of having the books on the second floor will be felt and responded to by the erection of the stately building of which we dream, noble in style and proportion and perfect its adaptation to an ever-broadening purpose.

There are, however, immediate and pressing wants which may be met by a moderately increased expenditure of means and effort. In the first place, of course, we name books, for which a special demand has been created by the substitution of reference lists for the textbook, and the general tendency in all departments to send the student to look up his authorities in the library. We find ourselves embarrassed on every hand by the incompleteness of our collection which often renders it impracticable to carry out satisfactorily any plan of research upon the topics which day by day arise. Our yearly appropriations for books have been noticeably meagre in comparison with those of like institutions. We shall certainly hope for large accessions in the future.

There should be no further delay in providing comfortable rooms for study

that the library may be relieved from the disturbance inevitably arising from the pursuit of the study of language on the co-operative plan, and from the corner caucus of the too sociably inclined. The extremely bare and unattractive appearance of our library needs a passing mention. "Seen too oft" the aspect of the place may grow insensibly less repellant in its hard outlines, but the loud footsteps echoing and re-echoing from the bare floor or the sudden giving way of dilapidated benches will serve as a frequent reminder, and arouse the longing for some improvement in these particulars. Rubber floor cloths, fresh tints on the walls, and improved furniture would certainly meet a long-felt want, and might exert a refining influence even upon the fiend who spits and the careless fellow (of course it could not be young lady) who neglects to remove the mud from his shoes.

Another matter requiring an outlay of time and effort rather than money, calls for remark. The Librarian of Rochester University, in a paper upon College Libraries, begins by saying, "How to use a library is a question of great and growing importance to nearly every college in the country. It is due to students that with the use of larger libraries special instruction should be given in methods of investigation. It is due in an age when libraries are exerting so great an intellectual and moral influence that young men should come from the colleges thoroughly trained in their nature and their use." The student period is brief, it is crowded with work, and the question uppermost must be "How can I do the best work in the given time?" It is not enough for the average mind to be "turned adrift" as Scott advised "in a good collection of books and left to find his way." It is imperative that his work in the library should have a definite aim and rational method, so that what he reads one day may serve as ground-work and basis for that of the succeeding day. He cannot afford to "dawdle his mind about," as Fanny Kemble would say, in aimless transition from a recital of the mighty deeds of the Nibelungen heroes to a description of the battle of Bunker Hill, or from Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities" backward into the "Conquests of the Saracens." There should be a helpful succession of thought presented to his mind, rather than a confused jumble of ideas without relevancy or force. Above all he should not be overwhelmed by the terrible conviction that it is a duty which he owes to himself and his anxious friends that he should read the library through beginning with "Froude's England" in twelve volumes, or "Bancroft's United States" in ten, instead, he should learn at first that it is best to leave some things undone. The youth on entering the doors of the library, needs wis-

counsel and an intelligent sympathy with his tastes and pursuits. To meet this want there might be devised a course of familiar talks upon the proper use of the library, for which a special hour should be set aside and to which attention should be called. Thus the various devices for enabling one to find his way quickly to what he may need might be explained, a greater interest aroused in books and reading and research, and the student equipped at the outset with a good method, "having learned to instruct himself."

Concert.

Piano solo by Miss Nell Cox at the band concert.

Miss Glenn will sing a solo at the band concert next Tuesday evening.

Chan Smith, '86, is in the city to spend Sunday with his friends.

Tickets to the Band Concert 50 and 35 cents, for sale at Allin, Wilson & Co's.

The S. U. I. Base Ball team take two substitutes when they go away to play.

The 1st Lieuts. did not turn out yesterday with white gloves and bustles. For the reason why, ask—Sam.

All library books must be returned to the library upon June 6th, after which no books will be issued this term.

All library books must be returned to the library upon June 8th, after which no books will be issued this term.

A duet by Miss Hatch and Mrs. Donnan, and another by Messrs. Morgan are among the attractions of the band concert.

Messrs. Severs and Koch are making a very pleasant visit with their S. U. I. friends. They have recently been admitted to the bar and are taking a short respite before entering upon the duties of active practitioners.

Ward, the popular caterer, has remodeled, repainted, and in other ways greatly improved his ice cream parlors, so that that they are now a more inviting retreat than ever. To-night he is going to have a formal re-opening and the University Band will furnish the music.

The lecture delivered here last June by Dr. S. N. Fellows, of Iowa City, upon the "Practical Value of a College Education," is being published in a series of articles in the "Vidette-Reporter." The discussion presents a most valuable array of facts and we shall take care to file away these articles for future reference. The more widely such information is disseminated the better.—*Simpsonian*.

