"Civil Government in the United States."

This is the title of a little book of two hundred and fifty pages by that most enjoyable of writers, John Fiske. Known to us at present more through his earlier writings, Mr. Fiske promises to become more popular by far through this last book, which will work a revolution in civil government as taught in our public schools. That a revolution of some kind is sorely needed in this branch, cannot be denied by anyone who is acquainted with the study of the constitution as pursued in our common schools. It is a fact, much as we dislike to admit it, that the study of civil government has become a dry, uninteresting task, instead of a valuable and enjoyable study for a knowledge of good citizenship, and without an empty sound. One of the most important and fruitful of studies has thus lapsed into the most wearisome.

To remove some of the odium which now clings to the study of civil government, and bow the breath of life into a corpus, Mr. Fiske has given to the pupil and general reader of America a masterly work upon the origin and development of our constitution. With this addition to the literature of the subject, a new interest will be revived. The faults of former writers upon the subject, Mr. Fiske has taken special precaution to escape in the preparation of his little book. That to learn the duties of town, city and county officers has nothing to do with the grand and noble subject of government, our author rightly takes exception to, and declares those local affairs to be of as much importance to civil government as the seemingly insignificant experiments are to our knowledge of terrestrial gravitation. Who can deny this? The young student is too often taken to the heights of his subject without a sufficient acquaintance with the details, and his pyramid is left standing upon its apex. Mr. Fiske aims to so present the subject as to leave a well grounded impres- sion of the development and actual growth of the township and county, under the student's mind, and thus pave the way for a better appreciation and more accurate knowledge of the constitution as a whole. It is more convenient training gained through contact with local government that enables the people to conduct, through their representatives, the state and nation. Questions of civil government are often as forcibly illustrated in a city council or county board of supervisors as in the national house of representatives.

With such a comprehensive view, Mr. Fiske, in determining the order of exposition, has placed local government first, and begun with the township as the simplest unit. In this way the student first comes to understand what is near and simple, before reaching what is remote and complex. Next in order is the county. The city is treated not as a large, over-grown town, but as much more complex in organization since, historically, many cities have been, or still are, equivalent to counties; and the development of the county must be studied before we can understand that of the city. The general governments are next treated. The various colonial governments are considered, and some features of their metamorphosis into our modern state are described. Our attention is called to the most original and striking feature of the development of civil government upon American soil,—the writing situation, with the accompanying power of the courts in certain cases to annul the acts of the legislature. Lastly, we come to the completed structure of the Federal Union; and by the time we have examined so many points in the general theory of American government, our Federal Constitution is more easily understood, than it could possibly be by taking it up without previous preparation. Under "a fever, talk about politics," are discussed, federal taxation, excise, tariff, origin of political parties, civil service reform, the Australian ballot system, and so forth.

In several appendices are given a number of documents and much miscellaneous information.

As a book on the government of the United States, for the common school and the general reader, too much cannot be said in its praise. Mr. Fiske's language, for brevity of expression and arrangement, is unsurpassed; he is the master of a simple style of his own and has an easy Anglo-Saxon way of putting things, which leads you on with an absorbing interest. Mr. Fiske has been a lecturer on history for many years, and in writing this book has imagined a class of students before him. Consequently, with him brevity is golden, and his constant aim was to make the book a little one. Mr. Fiske has written the best book of its kind in existence; and it will immediately take its place in the common schools and libraries of the country.

To The Medical Department.

Gentlemen,—Some time ago there was a little controversy between the editors of the Medical and Collegiate departments. Among other things discussed was the fact of the literary societies being disturbed by a few of the professional students. It was hoped that the editor of the Medical department had answered the article of November 1st, which in some respects was open to criticism, the trouble would cease, by having the cause removed.

We are very sorry indeed to be called upon to say thus much in the subject; but the matter seems to demand a little attention. It is hardly necessary to say more than has been said. The article to which you took exception was probably objectionable, but it contained a simple request. We wish to say that request that you do not have between 9 and 10 o'clock on Friday and Saturday evenings. It is no doubt due in a measure to thoughtlessness since it was perfectly natural to renovate the lungs after coming out of the dissecting room. Hot if you could be in the society holds some time when yells are going on by your class-mates, and could see how much it disturbs the audience and the speaker, we are sure you could see the justice of this simple request, and seeing it would not hesitate to comply.

Gentlemen of the Medical department there is no desire on the part of the Collegiate department to create ill-will. We simply ask you to allow us to pursue our studies unimpaired by unnecessary disturbing, and believe that we appear to fellow students of the B. U. I extend to you the right hand of good fellowship, and sincerely hope that this will be the last reference necessary to this subject.

The Contest.

