Abuse of the Library.

There is a class of individuals in the world who evidently imagine that they form a very considerable and very essential part of the world’s composition; who conceive that the great plan of creation would have been very imperfect had not they been included in the Omnificent flat.

You meet representatives of this class at every pass and angle of your experience—you’re sure to meet them if they’re there, for coyons is not their most prominent endowment. You could tolerate them if you did not meet them constantly, or if you did but meet them pass and forget them; and you could complain only when you find their tracks everywhere, and their presence oppressive.

Of course it is characteristic of the individuals of this class that they always have on hand a stock of suggestions and advice, not to say dicta, which the world is dying to hear, and which, if left unsaid, will occasion such hardship in the land, and it is for them a most happy conception of the fitness of things, that they can give of the plentitude of their resources to the benefit of their fellow men with no privation to the indulgence of their own self-conceit. Perhaps they are laboring under a delusion; perhaps they are willing and waiting to be deceived. Perhaps so; but I doubt it. Such trash of character are often constitutional and oftener cultivated for their own sake. Yet these people of mindindireted energy are probably not past reform; and to those who find themselves in such a situation, the period of their student life in college affords a better opportunity for the correction of their principles than for the cultivation of their art; better at least in visible results.

It is against the local operations of these busy bodies, that, in common with what I believe to be a vast majority of our University students, I venture a protest.

I’ve just laid down a book drawn from the general library, opened at one of the pages where the text is enriched with the annotations of clever readers, who have taken this means of labelling themselves of the genus indisputable, mentioned above. These commentaries are, as might be expected, as varied as the minds which gave them birth, and follow each other in a most unhappy disregard of any recognized principles. They are, likely enough, in many cases well-intentioned, are oftentimes conic-ally serious, — indicating a babbling over of the symphonies of the impressionable reader,— and then again they take the form of pale witticisms, inco-ment of point or purpose.

It is scarcely to be expected that these slobbers, done en passant and entirely regardless of any effect save the undressing of the overcharged com-mentator, should impart any additional beauty to the page; and so it turns out that the thought and execution are usually to keeping with each other, and both slovenly.

All these notes and marks of whatever character and of however good intent are out of place, and positively have no excuse for their existence on the page. Had they been offered before the book went to the press they might have been suggestive to the author,—as showing the numens of some of his readers. As it is they come too late for their only handable mission, and serve only to reproach the writer and disgust subsequent readers.

There is another consideration of greater importance. Do students rightly appreciate the advantages of access to the book room, and of drawing books to be read at their leisure? In charity let it be assumed that they do. Then by what right do they convert a generous privilege into a selfish license? The book which the student draws from the library is his in no sense of the word. He has performed nothing on his part which vests an ownership in him; and when, to gratify a spirit of vanity or vandalism, he breaks the rules of the library by making dog’s-ears on the leaves, underlining and bracketing passages, and defacing the pages by his weakly notes, he betrays an absence from his make-up of one of essential parts of an honorable and honest gentleman.

If the above remarks do not seem to apply to at least a few of the young la-
dies of our school it is the awkwardness of language and not the absence of necessary conditions which is responsible. For the evidence on record is by no means meager for showing that the fair reader has had her say on those points on which it is permitted to have an opinion, where good taste and a re-
spect for rights and rules might render a written entry of it on the page un-
necessary.

There are many institutions of learning in our land where the library book-
room is barred to the invasion of the student, and library literature is doled out to him in quantities, and of a quality calculated to foster a more appreci-ative disposition when he comes under a more liberal dispensation. Very few U. C. students have had any experience in such an institution. If they had we might safely count on a long continuance of our present very effective library rules, which we have had such rea-
sonable doubts to sound, should the above abuses, and that more reprehen-
sible one, which needs but to be mentioned to be universally condemned, of "taking" books from the library, be continued. For it is precisely these abuses which have driven the powers that be, in the other institutions re-
tered to, to compel the student, while enjoying the benefit of the library, to occupy the space between the "chalk-
lines" of the book-room and the walls of the building. Street-laced rules because necessary. They will become necessary in our University as soon as the same abuses have progressed far enough to give a "standing" to the class of students who take such license.

