IN SCHOOL-DAYS.

BY J. G. WHITTIER.

Still sits the school-house by the road, a ragged beggar running; Around it still the sumachs grow, the blackberry vines are running.

Within, the master’s desk is seen, deep-scarred by raps official, The warping floor, the battered soats, the jack-knife’s carved initial.

The charcoal fresco on its wall; the door’s worn sill, betraying. The feet that, creeping slow to school, went storming out to playing!

Long years ago a winter’s sun shone over it at setting, Lit up its western window panes and low eaves icy fretting.

It touched the golden, tangle curled, and brown eyes full of grieving, Of one who still her steps delayed when all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy her childish favor singled; His cap pulled low upon a face where pride and shame were mingled.

As restlessly her tiny hands the blue-checked apron fingered. He saw her lift her eyes; he felt the soft hand’s light caressing, And heard the trembling of her voice, as if a fault confessing: “I’m sorry that I spelt the word, I hate to go above you, Because—the brown eyes lower fell—‘because, you see, I love you!”

Still memory to a grey-haired man, that sweet child-face is showing—

Dear girl! the grasses on her grave have forty years been growing. He lives to learn, in life’s hard school, how few who pass above him

Lament their triumph and his loss, like her, because they love him.

COMMUNICATIONS.

TRUE REFORMERS.

BY A. N. FELLOWS.

With thoughtful reverence, we glance back upon the critical and organic epochs of history. In scrutinizing their institutions, social and civil; in pondering over mouldy and archaic records, and deciphering the various steps of man’s advancement,—as evinced in art, religion and science,—there is constantly presented to our view, the spectacle of two antagonistic tendencies of thought, vying with each other for supremacy.

The one, the Radical, would convert the gentle stream of human progress into a rushing torrent—overwhelm-
who continue to be the main essence, the solid substance of all true progress.

Co-extensive and coeval with the other fruits of the general dissemination of knowledge wrought by the printing press, is a class of critical thinkers, who with truth as their guiding star have begun to correct every department of literature and life. The independent voter, the non-partisan journalist, the candid and impartial historian, the intelligent and conscientious religious thinker, are marshalled under its banner. They are the valorous opponents of every infringement of individual liberty and the consistent defenders of every just reform. They neither float with the radical in the gorgeous realm of theory and imagination; nor dwell with the conservative amid his musty parchments. Neither forgetting the past, nor ignoring the future, are they live and move in the practical ever-active present; they are industrious and fearless seekers for truth, and although their numbers are small, it is to them in times of political crisis we look for succor since they are the only class which is entirely open to reason and logic.

In the future let the sons of men cherish the memory of these true reformers (for they bear the brunt of the conflict) and finally write their names in golden characters upon the crystal walls of the palace of fame.

ZETAGATHIAN HALL.

THE DISPASSIONATE VIEW.

By J. E. McIntyre.

Partial views are seldom satisfactory. Truths must be compared in order to perceive their all-pervading harmony. Is truth sought after and universal law evoked? Is a supreme discovery to be tested and prosecuted?—this enlarged range of vision must be obtained and this comparison instituted.

The curtain of mysterious darkness will be uplifted by this agency, and a way laid open for fresh and bolder achievement. This is that an Archimedes, a Keplar and a Gallico have pushed forward the boundaries of science, and given to the world names that will brighten with the erosion and attrition of years.

Whoever would attain lasting distinction in life must build on this view as a basis. It is permitted to the philosopher—undisturbed by jarring contact with the world—to pursue his studies in seclusion, and removed from its turmoil and dust, to survey the struggle going on around him. But he who guides a battling host must also be removed from the band to band conflict, so that he may gain a knowledge of the movements of the whole. If it is sought to arrive at a decision with regard to passing events, there is but one point where they may be justly viewed. It is the point where the light of all ages is concentrated upon the question. If the popular orator would arouse his audience to a fitting appreciation of principles at stake, he will present to them a view based on unfailing truth. If each individual sovereign of our republic would be guided to intelligent conclusions, he must rise above the petty prejudice and passion of the hour. He is the patriot who, through good and evil report, adheres steadfastly to the highest interests of his country, who is not blinded by the fogs of ignorance which dim the sight of others, but ascending aloft surveys the wide expanse from regions of unobscured light. From this standpoint there is no distortion through imperfect media of vision. It is a calm, clear retrospect of the life of our fathers, their successes and their failures. It is the experience of the departed, woven into a landscape of thrilling interest; a vision of the workings of eternal principles which know no change view where the arm of Jehovah is beheld glorified with power. Stretching into the future it is a contemplation revealing a vista of untold progress and power, or of swift coming ruin. In order to obtain this commanding position, it is not necessary to keep aloof from society, to put on the philosopher's robe and be shut up in his closet. Men of action may also be men of intense thought. It was when planted on this lofty position that William of Orange was able to make such a valiant stand for the falling liberties of his country. He saw her imperilled state, saw the doom which enshrouded her and hesitated not in his course. The position which he took in the existing crisis embalmed his name not merely in the cold, senseless marble, but in the living, breathing, palpitating heart of the nation which gave him birth.