There has certainly been sufficient delay in the collection of the Oratorical Association tax, the treasurers of the literary societies are again urgently requested by the executive committee to collect the eighty-five-cent tax per capita from their respective societies. Only a few days are now left and it becomes a

matter of honor whether the Association will pay the debts it has contracted.

If reports are true it is quite evident that it was not entirely on account of ill-health that Miss Lu Gorton was compelled to discontinue her work in the University a short time ago. In fact we are quite reliably informed that the young lady has entirely regained her health and but a few days since linked her fortunes to another's fate.

We would call special attention to the announcement of Miss Jessie Smith, who next fall will come to Iowa City for the purpose of teaching music. This lady has thoroughly prepared herself, under the instruction of the celebrated Dr. Louis Maas, and her coming will afford an excellent opportunity to all students of music, or those contemplating the study of the art, to obtain the best of instruction.

The glory achieved by the University Band at home and abroad reflects upon the University and the students as well as upon Iowa City; Every student owes it to the band as a matter of loyalty to the institution to help the boys pay for their new equipments. They have been to considerable expense in fitting themselves for more creditable appearance, and they now ask all their friends to help foot the bills. They are desirous of further improving their uniforms in view of their contemplated trip to Dubuque, and this will require additional funds. The concert next Tuesday evening is gotten up for the purpose of raising these funds, and we hope to see a crowded house. The programme will be in every way enjoyable, including as it will vocal and instrumental music that everybody can appreciate.

We are sorry to announce that Mr. H. S. Kneedler is about to leave the employ of the Republican company and go to Cedar Rapids, there to take charge of the local department of the Republican. In the four years during which Mr. Kneedler has officiated as City editor here, he has not only won many fast friends for sterling traits of character, but has elicited the admiration of the readers of the Republican for his skill in collecting and presenting the city news and for his close discrimination and good judgment in matters of doubt as well as his justice toward all. In his relations to the University and the students he has so conducted himself as to win the esteem of all connected with the school. We have nothing but regrets at his leaving and wishes for his further success.

"That's the trouble in this part of the country," remarked a Texas editor, as a bullet crashed through the window and took a piece of his ear off. "You make a paper interesting and newsy, and you have to dodge around to keep it up."

THE MISSION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS.

Minnesota oration in the Inter State contest at Iowa City, delivered by J. W. Bennett.

The middle class is a class of artisans and merchants, inventors and scientists, scholars and orators, philosophers and poets; the class of Stephenson and Schoeffler, Pitt and Locke, Kepler and Newton, Milton and Shakespere. Enormous wealth does not weigh it down, neither does want degrade it. It is not composed of nobles nor of slaves; it is the healthy mean. It is neither the conservative nor the radical; it is the liberal party. It is seen in its fullest development in England and America, but it is the positive moving force of every nation. It is the great central current in the stream of human progress, moving ever onward, unchecked by the winds of passion which ruffle the surface, unimpeded by the slime and debris of the lower depths.

Every page of recorded progress is illumined by the glorious deeds of the middle classes. Germinating in the imperfect light of the middle ages, and expanding under the pressure of adverse circumstances, their growth was slow but unceasing. True to natural laws; the early forces were absorbed by the trunk; the luxuriant fruit was of later times. They entered the arena when society was disintegrated. The lord in the castle was all powerful; the serf at his feet was imbecile; the strength of monarchy was the only safeguard against anarchy. The middle classes, rising in their strength, pressed back with one strong arm their lordly oppressors, extending a helping hand to the suffering serf, and bearing their monarch on to victory, established government.

Their steady steps of progress are marked by monuments more lasting than sculptured stone. Magna Charta, the Bill of rights—the whole English constitution is theirs. They preserved customs and language under Norman oppression. Their sturdy yeoman hurled back the chivalry of France at Cressy and Agincourt. They were the bulwark of Elizabeth's glorious reign; they maintained national prowess when nobility was torn to pieces by civil feuds. Stuart despotism crumbled beneath their mighty power; they inaugurated freedom of speech and action, and gave to England the foremost rank among the nations of the world. The Puritan, the pronounced author of English liberty, belonged only to the middle class; he was but a factor in this great moving force.

Even in the eighteenth century they were still at work. The nations of Europe now for the most part enjoyed internal peace; but it was the peace of suppression, not of free development. Under the tranquil surface forces were gathering which were to revolutionize the world. The middle classes, through literature and the peaceful arts, were shaping the opinions and destiny of nations; preparing the way for the glorious triumphs of the nineteenth century.