The size and epochness of the crowd which gathered at the bulletin board as soon as the names and orations of the successful contestants were listed, showed plainly that the interest in the contest is all that could be desired. The facts and figures in connection with the event, however, give rise to an inquiry. Why were there not more than nine orations entered? and why were there no ladies' "to in it." Last year there were fourteen entries, and one of the successful six was a lady. The decrease in both of these respects is due—what? It is due to lack of enterprise. We do not believe there is any lack of self-confidence among the writers and speakers of the University. There are undoubtedly many men, and women, too, who would not submit to the idea that their chances, had they entered, would not have been equal to the best. More enterprise, more hard and long work, is what is needed to raise the number of contestants. Such an increase, of course, is desirable only for the additional enthusiasm it will create, and for the improvement it will naturally and inevitably bring about in the oratorical ability and standing of the University.

In speaking of such an improvement the Vinmar does not forget that the state University stands at the top (with reference to Iowa colleges) in oratory as well as in all other lines of ability. Nor do we wish to convey the idea that we are not always the best, but we con- stitute the very best we have; for we believe this year's quota is fully as strong as last year's, and feel that any one of them, whoever may win the opportunity, would stand an excellent chance of winning first honors at the State University.

The Vinmar only wishes to stir up the students to more enterprise. More contestants is what we want, for the good of the University and that of the individual.

The Big Six.

"Unity from Diversity," by W. T. Chastain, class '97; "Ethics in Politics," by H. L. Wick, class '97; "The Man- let," by F. A. Stowe, class '92; "A Third Revolution," by J. J. Crossley, class '97; "Unity, the Dominant Idea," by Carl A. Stulman, class '91; "Social Evolution," by Frank Nelson, class '91. The above are the six orations marked highest on the thought and composition. The contest on delivery between these six will be held at the Opera House next Thursday evening, the 29th inst. It may not be uninteresting to notice the representation of the several Literary Societies. There are three Zetagathanias, two Irvingi and one Ablone. Of the unsuccessful three who entered orations, two were Zetagathanias and the other an Irvingian. Neither of the ladies' societies was represented.

Yes, friend Craft, S. U. I. has "seen a foot-ball before," but has never been obliged to refuse a challenge in order to keep in sight of it.
The Decline of Rural New England

By Prof. Amos N. Comrie

In every period of American history the influence of New England has been marked by a generosity of spirit and a devotion to the welfare of mankind, and in no other part of the country is this more strikingly true than in the New England states. The New Englander is a man of action, a man of principle, and a man of character. He is a man who believes in the power of ideas, and he is a man who is not afraid to use that power to change the world for the better.

The New Englander is also a man of faith, and he believes that the future is ours to shape. He believes that we can make the world a better place, and he is willing to work hard to make that happen. The New Englander is a man of integrity, and he is not afraid to stand up for what is right, even if it means going against the tide.

The New Englander is a man of wisdom, and he knows that the best way to solve a problem is to think about it carefully and to plan ahead. He knows that the future is uncertain, but he is not afraid to take risks and to try new things. The New Englander is a man of courage, and he is not afraid to face challenges and to stand up for what he believes in.

The New Englander is a man of compassion, and he knows that we are all in this together. He knows that we must help each other and support each other, and he is willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that everyone has a fair chance in life.

The New Englander is a man of hope, and he knows that the best things in life do not just happen; they are built. He knows that the future is not determined, and he is willing to work hard to create the future that he wants to see. The New Englander is a man of dreams, and he believes that anything is possible if we are willing to work hard and to believe in ourselves.

The New Englander is a man of tradition, and he knows that the past is an important guide for the future. He knows that we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and he is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that those mistakes are not repeated.

The New Englander is a man of the future, and he knows that we must be willing to adapt to change and to be open to new ideas. He knows that the future is not determined, and he is willing to work hard to create the future that he wants to see. The New Englander is a man of possibility, and he believes that anything is possible if we are willing to work hard and to believe in ourselves.

The New Englander is a man of the past, and he knows that the future is not determined, and he is willing to work hard to create the future that he wants to see. The New Englander is a man of the present, and he knows that the future is not determined, and he is willing to work hard to create the future that he wants to see. The New Englander is a man of the future, and he knows that the future is not determined, and he is willing to work hard to create the future that he wants to see. The New Englander is a man of the past, present, and future, and he knows that the future is not determined, and he is willing to work hard to create the future that he wants to see.
far less general for whom no college attendance to the high schools, to the advantage of education.
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Medical Department.

M. J. KENNEWICK, W. S. BURBETT, JR.,
J. L. TREVINO.

L. W. Q. Sandusky.

Daly has pneumonia.

W. F. Slatery is making a special study of measles this week.

Rev. Barrett was a welcome caller during the luncheon Thursday.

Miller and Schools are quarantined at the request of Jefferson and Gilbert streets.

Prof. McClain is delivering a course of lectures on Medical Jurisprudence to the Senior class. His lectures are entertaining and instructive and the boys are more than pleased with them.

Prof. Farrarow is to begin his course of lectures on the diseases of children soon. It goes without saying that the members of the Senior class will be well pleased to once more have the privileges of listening to the worthy Prof.