They would never become necessary if that sense of honor and high-minded-
ness so characteristic of the general deportment of our U. C. students would assume in all, such a phase of in-
wardness as would recognize the cen-
 sorship of conscience as not less exist-
ing, because more just, than that of public opinion.

Gigantesque Regula.

Spoils.

Shakespeare’s works are being translated into Chinese by the President of Pekin College.—Ex.

At the University of Cambridge reso-
lutions have been signed by 1300 mem-
bers protesting against any movement toward the admission of women to membership and degrees in the Uni-

The College of Mexico is the oldest in America, and it was founded fifty years before Harvard.—Ex.

While the College men of our States are only a fraction of one per cent, they hold more than fifty per cen-
t of the highest offices.—Ex.

According to the statistics of the higher educational institutions of Prus-
sia we have the following figures: of every 10,000 Protestants, 71.7 attend a higher institution of learning; of every 10,000 Catholics, 44.3 attend; of every 10,000 other Christians, 47.9; but of every 10,000 Jews not less than 89.3. In pro-
portion the Jews are represented with eight times the strength of all the Christians combined. Data like these go a good ways toward the explanation of the "anti-Semitic" agitation. — Ex.

The first college for women in Rome, Italy, is to be opened in April, 1891.— Ex.

At Harvard, Cornell, Ann Arbor and Johns Hopkins, attendance at recita-
tions is very heavy. — Ex.

E. B. Bliss, ‘94, broke the Harvard record for the running broad jump, by a jump of 21 feet, 10 inches.— Ex.

A Yale student was fined $20 for carrying his class number.— Ex.

Vassar College rejoices in a beautiful new gymnasium, the gift of Alumna.

Princeton is to have a $500,000 auditor-
ium, the gift of an alumna, Mrs. 
Chas. Alexander.— Ex.

"The idea of genius aside from labor is mere phantasy."— Ex.

Rev. Sam Small has become president of the Utah University.— Ex.

A chair of the Irish language is to be established in the University of Penn-
sylvania.— Ex.

Columbia Theological Seminary ex-
pelled one of its Professors, because of his belief in evolution.— Ex.

Jessie B. Carter was awarded the Namee Scholarship at Princeton. This scholarship amounts to $1,800.— Ex.

"Stop that!" roared the exchange editor as the sporting editor struck into the first bars of "I’m saving it all for Mary." "What’s the matter?" mildly asked the editor. "Why, when you sing, your voice sounds my paps," was the explanation.

Official report shows that the invest-
ed funds of Harvard College amount to $7,121,54.

He writes best who stealeth best, ideas great and small; — Ex.

For the great soul who wrote them first From Nature stole them all.— Ex.

A patriotic student is never a chronic kicker. Never attend an institution that you cannot heartily endorse.— Ex.

One third of the students in Europe die prematurely from the effects of bad habits acquired at college; one-third die prematurely from the effects of close confinement at their studies, and the other third govern Europe.— Ex.
Dr. James Black, President
S. U. I., 1867-70.

T. S. PARVIN.

The catalogue of the S. U. I. of 1867-68 reveals the name, for the first time, of Prof. A. N. Currier, succeeding Rev. Dr. S. M. Albert in the chair of Latin and Greek languages and literature.

The succeeding catalogue of 1867-8 displays at the head of the Faculty (there was but one then), the name of Rev. James Black, D.D., President and Professor of History.

The Faculty as it was at that time consisted, consisted of eight professors and six assistants and tutors. Of the fourteen, Prof. Rush Emery, an alumnus of the University, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and President Black, alone are deceased, while Prof. Currier, alone remains connected with the University, being the Dean of the Academic Faculty and Professor of the Latin Language and Literature. The catalogue shows an enrollment that year of well over a hundred and sixty students, one-half of whom were in the "Preparatory Department." In addition to the Law, M.D., Medical, (or new school), Dental, no Pharmaceutical or other departments, than the old time Academic.