They enter upon the present century. The scene is one of confusion; Europe

is at war; millions are marching to the roll of the drum; forces latent for ages are active, thrones totter, fall and crumble away; states are swept from the pages of the present. This was the leveling force of nations set free from restraint. The lower classes of continental Europe were held under increasing high pressure for centuries, and when the explosion came, most violent was the shock. The conservative noble would maintain and reverence withered institutions; the plebeian rabble, in its iconoclastic rage would make of the world a blackened waste; the middle class would remove the rubbish only to build a nobler edifice. And just here is the difference between English and French revolution. English is slow, steady and temperate; French is sudden fickle and bloody. English lasting and positive; French transient and reactionary. English revolution is the work of a rational force; French of passion unchecked. The one was begun, pursued and consummated by the middle class; in the other mob and violence ruled.

A generation passed away; withered institutions had fallen; war had accomplished its mission; passion was quenched in blood. Although the price of purification was enormous, the result was immeasurably greater. If nations for the moment seemed to decay, it was but the slumbering of a Titan, after having overcome his foes. If the darkness of absolutism seemed more appalling, it was the darkness before a glorious dawn. The monarch was no longer supreme; the serf, a serf no more; the middle classes were free to reorganize and regenerate.

More silent but no less effective is the latter work of the middle class. With tireless energy the Commons of England rose to the work of rectification. A reformed Parliament was the result. The fact was an epoch in the nation's progress. The Commons became truly representative. By the direct influence of the middle classes, reform general and indefinite, now became specified and well defined. A barbarous and criminal code, a degrading labor system, privileged protection, fell before the frown of justice. The middle classes were brought into more direct contact with the world; their views broadened; they became the nation, their ideas must hold sway; under their influence bigotry sickened; the Catholic was no longer proscribed; they breathed and slavery was abolished; they spoke and to heathendom was sent the gospel of truth and light. Thus marching with the march of time, building on the firm basis of public opinion, they gave what the world demanded.

But their work is not confined to England, it is as broad as the world. It is manifested most fully in our own country. Here the middle class is most powerful, and here is the chosen home of liberty and progress.

Just as the government and progressive civilization have been established with the establishing, grown with the growth, and strengthened with the stability of the middle classes; these have wavered with their fluctuation, declined with their decline, and fallen with their fall.

Classic Greece, mighty Rome both testify to this. The history of the dark ages is an ever living monument to the fact. The weakness of the middle class gave to Europe her thirty years war. The decline of Spain is the result of the same cause.

Such is the verdict of the past. History pronounces progress the mission of the middle class; reason confirms her conclusion.

The higher class will not accept the natural law of change until forced upon them; the extreme low still look upon the history as a solemn farce, signifying nothing. Nothing past is worth retaining; the world must be created anew. The middle class accepts change and founds its changes on history and reason. The origin of all true reform is that mysterious fountain of moral sentiment in man. Here or nowhere is unbounded energy, unbounded power of progression, combined with sturdy self-restraint. Hence, temperate, reasoning, discerning, they use no futile surface force; indirect but continued influence, corrected and suited to their ends by the very obstacles which they had to encounter, were their instruments of amelioration and change. The universe was not made in a day. It came into existence by the slow, steady, onward march of countless ages. Just so with human progress, time and a steady moving force is necessary for its consummation, and the middle classes—the architects of opinion—they whose energies are destroyed by the combat of no conflicting interests, can alone supply this force.

History has been heard; reason has passed judgment. What is the present work, what the the future prospects of the middle class? Is their mission completed? The sun of progress is yet scarcely risen. Look at those iron monsters which drag their ponderous weight through our peaceful waters. Is their mission friendly intercourse? No, simple destruction. And every screw and every ounce of armor has absorbed avital force of progress; has laid a burden on the shoulders of suffering humanity. Look at the lands of the world. From hilltop, bank, and shore, grim battlements still frown upon us; their massive brows still crowned with horrid engines of human destruction. Behold those millions of stately men in gaudy uniform. what a dazzling spectacle they are! But what is their occupation? Destruction of human life; causing, not allaying, human suffering. Such a state of affairs tells us most forcibly that we still retain an element of barbarism; that we have still to learn that divine precept of brotherly love. Military strength is grinding the European laborer to the earth. It is a cancer gnawing at the very vitals of European society. And can the blood-thirsty disciple of dynamite remove the evil? Absurd—it can be obliterated only by the peace-loving middle class.

In spite of our inventions, of all our wealth, of all our boasted power and glory—in spite of nature's forces toiling obedient to our commands, indigent misery stalks in every thoroughfare of this broad earth. Why is this? Because

distribution is vicious, and wealth is drawn from its natural channels to satisfy individual avarice; because of extreme conditions of society.