Surely the present age, so pregnant with results, is one in which, above all others, this point of view desirable. The most glorious and the greatest events of the age are transpiring in this country—stamping indelible impressions upon the world's progress,—and God's providence seems to be developing designs of still greater import. This all feel, it is upon every tongue. If this standpoint is ever needed, it is when a country is hurled into the midst of a political canvass; when political opinions are clashing, and men, letting reason go, only look at party aggrandizement. Taking no warning from the past, scarcely looking at the future, they form opinions which lack the one vital element that rightly elevates self and ennobles party. They forget that the individual is an exponent part of the nation's life; and if the individual form his opinions from existing truths, the nation will never tremble at corruption's hand, nor her crown ever be the object of a vain ambition, or lie crushed and broken under a tyrant's power. Can any one prove recreant to his responsibilities when he beholds the momentous issues involved? Then let us form our opinions from a dispassionate point of view, and from our actions as individual citizens but more deeply impress him, who on March fourth will take the first place in the nation of nations, that petty jealousy, strife or clashing of interests, will not rend in pieces the country whose rulers weigh the great struggles and conflicts of a nation's life in the scale of wisdom and calmness—whose golden weights are reason, justice, truth.

IRVING EXHIBITION.
A SCIENTIFIC VIEW OF THE LAW CLASS OF '77.

Every institution and aggregation of individuals in the world, have their proximates and necessary influence upon the general and social organization of the time and place wherein they existed. Society, as a whole, is a complete and systematic structure of itself; but by its flexibility and the ease with which all its particles move, tending to show that these particles are individual entities; and when separated from the greater whole, have an existence peculiar to themselves. The Law Class is one of these entities, and when seen in its hive (the class room) exhibits some of the most peculiar phases of life, the light of the sun ever shone upon.

It must be remembered however that these parts or elements of the great social organism are not compact and a unit but may still be divided into individual parts or atoms. Thus the Law Class has its atoms, some of them very attenuated, some large and decidedly active.

The Law Class came into existence in September of 1876, in obedience to the great economical principle of Necessity; or more technically, the law of Supply and Demand. Each atom (member) was attracted to the law of social attraction, and combining the elements of the greatest social organism, intelligent aspirants after what?

Some, lead them to conservatism during the year or two, while some of them “do unto others as they would others should do to them,” a good many act as though the Universe was made especially for them. They seem not to realize that there are some in the class who love not tobacco, and expectorate the filth of their capacious reservoirs over the surrounding country. This seems to be the only fault of magnitude applicable to this class.

Thus are the peculiarities of this organism before the public. From them may be deduced the following formula, which will be a good definition of the Law Class of '77. It is a homogeneous body of individual entities, formed by the disintegration of families, according to the economic principle of Necessity; bound together by the law of social attraction, and combining the elements of every successful social organism, intelligent opinions upon Religion, Politics, Morals and Ethics.

M EPHTH OPEL S.

SCIENCE AT HARVARD.

As an indication of the present position of science at the oldest of our American Universities, we present extracts from a letter recently published under the caption, “The study of Nature favored by Harvard University.”

CAMBRIDGE, Feb. 22.—Unusual activity is manifested this year by the Faculty of Harvard University toward the promotion of natural science. The elective courses of study provided in all of the departments—physics, chemistry, natural history, anatomy, physiology, and botany—are constantly being elevated and broadened, and are pursued by an increasing number of students. The instruction in every one of these departments of the most practical character, few recitations being required and but little text book study, but much laboratory work, and incessant examination and experiment upon the objects studied, the college furnishing all necessary specimens and apparatus. Feeling that it can further its interests in no way better than by fostering a high standard of study in the grammar and high schools of its vicinity especially, the University during the past year or two has afforded an opportunity for teachers in the public schools to obtain special instruction during the Summer vacation, by opening normal schools from June to September, in chemistry, physics, geology, zoology and botany. These Summer schools are under the care of regular instructors, and
are taught in the laboratories of the University, and have all its facilities. That in chemistry has been in progress for three years; those in geology and botany for two years, while the coming season will see the beginning of a Summer class in zoology under the charge of Assistant Prof. Walter Faxon.