Dr. Black in his opening of the scholastic year, succeeded Prof. Leonard, who had been the acting President since the resignation of Rev. Dr. S. M. Albert. In an address to the students, one of his first acts, he directed them to the "Preparatory Department." In publishing the law, no M.D., Medical, (or new school), Dental, no Pharmaceutical or other departments, than the old time Academic.

The papers, (Iowa City excepted), of the 24th and later dates, have made known to the public the death of Dr. Black, which occurred at Wooster, Ohio, the 23rd inst. For fifteen years Dr. Black had ably filled the chair of Greek and Latin languages, in the young and growing University of Wooster.

As many of our people will remember, still, personally, his influence, his kindness and delight to be of interest to the Faculty and students of the University, over which for three years he presided.

I, as one of his old associates and intimate friends, may be pardoned for presenting the readers of the Vidette-Reporter a brief resume of his life and labors, which we largely collateral from the Wooster Republican—except as it relates to Iowa.

Rev. James Black was twice honored, receiving the degree of D. D., in 1866, from Princeton College, (now University), and L. L. D. from some other institution in 1883. He was a native of Pennsylvania and born in Westmoreland county, April 27, 1833. While he had not reached the Scripture age of three-score and ten, he had in the sixty-five years of his active life been the means of leading many a young man up the hill of a higher education and into the domain of the University from Washington College, Penn., and studied theology in the Western Theological Seminary at Alleghany, Penn., licensed to preach by the presbytery of Pennsylvania, he at once entered upon his work. He was truly laboriously his whole life, the following year was ordained to the gospel ministry. In this holy calling he continued to lead the people of Connellsville, Penn., where he was elected to the chair of Greek in his alma mater. There he spent the next thirty years and during this period he was also much of the time vice-president of his old college. During all these years he served in churches acceptably at points near by.

It was while serving as vice-president of Washington College that the trustees (now Regents) of our University called him to preside over this institution, in which position he remained and acted as Professor of History till the close of the year 1879, when he returned to Pennsylvania. He had, before resigning his post here, accepted the presidency of the "Pennsylvania College," at Pittsburgh, where he remained till 1875. In the fall of 1890, I visited that institution and spent a day with him. I was right with him and then understand why the Doctor sought so pleasant a retreat from the cares and annoyances of a State Institution, too long, involved in the petty fooleries and pettifogging faction. That year, 1875, he removed to Wooster, Ohio, and entered upon his labors in Greek, which he continued till death released him from all earthly labours. For many years, he was here, too, vice-president.

But it is as a Christian minister, President of the S. U. I., and a colleague, 1867-70, that I would now speak of him.

The Doctor was an easy, fluent speaker or talker, never using the MS., or even notes. In these reports he much reminded me of my old professor, Prof. W. W. Mayo, famous as the author of the "McGuffey Readers," of the Eclectic Series, even to the inclusion of the "Rifle." In 1868, in general, he shared with his predecessor, as well as to his contemporaries, the results of the public schools, of the Teaneck, Italy. Dr. S. had been preceded by Rev. Dr. Dillas Totten since the reorganization of the University in 1849.

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These are the two literary societies, either ball being less than half the size of our halls, and not nearly as well fitted up, one hall having a piano, and neither hall being carpeted. Yet these matters have not prevented good work from being done in them, as is shown by the rank which Beloit orators usually hold in the inter-state contests. Most of their sessions are with closed doors, and the public not being permitted to enjoy the weekly lunch of literary morsels, as offered by our "open program." A combination of the two societies for joint meetings, maintaining a reading room, establishing lecture course, etc., is called the "Archean Union." This union also chooses the eight men who enter the home oratorical contest, only seniors being allowed to enter. The "Junior Ex." which large classes have long ago rendered impracticable here, still holds sway there. Yet if such comments as "tedious," "poorest thing of the whole year," which were heard applied to it, are the true criterion, it cannot be long lived there either; although the students seem to depend on it and similar affairs to drill the men for the final struggle in the "home contest" in the senior year. No doubt the plan of excluding the lower classes from the oratorical boards would increase the merit. Knowing then that they have but one chance, and perhaps therefore regarding it as a higher honor, their efforts are more vigorous.