The inordinate desire wealth is the besetting sin of the age. It is driving men to materialism and worship of self. It is undermining the very foundation of honesty and justice—the only foundation on which our institutions can stand. In this mad fluctuation of wealth, doubly weakened are the middle classes: from their ranks, on the one hand, rises the monied monarch, on the other falls out the ragged pauper. The one pitiless, insatiate, grasping for power—power to control, power to corrupt, power to oppress; the other haggard, desperate, demanding bread. The extremes have humbled the proudest nations. This is the prelude of the awful tragedy of national destruction—a tragedy in which the middle classes fall by the dagger of extreme conditions.

We are nearing a crisis, perhaps the greatest the world has ever seen. Has the progress of our race reached its ebb? Are we to oscillate back through the extremes of monarchy and despotism, or is our march to be still onward? These are the questions at issue.

If onward, none but the middle class can be the engine of progression. It is they who must complete the work pursued by them in the past. They must set a limit to individual wealth by giving the laborer a share in the product of his toil, by making him master of the land which he works, by crushing out monopoly and privileged protection; but above all by teaching men honesty and justice. It is not dead statutes we want; it is living, public sentiment. Methods of amelioration are not wanting, it is the means of applying them. The power of redress is in the hands of the people. Teach them their duty, teach them their own true interests and reform will follow as a natural consequence. It is not statesmen we want, but citizens. Statesmen, leaders, what are they but the mouthpieces of more potent bodies; the heralds of the march of opinions.

Then let the middle class go on broadening and broadening, assimilating and educating from above and below. Let them listen to the teachings of that Divine Philosopher whose words have re-echoed for nineteen centuries, stimulating men to grander thoughts and nobler actions. Let them learn of him self-denial, love and justice. And when social barriers shall have fallen; when social prejudice shall have been obliterated; when merit and worth shall be the conquering power; when the tinsel veil of wealth shall hide no iniquity; its silver staff support no worthless form; when nations overleap the boundaries of prejudice, and instruments of war and destruction crumble away; when poets sing to an appreciative world, and science expounds to a world of thinkers; when the stream of human progress shall have broadened into the ocean of millennial peace—then, and not till then, will the mission of the middle class be complete.

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LAW DEPARTMENT.

W. F. HAYWARD, Editor.

Receipts this week have been good.

Rice and Clawson are the champion quoit pitchers.

The National Guards have at last made an impression.

Murray will attend Sell's circus, if they will take a cow in trade.

Sibley and Stanton went boat-riding alone Wednesday evening.

George has consented to sit in the next class picture on Monday next.

Whitfield and Van Horn have driven every opponent from the ground in their part of town.

The courage of some of the boys is failing. There is some talk of going before the courts.

Koch, of Fall term, visited the classroom Friday. He was admitted this week at Davenport.

Stafford has been making extensive purchases at the milliner shops and dry goods stores of late.

Smith is now the champion boxer among the Laws, and is prepared to meet any Cad in the ring.

Kersey objects to the class picture on account of the manner in which his cranium and ears were taken.

In a short time we will have a select crowd of visitors to the class-room whom the boys will not attempt to carry out.

Moyer has a brother visiting him from Illinois. He was recently admitted to the courts at Davenport. They will form a partnership.

The examinations will probably be part written. They will commence Thursday morning and finish sometime Friday afternoon.

"Some of the members of the class had better make arrangements to pay the little loans they owe each other, or there may be trouble before the end of the term."

Since Needham and Gallagher joined the band it has become the best in the State. They have added two new tunes to the stock of favorite ones for their especial benefit.

The member of the class from New York is a harmless looking fellow; but Stanton is authority for the current story, that a house where this New Yorker visited was shortly after infected with scarlet fever.

Moot court work is nearly finished. Chancellor Ross has been giving the class this week a thorough and practical review in "Evidence" and "Bills and Notes." Prof. McClain's lectures this week have been unusually interesting.

A. R. Pascal, one of the foremost members of law class of '78, was in town Tuesday and made Judge a semi-fraternal visit. He is located in DeWitt and reports a thriving business. While in town he gave his weight to P. H., so he

might know how much would sit down on him when he practiced in De Witt.

After diligent "inquiry" as to the number of children of the married members of the law class, it has been decided not to issue the edition of melodies asked for in last issue. We are led to this conclusion on account of the scarcity and immature age of their children, since Joe Brown has the only one that can read. Still, if Pappie Thomas would allow his likeness in the frontispiece, in place of the veritable goose, and also a few of his choicest puns, the request might be granted.