The most active and practical of all, probably, is Prof. Shaler's Summer school of geology, which last year was mainly conducted in the Cumberland Mountains. For the coming season a very attractive programme is planned.

Another direction in which the college fosters the study of science among the young people of Cambridge is by encouraging the Harvard Natural History Society. This society was founded in 1848 and gathered a considerable museum and library which have now been deposited at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the College Library. Its early records show many names which have since become prominent in science and literature. James Russell Lowell was one of the first curators of its ornithological collections and the veracious book of records solemnly declares that on one occasion he reported "that a bat (sic) and a green bittern," a thrush, a blackbird and an ox-bird had been presented to his department since the previous meeting.

This society is also sustaining this Winter a free course of six scientific lectures, delivered in the Saunders theatre in Memorial Hall, which is the new auditorium of the University. These lectures, although upon advanced themes, are intended to be as simple in their nature as possible, and are mainly attended by teachers and high-school pupils. When these are exhausted, still other sources of adding to one's culture in natural history remain to the diligent seeker after knowledge. It sometimes seems as though the very air of certain portions of Cambridge is redolent of science, and one breathes it in as he walks.

The same disposition to lift the higher education out of the old rut is manifested at Yale, and notably at Cornell, and the recently established John Hopkins University.

In all the world's great colleges on either side of the Atlantic, science teaching is coming more and more to the front. Why then should the State University of Iowa form an exception? Are our citizens more wedded to the past; or our young men and women less in the methods and results of modern progress?

He who would mould the higher education of this young state in accordance with any such theory is doomed to bitter disappointment.

We dare not much longer linger in the rear; and it will be a happy day for our noble institution when it can be written of us as of Harvard—"the study of Nature is favored by the University!"

During his brief stay in our city, Dr. Fowler, by his flattering opinions, gained converts to phrenology. One of the bright and shining lights of the Law Class, who was among the faithless and would not attend even the free lecture given by the great phrenologist, was afterwards induced by his classmates to have his head examined. With characteristic frankness he told the Professor that he was a member of the Law Class of the Iowa State University; and, having learned that he will one day be a noted criminal lawyer, he has become an ardent supporter of "the first of sciences"—"Of course," says he, "there's truth in phrenology. What better proof can be adduced in the support of any science? Why think of it! Daniel Webster's head grew over three inches just while he was writing his dictionary!"

THE MEDICAL COMMENCEMENT.

With regret we begin this article with an apology for the brevity of the account of the annual Medical Commencement. G. W. Wilson, the Reporter editor from the medical class, having expressed a desire to "write up" the exercises, was allowed to do so. He departed from the city without doing as expected. This direlict duty of Mr. Wilson left us without an account of the exercises, and accounts for the hasty remarks herewith presented. If Mr. Wilson displays as much negligence in dealing doses to his future patients as he has shown in this instance to us, we predict that his success will lower the price of coffins (bring them down to wholesale rates).

The Medical Commencement, however, was not a failure—in reality it was unusually fine. Mr. McLeod delivered the valedictory. Mr. McLeod is an old-time Academic and we respectfully suggest that his success in this department is a notable instance of the usual superiority of classical students over others. A deep thinker, Mr. McLeod presented a production unrivaled in interest, to which he brought a rich voice and a forcible delivery. Mr. McLeod demonstrated clearly that it was possible to unite literary and medical efficiency and not produce an incongruous mass, either. "Ed." has many friends who testify to his elements of success and nobility of character. Dr. Thacher conferred diplomas upon thirteen graduates, all honorable representatives of the department.

The committee on awarding the prizes made an innovation, taking as their watchword "hard-times, retrenchment, &c," they awarded compliments, praise and commendations instead of the prizes themselves.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Perry delivered the address for the Faculty. It was a scholarly production, but a trifling dry to the audience.

The select and superior received special invitations to Prof. Gustavus Hinrichs' stereopticon and panoramic reception. It was a rare opportunity and could but create a craving for more knowledge.

"Of that stupendous whole
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul."
IRVING EXHIBITION.

On Friday evening, March 2d, occurred the sixth annual exhibition of Irving Institute in the chapel of the University. Our limited space forbids a synoptical notice of each production; and we are compelled to be content with such a general notice of the programme as the space allotted will permit, together with special mention of such as are deserving of it. One great improvement especially noticeable at this exhibition was the lack of “gush” that too often characterizes an entertainment of this nature. The exercises were interspersed with excellent music, the instrumental parts being supplied by the Iowa City Band, while Mrs. Dr. Pryce and Miss Ada Glenn furnished the vocal gems of the evening. Mr. E. J. McIntyre delivered the opening oration on the subject of “The Dispassionate View.” Mr. McIntyre’s oration will be found in part in another column of this paper, and hence we forbear any comments.