But again, by our system, may not failure correct faults and stimulate the more? And on the other hand, too, we know how often, aspirant is discouraged up before making doubtless he bisa believe the two play the third. Though it is hard established custom, another plan would not only be stronger in the it not worth at least a change for the better.

Beloit is not a co and there are, of co who can see nothing plan. There are a see wherein ed as value, especially in women, and moo men, and it was on one of me once might have exercised. As an one this student expect and therewith, in each time to do this did for this was to be a Sophomore a Junior, and nowhere ready for the Seni do cling to his his schoolmates amused.

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know how often, after trying once, the attempt is discouraged, and thus gives up before making what would undoubtedly be his most mature effort. I believe the two plans worth thought. Though it is hard to change a once established custom, yet if it seems to those who would make our University stronger in the field of oratory, is it not worth at least the trial of making a change for the better?

Beloit is not a coeducational college, and there are of course, many students who can see nothing good in any other plan. There are also those who can see wherein co-education may be of value, especially in making stronger women; and more manly and cultured men, and it was one of those who told me of one instance where co-education might have exercised a refining influence. As an unenlightened freshman, this student experimented on his hands and therewith, in lieu of hair oil, did each time on entering a recitation room, smooth his disheveled locks. Nor did he forsake his habit when he grew to be a sophomore, nor even when a junior, and now, though his head is ready for the Seniors' silk tie, he still does cling to his old manner, whereat his schoolmates are often much amused.

W. T. CHANTLAND.

The Colleges of Nebraska have established an inter-collegiate debating day.

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What's become of the Declaratory Cont.?: Many good declaimers are eager for the fray. Are we to let this interesting feature of the year's work be forgotten and discontinued?

There are a few Y. M. C. A. handbooks remaining undistributed at the office, and new students who desire one should make application to either of the following named committeemen: J. E. Conner, F. G. Pierce, R. M. Cannon.

Any "gags" on members of any of the departments, occurring since Feb. 7, 1890, that are dropped in the Vidette box, will be thankfully received by the "funny" editor of the "Hawkeye." When practicable give the date of occurrence.

Pro. Currier will conduct the Y. M. C. A. Gospel Meeting to be held to-morrow Sunday, Jan. 18, at 4 r.m., in the Christian Church. The topic will be "Personal Work," with Acts 9-11 as the key text. All young men of the University and city are invited.

"The Decline of Rural New England" is the title of an interesting article in the January number of the Popular Science Monthly, by Prof. Currier. We are sorry that space forbids us printing it in full. It has been condensed much of the time, and has been the subject of much comment and interest. All should read it with care.

What do the S. U. L. authorities mean by compelling Prof. Loso to teach a class of thirty-five "in a goods-box?" The room cannot be ventilated except by opening the door, when a sensation is experienced similar to that which would if one were pitched from a Dutch oven into a snow-drift. A transom should be made above the door.

Lieutenant Read, the Professor of Military Science, of the S. U. L., has recently been awarded the prize medal offered by the Military Service Institution for the best essay on "A Practical Scheme for Training the Regular Army in Field Duties of War." The essay appears as the leading article in the January number of the Journal of the Military Service Institution.

The Engineering Society of the University has published a second number of the Transact, which contains several very valuable papers. This number of the Transact constitutes a journal of one hundred pages, besides photographs of the two new buildings, and the plans of the same. The papers include three different articles on Cements, also papers on Preservation of Timber, a Simple Method of Determining Latitude, and Parking Brick and Brick Pavements. These are all of high order of merit, and show that the work done in the department is of the very best. The Journal is handsomely printed on good paper and reflects well upon the publishers.