JUG-JUICE.—This is a name given to a liquid obtained north of town, the medicinal properties of which are so strong, that taken immediately after rising, it not only builds up and renews the worn-out tissues of the physical frame, but throughout the rest of the day gives an exhilarating effect to the entire system. In case of constitutions run down too much by a nine months' course of study, it is recommended that the subject should repeat the dose before each meal. Yet if taken in excess it produces an unsteadiness of gait and thickness of tongue, and sometimes a deathlike stupor. As yet the class, to any great number, have not been allowed to drink of this Elysian spring since a few of our most sober-minded ones have had a monopoly upon the supply. Then, too, it has not been fully introduced to the notice of the class, as no book agents have been engaged to extol its healing virtues. Therefore the class have been slow in taking hold of this jug-juice, though it seems to take strong hold of the patients under treatment. The manner of procuring this liquid is unique. A force of six or seven, with jugs in their hands, wend their way in the dusk of evening to the northern part of the town, choosing the darkest sides and most unfrequented streets, and thus avoid meeting any one. Having gained the spring and recuperated exhausted nature, they as secretly return to their rooms to divide their store of this precious fluid. We do not understand the reason for this slyness, unless its medicinal properties are of such sacred nature as to be destroyed by close proximity to the vulgar, or perhaps enemies to its revivifying influence. Perhaps, too, being of Elysian nature, its spirits delight most in the "Elysian shades." Still the rest of the class should be initiated into its mystic rites and pay their duties to its famed virtues and no longer languish on "Medical Lake Salts." Perhaps Nicodemus might be born again.

Pleasant, well furnished front room for rent at 319 South Clinton street, three and one-half blocks from post-office. tf

Students, if you want a good shave or bath, go to the Opera House Barber Shop and Bath Rooms. tf

Students will find it to their interest to go to Murphy's barn for fine rigs.

SHORT-HAND COLUMN.

ELDON MORAN, Editor.

Eldon Moran is still in St. Louis, but will return in a few days.

Miss Hutchinson says she was treated "right royally" while at Marshalltown.

Mr. Coolidge returned to the School last Monday, after a very pleasant visit at home.

Misses Searles and Beals visited old friends at Mt. Vernon Wednesday and returned Thursday.

Miss Hutchinson and several of our advanced students made full reports of the speeches delivered in the park yesterday.

Three more students have enrolled during the past week: Mr. J. M. Fox, of Iowa City; Miss Stella Marshall, of Vail, Iowa; and Mr. Chas. Coan, of Columbus, Neb.

A good delegation from the School of Short-hand will attend the Thomas Orchestra Festival at the Rapids, June 9th. Our students appreciate such things.

Do not forget the Summer Term before-hand, and we assure you that you will never forget or regret it afterwards. It begins June 24th and continues twelve weeks.

Miss Blanche Sanders, of the School of Short-hand, has gone to Cedar Rapids with her brother, who will swing the Indian clubs at the opening of the gymnasium there.

Mr. A. G. Morrow, of the *Republican*, Milan, Mo.; C. H. Dean, of the *Bugle*, Clinton, Iowa; and J. K. Morgan, of the *Register*, Neodesha, Kan. will exchange printers ink for instruction.

Miss Hutchinson, First Assistant in the School of Short-hand, went up to Marshalltown last Monday and made an excellent report of the proceedings of the State Pharmaceutical Association which convened there on the 27th and 28th of this month. The report will be transcribed and printed at once and will make quite a volume.

It shows a good record, when, without a single exception, those who have completed the Course here in School and begun professional work, have been the direct means of influencing others to take our Course. Besides not a day passes but we get letters asking for information, the parties stating that they were referred to us by some former student. Successful work is even better than printers ink.

It is with considerable pride we mention the fact that the proportion of our students who attended the Mendelssohn Concert last Saturday was at least seventy-five per cent larger than that of any other school in the city. This, however, is easily accounted for since Short-hand is in many respects as much of an Art as is music or painting, and those who understand and appreciate Art in one thing, will naturally enjoy it in any other.

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The Medical Lake Mfg., Co. wants a live energetic agent in each County in this State, to introduce its products. Young men of fair business capacity can make one hundred dollars a month, and introduce articles of actual merit that will always be retained in use after once tried. We have one agent who has sold \$250 in one week, and one who has traveled about sixteen months and he has never sold less than \$10 in one day. Apply at once to E. S. McComas, Agt. Medical Mfg. Co., 130 Dubuque St., Iowa City, Iowa.

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A FOOLISH ASSERTION RECTED.

BY PROF. C. A. EGG

Bayard Taylor once remarks in his present writer that after a study of the German language most favorable circumstances not yet say that he felt secure of the dative and accusative.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, on the other hand, is quoted by President Grinnell as having said: "The languages are often possessed of powers by persons of very low powers."