Dr. Hill, Sup' of the Insane Hospital of Independence, is with us this week, delivering a course of lectures on insanity. This is the Dr's first appearance before us, but if he is as well pleased as we, it will not be his last one.

Dr. Barger's accepting the principalship of the Silicon schools, in this county, and will take charge next week. We shall miss our Junior Editor, From his accustomed perch. He has gone among the Beobeh...

Gambling in the Medical building has become alarmingly prevalent of late. We hope that President Schaefer may be as successful in suppressing this growing evil as he was in prohibiting the Dents from flooding the amphitheatre with tobacco juice.

Prof. Lutting gave a note of warning Thursday morning to those who intend to present themselves for final examination in Anatomy. The examination will be more difficult than it was last year, and it behoves all who are under consideration to prepare in a good class record to brace up.

The Dental Department has been so fortunate as to secure Prof. Black, M. D., B.D.S., to fill the chair of pathology in their department. The Prof. comes here with a splendid reputation as an able pathologist, and we congratulate the Dents most heartily on their good fortune.

Law Department.

J. R. CROSBY and J. K. CARPENTER, Editors.

Mr. Thompson has been appointed Clerk of Senior Moot Court.

R. W. Barger, who took a part course in the Law department, S. U. I., 1873, and who has been a successful insurance attorney in Chicago, has located in Chicago.

Outline of Histological Technology.

F. S. ART, Ph. B, Instructor in Biology, S. U. I.

The beginner in Histology almost invariably finds himself lost among the multitude of "good methods" placed before the student by the various writers of histological literature.

The methods of research and methods are useful only in the study of particular tissues and valuable chiefly to the histologist who is far enough advanced to have a special line of work. The college course is too short to admit of the experimental determination of those methods which may be used most generally, hence the necessity of a book which shall, as the author states in the preface, "serve as a guide to the student, presenting briefly a very few fundamental methods..." and such as can be relied upon.

"After each subject occurs ample space for Remarks. The student should record in this space every fact or experience in Histological Technique which may be new to him. The clearness of language, convergence of arrangement and absence of superfluous expression add greatly to its value as a laboratory hand book.

Learn Wisdom by Experience.

"The most interesting experiences of a college life is to find out something in your senior year that ought to have been learned four years before, and to realize then how greatly you have been handicapped by the want of a little useful knowledge. If the average freshman thinks he knows all about how to use the library let him try without any assistance to find all it contains upon any given subject. He may by so doing anticipate the experience of those who are hunting for "secrets and lies," and be recompensed by the discovery of the first book ever written."

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University, Academy, Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Text Books at Lee & Ries',

THE LARGEST STOCK AND LOWEST PRICES. PIONEER BOOKSTORE, 117 WASHINGTON STREET.
A paper read before the National Educational Association at St. Paul, stated that out of 133 representative colleges, 23 have no fraternities, 35 report as unfavorable to them, while 28 favor them.—Ex.

NOTICE.

The time for handing in productions for the "Haywoodes Contest" is extended until Feb. 1st.

GEO. W. STYLES.

The following magazines have been added to the University list for 1891: American Magazine of Archaeology, Ark.

Educational Review.

Electrician.

Engineer Company.

Engineering.

International Journal of Ethics.

Jahrbucher of the National Oekonomie.

Quarterly Magazine of Economics.

Journal of Psychology.

Modern Language Notes.

Monograph.

Philosophical Magazine.

Country Gentlemen.

Horace New Yorker.

Review of Reviews.

Zeitschrift Historische.

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FANCY BALL.

Next Saturday evening, January 31st, Mrs. Davis will give a children's carnival at the Hobeinsholt hall. The entire Juvenile class will appear in fancy costumes, executing fancy dances and figures from the German. Members of the dancing school and spectators allowed to dance after ten o'clock. Admission 50 cents.

SPOLI.

It costs twenty thousand dollars a year to run the Lick Observatory.—Ex.

At the suggestion of committees from the various agricultural associations the course of study heretofore permitted by the trustees and faculty of the Agricultural College has been remodelled with the intention of giving the course a more purely economic character. The course has been simplified and the work in agriculture extended. This is of advantage to both the Agricultural College and to the S. T. I., as many students now attending Ames in the hope of receiving a collegiate education will come here, and those students who wish to work in agriculture and at the same time, will find what they seek, a special school.

The University of Michigan in forty-six years has graduated ten thousand students.

The University of Wisconsin is now enjoying a series of free Saturday morning lectures. The character of the lectures will be indicated by a few titles, "American Citizenship," "English Dramatic Literature Contemporaneous with Shakespeare," "The Geologic Growth of Wisconsin."

President Andrews, of Brown University, has introduced a new scheme for marking the senior class in Psychology. The class is to choose five men who will mark every recitation during the term. This marking will then be averaged, and the averages obtained will be the marks of the class for the term.—Ex.

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