The special issue of the Penn Chronicle, for December, is one of which any college should be proud. It is an edition, containing in full, the contents held at the dedication of a new building, a prize, on account of which we extend hearty congratulations. The dedicatory exercises were held at the home of President and Mrs. Schaeffer on December 25, which included addresses from many of the prominent educators of the State. Pres. Schaeffer delivered an address on the important question, "Why promote higher education," of which the issue contains a lengthy abstract. Among other things said by Dr. Schaeffer was the following: "Leaving out of consideration the material benefits conferred on man by the higher education, there is yet a higher, a nobler object for which we must strive, and for the attainment of which, we are bound to put forth all our best efforts, and to use all of the means which the Creator has placed within our reach—the development of the perfect man." Other addresses were delivered by J. E. Rhoades, President of Bryn Mawr College, F. H. Loring, Regent, SW. Am. and Judge Woold.

Prof. Anderson delivered the first lecture of his course at the Unitarian Church, last Monday evening. Being the first, it was necessarily largely introductory. The speaker began by defining briefly the growing tendency toward what the French call solidarity. The movement seems to many the one purpose that may be traced through history. Its continuation promises to produce beautiful things for the future; in brief, the survival of the better elements of man, and the elimination of the worse. Our danger to-day lies in co-operating blindly, fanatically, superstitiously; the co-operation must be intelligent, and will consequently be of incalculable value. Before taking up Voltair the speaker found it necessary to review the ages which gave him birth. It was the most glorious age of French literature and philosophy, one of the most memorable ages in the history of world literature. The great thinkers in the different branches of knowledge were characterized more or less briefly; after which the speaker passed to a brief consideration of the poesy before the French Revolution and the causes in general which made that great conflict inevitable. The lecture was interesting, concise and remarkably strong. It promises a most profitable and enjoyable course.

Sartor Resartus.

Mr. Editor: In your issue of Dec. 19th, I noticed an article entitled, "Some Holiday Faces," and when I came to the last subject, which treated of "Her Excellency, the Landlady," I just knew it was one of my boys who wrote it. My efforts to add something to this pleasure of the holiday season have been so much appreciated that I venture to offer you a few useful suggestions in regard to the selection of a boarding house. In order to enjoy that "personal liberty" and freedom from restraint so much desired by some young men, select a place kept by a widow of rather feeble physical condition and no children. Even a widow with well developed muscles and vigorous constitution might be a serious drawback to the full enjoyment of the privileges of a grown-up son is not to be thought of.

After getting your board and room arranged as you desire, impress on your landlady's mind that you are not one of the ordinary sort of every-day young men, that you have not been tied to your master's apron string. Call your father the Governor and your mother the Old Lady. This will satisfy your landlady that you have been well brought up.

By this time you will have won her respect and by carrying out a few details you will soon win her admiration.

I will merely mention a few and your fertile brain will suggest others. If there is a gate in front be sure and leave it open, no matter how you find it. Somebody might, of course, run against it in the dark, but that's their lookout. When you pass through any of the doors, slam them after you, some doors can be shut in this way if you only slam them hard enough.

If you should close the gate or shut the door quietly you might be suspected of having an old fogey mother who taught you such antiquated ideas.

Be perfectly free to turn your room into a gymnasium whenever you feel like it, young men must have exercise they know. Your landlady may not like the change, but if you have attended to my suggestions about your selection of a boarding house, you need not fear.

Leave your slippers and dirty linen scattered about the room, split your kindling on the carpet, drive nails in the walls, or any other little innocent mischief you may be prone to do. Of course, no matter how you found it, the walls, or any other little innocent pastime, and it will be wonderful how your board and room will be thought of.

Aft er reading your "charming," and in my opinion rather strenuous, letter to your widow the other day, I am, Yours sincerely,

WITW MCGINTY.

The Coming Contest.

The original oratorical contestants, handed printed copies of their orations to President Kelley, of the Association, on Thursday. The following are the names of those who entered: J. J. Crosley, '91; E. E. Conner, '91; C. A. Nateeman, '91; Frank Nelson, '92; W. C. Chadland, '92; R. L. Liston, '91; T. A. Stowe, '92; Ward Bancifer, '93; and L. L. Elliott, '93. A copy of each oration was immediately sent to the judges, W. M. Beardshear, President of the Academic Association.
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