A remark of this kind made from a very ignorant person might claim the right with impunity. But when who claim to be scholars and reformers give utterances so utterly false and are compelled to ask, "What motive of such glaringly false? Before answering the speaker to the acquisition of foreign let us ask these men whether believe that a person who own vernacular "in perfect said to have "very low powers?"

We venture to affirm that son must be possessed of a able intellectual powers, safely add that the number is not very large!

Now take the case of s who has succeeded in learning perfection another language more difficult one. Is it that in so doing an inferior was made and required?

Goldwin Smith might himself the humiliation of by educational pettyfogger asked Carlyle what effort master the German. I vent and I stake my reputation ment, that Prof. Goldwin write from dictation ten foreign modern language w at least a dozen mistakes. any one else affirms that h son of low mental powers not only his own, but ano "in perfection," I answer t tells a deliberate falsehood he lacks the sense to u force of the language he u

One of the most com of the subject is the Philip Gilbert Hamerton, lectual Life" is a book v to be read by every yo page 113 he remarks:

"The modern linguist is firm ground and in broad Still there are illusions, monest of them is that a guage may be very ea There is a popular idea t easy, that Italian is easy, t more difficult, yet by no n ably difficult. It is believ an Englishman has spent of his youth in attempting

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A FOOLISH ASSERTION CORRECTED.
 BY PROF. C. A. EGGERT.

Bayard Taylor once remarked to the present writer that after twenty years' study of the German language under the most favorable circumstances, he could not yet say that he felt secure in the use of the dative and accusative cases.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, on the other hand, is quoted by President Magoon of Grinnell as having said that "modern languages are often possessed in perfection by persons of very low intellectual powers."

A remark of this kind may be looked for from a very ignorant person, and such a person might claim the right to quote it with impunity. But when we find men who claim to be scholars and educational reformers give utterance to expressions so utterly false and insulting, we are compelled to ask, "What can be the motive of such glaringly absurd talk?" Before answering the special charge as to the acquisition of foreign languages, let us ask these men whether they believe that a person who possesses his own vernacular "in perfection" can be said to have "very low intellectual powers?"

We venture to affirm that such a person must be possessed of very considerable intellectual powers, and we can safely add that the number of such persons is not very large!

Now take the case of such a person who has succeeded in learning in like perfection another language, possibly a more difficult one. Is it to be inferred that in so doing an inferior mental effort was made and required?

Goldwin Smith might have spared himself the humiliation of being quoted by educational pettyfoggers, if he had asked Carlyle what effort it cost him to master the German. I venture to affirm, and I stake my reputation on the experiment, that Prof. Goldwin Smith cannot write from dictation ten lines in any foreign modern language without making at least a dozen mistakes. And if he, or any one else affirms that he knows a person of low mental powers who possesses not only his own, but another language "in perfection," I answer that he either tells a deliberate falsehood, or else that he lacks the sense to understand the force of the language he uses.

One of the most competent judges of the subject is the English writer, Philip Gilbert Hamerton, whose "Intellectual Life" is a book well deserving to be read by every young man. On page 113 he remarks:

"The modern linguist is always on a firm ground and in broad daylight. * * * Still there are illusions, and the commonest of them is that a modern language may be very easily mastered. There is a popular idea that French is easy, that Italian is easy, that German is more difficult, yet by no means insuperably difficult. It is believed that when an Englishman has spent the best years of his youth in attempting to learn Latin

and Greek, he may acquire one or two modern languages with little effort during a brief residence on the continent. It is certainly true that we may learn any number of foreign languages so as to speak them badly. * * *

Rare indeed are the men who know two languages thoroughly." The same author gives several illustrations to prove that it is absolutely impossible for any one, even under the most favorable circumstances, to know more than two languages in perfection, while he is himself acquainted with only one person who knows two in perfection, and even this person is deficient in one respect, that is in his inability to pronounce the French "r."

Those who cry down the study of modern languages resemble the fox in the fable who denounced the grapes as sour, because he could not get at them. They hung too high.

Prof. Max Mueller of Oxford answers such men as Goldwin Smith: "Because a study of the ancient languages has always been confined to a small minority, and because it is generally supposed to be easier to learn a modern than an ancient tongue, people have been accustomed to look upon the so-called classical languages, Sauscrit, Greek, Latin, as vehicles of thought more noble, etc., etc. It must be admitted that as languages, the modern stand on a perfect equality with the ancient?"

"Can it be supposed that we who are always advancing in science, art, religion, should have allowed language, the most powerful instrument of the mind, to fall from its pristine purity, to lose its vigor and nobility?" Before the tribunal of the science of language, the difference between ancient and modern languages vanishes."

What, indeed, would Mr. Smith have said, had he lived in Rome in Cicero's time as a barbarian slave, at the task of acquiring the Latin? Or what would have been his opinion concerning the intellectual abilities of his Greek fellow-slaves who knew both Latin and Greek?

He certainly would have met among them some idiots and persons of very low intellectual powers, and Greek and Latin were then modern languages! The thorough knowledge of both one's own and a foreign language, ancient or modern, is so rare an accomplishment that one may live to be fifty years old without meeting a single case. If such knowledge, or something closely approaching it, is met with now and then, it will always be in persons who are distinguished for intellectual ability. The stories of Polygotts who are said to have known dozens and more languages in perfection are simply fables. Those who believe them may be unhesitatingly set down as uncritical and superficial.

To know two languages as thoroughly, as for instance, Hon. Carl Schurz knows English and German, is evidence of a far greater, nay an incomparably greater, mental effort than would be needed to master so much of all the various sciences and languages as is taught in our best colleges. From seven to eight years

would suffice for the latter purpose, while double the number would not be sufficient for the former, even if the student be as highly gifted as Carl Schurz.

I can personally testify that I have never in my life, either in America or Europe, met a person who possessed two languages in perfection, and scarcely more than one or two who had mastered one foreign language while, at the same time, retaining a perfect knowledge of their own. My experience accords with that of Mr. Hamerton.

When we inquire into the motives of remarks and quotations like the one which I have answered, we shall find that they are purely selfish ones. The men who make and spread such remarks have an axe to grind. Having themselves given a large share of their time to ancient languages, they do not wish to confess that modern languages can confer the same distinction on those who give as large a share of their time, or even a much larger one, to their study. It is for this reason that the superficial charge is made that the excellent German girls' higher schools are not at least as good as our best American colleges that offer instruction to both sexes, as though the smattering of Greek and Latin obtained in so many of the latter was superior to the thorough drill in English and French given in the former.

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SELF-GOVERNMENT IN EUROPE.

BY JOEL WITMER.

The highest qualities in man, abused, become the curse of his existence. The motives which incite man to distinction and supremacy among his fellows, carried to an extreme, form the foundation for political tyranny and despotism. The ambition which leads to the acquisition of power is in itself a noble instinct, but the influences which cause acquired power to be abused are the outgrowth of its perversion. By this abuse of a divine right there has been established within the ranks of humanity a struggle whose origin is beyond our knowledge, a conflict for individual rights, a strife between the oppressed and the oppressor. Wherever primitive freedom gave way to the dominion of the tribal chieftain, there was dissension first made manifest, nor was it to end until a new light of reason should unite within its bounds the great masses and constitute in them the safeguard of their own interests. That light of reason is the spirit of democracy, of government for and by the people. Its fuel is the human intellect, and no power can check its flame. Europe has been the battle-ground for many contests. Trivial interests have clashed, fought and fallen in a day, nations have been made, and empires dashed to pieces in a single battle. But the strife for right, almost coeval with man, is an eternal conflict. It is the one principle for which the mass of mankind has waged an unceasing warfare, a principle uplifted and sustained by the magic forces of thought and reason.

With the fall of Rome the world was first brought face to face with the untutored races of the north. The life of one civilization was swept away to form the foundation for a grander structure, new flesh and new blood were to bring renewed life and vigor. It was the beginning of a mighty revolution, not of a people or nation, but of the entire human intellect. On the one hand, it lashed from their fatal lethargy the masters of thought and culture, whom repose had rendered effeminate, and whose manhood had been wasted by corruption and sensuality; on the other, it apprised of their condition the miserable barbarian hordes, weak in mind but strong in muscle, opened to their eyes the treasures of intellect, and erected an ideal standard of knowledge toward which they might direct their energies. The government of Rome had fallen from the weight of its own vice. The barbarian had never known a jurisdiction beyond that of his own tribe. In the confusion attending the union of these widely differing elements all trace of law and order was swept away, and for an age Europe was the scene of an indescribable tumult, of an aimless contest, a strife which burnished the shield of the warrior, yet a strife from which the contestants issued with brighter minds and keener perceptions. In this period, when self interest was the motive which actuated the energies of man against man, when personal advantage was the sole aim of the individual, when the weak, overcome by violence, cowered

beneath the lash of the oppressor, feudalism was born and nurtured. It fastened so firmly upon the vital cords of the entire European social and political structures that the united efforts of centuries were unable to cast it off. It was the seed of a most virulent despotism, a plant whose fruits were a long succession of relentless tyrants.

While the baronial estates were swelling their proportions and their lords ruled in all the pomp and ostentation of the age, while these petty and ruthless tyrants planned, with the deliberate eye of satisfaction, methods of cruelty and oppression for their miserable serfs and subjects, those very acts afforded, unknown to themselves, the first force for the development of a higher sphere of thought, and a nobler plane of social and political relations. Tradition had retained within the memory of the now humbled peasant reminiscences of the rude freedom of a former day. But that day had forever vanished. It was a superiority of mind which enabled his oppressor to shackle his liberties and tighten the clamps of absolute power. Headlong and aimless exertion succumbed to thought and reflection. Reason became a potent factor in his labor. The cruelty of the baron had lighted the fire of a new thought. Chivalry protected and fanned its flames. It was the first light of liberalism. It was the voice of the people. Their cry was for the protection of their rights and the extension of their liberties, and only the unwise sovereign refused their demands. Centralization superseded and crushed the feudal lord and distributed his estates. Learning was freed from the cloister and given to the people. With the increased extent of dominion, greater interests were made common. More extensive subjects gave riser to deeper thought. The press copied and distributed the opinions of reformers side by side with the will of the sovereign. It revolutionized religion, checked superstition and established a freedom of worship. The proud throne of the hierarchy was overturned and the throne of monarch besieged. The force of liberal ideas gradually grew. Its proportions became alarming. In the mad effort to stay the tide of its progress Charles I of England paid the penalty with his life. His fall was the hand-writing upon the wall, unintelligible to the sovereign of the age whose sight was blinded by his profligate use of power. Under Louis XVI of France the flames of revolt broke forth with redoubled fury. The fame of freedom's success in the American States created a universal enthusiasm and an urgent demand for liberal institutions. Personal liberty became the acme of human desire. The vacillating policy of a feeble sovereign served to increase the frenzy of the popular mind. At last reason gave way and the ungovernable passion of a people ushered in the first scenes of that bloody drama which convulsed the whole of Europe, and blotted the face of French history with an eternal stain. The beginning of the French Revolution was an unfortunate day for democracy, and the scenes of that aimless contest might have been spared

their darker hues, had it not been for that giant usurper who rendered himself mighty, and his fame everlasting by artfully subverting, to his own base uses, the grandest of human motives. In the mad rush for liberty, a whole people fell headlong into the snares of an individual, nor did they awaken to a sense of their situation until he had spilled the blood of two million souls, wasted their fields, impoverished their nation and rendered them the dupes of a military despotism. On the whole the French Revolution was a great misfortune; reverting only to the same form of despotic rule which it sought to evade. But as a decade of warfare carries with it greater changes than a century of peace, it could not lack certain immediate benefits. It blotted out the last vestige of feudal power, broke down the barriers of class, removed the lines which had hitherto restricted national intercourse, and reformed many social and civil abuses. It taught the party of liberty the great lesson of moderation, and illustrated, only too forcibly, the dangers of precipitate and turbulent action. It forced upon every sovereign the unhappy facts, that an imperial edict, supported by the army, could no longer balance the power of public sentiment; that an army could not be relied upon to enforce commands detrimental or contrary to the weal or will of the people, and that future power and national welfare largely depended upon the clemency of the ruler and his effort to gratify rather than to abuse the will of his subjects.

With the close of this tumultuous struggle we mark the beginning of a new epoch. Invention facilitated and gave an impetus to commerce; science extended her domain; art was embellished, and literature added new luster to the entire realm of thought. With the extension of culture and under the increased dominion of modern ideas, the claims of the people will be increased. They will assert their right more and more, to become the conservators of their own interests. When former modes of government fail to meet their wants and sustain their rights they themselves will grasp the reins of legislation.

The growth of democratic ideas in Europe during the past fifty years, though gradual, has been marked. The people who once were regarded as the slaves of the crown, have become recognized as a part of the government, they have been given a voice in the administration of justice, the rights of suffrage have been extended and their will is the power which designs and executes the law. It is a power which no monarch of this age can crush, and to attempt its destruction would be ruinous to the most desperate of despots. The autocrat may well tremble on his throne, and utter the cry: "When the people become sovereign, then what." He and his ancestors have abused a God-given right, and the result of their folly is upon him. While he was reveling upon the downy couch of ease and luxury, wasting his energies in debauchery, his subjects opened the treasure-house of knowledge, distributed its riches and left him, like a monument whose pedestal has crumbled, ready to

fall with the first wind of opposition. The people have become his peers in thought and reason, they have made this an age unequalled in the extent and magnitude of its acquisitions, an age of progress. Intellect is the power that rules and whenever its extent is sufficient to include the masses, the control of government must pass into the hands of the people. The people will be sovereign and the grand principles of democracy will stand upon an impregnable foundation.

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