A declamation entitled “The Flood of Years,” by Mr. F. T. Lyon was the next exercise. His voice was too weak to fill the chapel; his gestures, however, were very fine and materially atoned for the defects.

"Whence and Whither” was the caption of the next performance, it being an oration by Mr. John N. Baldwin. He treated of the theories of life; of man’s anxiety concerning his whence and whither; of the influence of particular theories of life upon men’s actions; of the depravity in political life and the consequent reluctance of men of character to enter the political field; of the future reformation in the moral world and how it may be accomplished. We only reflect the unanimous sentiment of the audience, when we say that Mr. Baldwin’s oration was one of the most masterly oratorical efforts ever listened to in Iowa City.

The next literary performance was Mr. Campbell’s opening speech on the rather dry question for debate: “Should Railroads be subject to legislative control when no such power has been reserved in their charters?” He was followed by Mr. Evans on the negative, Mr. Berryhill on the affirmative and Mr. Seerley on the negative in the order mentioned. We will not attempt to enumerate the arguments adduced on either side; so far as we are able to judge, the merits of both sides were fully and ably presented. The argument of Mr. Campbell was forcible and logical, and the only criticism we could urge is that he anticipated the arguments of the negative; this may have been necessary to a certain extent but it seemed to us that he carried it a little too far. Mr. Evans opened with a good speech for the negative but unfortunately his delivery was not equal to his argument. By the time Mr. Evans spoke the atmosphere in the Chapel had become very impure and it required a great effort for any of the speakers to make themselves heard in all parts of the house. Mr. Jas. G. Berryhill closed the affirmative part of the debate in his usually able manner. With Mr. Berryhill’s argument we have no fault to find; it was logical, well arranged and demonstrated to the audience that as a lawyer Mr. Berryhill has a future before him. But we do think that Mr. B. could improve his style of delivery very much by cultivating more dignified gestures and dropping that air of condescension which so materially mars the otherwise pleasing effect of his speech. By far the ablest speech on the debate, both as to matter and manner of presentation, was made by Mr. John J. Seerley, who closed the debate. Mr. Seerley is certainly one of the finest debaters in Irving Institute and on this occasion he added fresh laurels to his already enviable reputation; and we were surprised that after Mr. Seerley’s eloquent and convincing argument, there could be found three judges. who, in deciding the question on the merits of the speeches themselves, would decide the question unanimously in the affirmative. But we regret to say that three such men were found, and their names are L. B. Patterson, J. E. Edwards, and H. M. Remley, whose decision when announced, instead of being received with the applause usual on such occasions, was greeted with an audible murmur of disapproval, indicating very clearly that the sympathy of a majority of the audience was with the negative.

A humorous recitation by Mr. Ray Billingsley, entitled “Love in a Balloon,” came next. Though old to some of the audience it was new to many, and so well rendered as to form a pleasing feature of the entertainment, despite the conversational manner required in its delivery. It gave the weary audience an opportunity to laugh of which they pretty generally availed themselves.

The valedictory was pronounced by Mr. John J. Hamilton whose subject was “The Range of Ordinary Social Change.” We could not hope to do Mr. Hamilton’s oration justice in a synopsis, and his modesty prevents us from publishing it in full. We cannot forbear to say that this oration gave evidence of that deep thought and philosophical study for which the author is already noted; and if we take into account the “acoustic horrors” of our chapel, the delivery would have done credit to men of greater oratorical pretensions than Mr. Hamilton.

The dignified bearing of the presiding officer, Mr. R. W. Byington, was in pleasing contrast to similar officers heretofore; it too often happens that all the society members who are capable of filling such a position are appointed for some literary exercise and in consequence the Society comes before the public with an incapable man in the most conspicuous place.

We congratulate the Irvings on the immense audience that thronged the chapel, and the success of their exhibition in every particular; and we beg leave to say for ourselves that the criticisms here offered are made in that spirit of candor and fairness with which alone we hope our acts may be judged, and while we have praised without stint where praise was due, we have not felt called upon to omit any criticisms which in our opinion seemed just.
UNIVERSITY REPORTER.

Iowa City, Iowa, March 15, 1877.

MANAGING EDITORS.
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ALBION N. FELLOWS, '78.
ASSISTANT EDITORS.
ARTHUR SPRINGER, Law Dep't. W. A. Pottle, '76.
OLIVER E. MYERS, '80.
H. A. HOLLISTER, '81.

OUR SOCIETIES AND THEIR MUSIC.

That the attractiveness of the society programmes is greatly enhanced by music cannot be denied. But do the "dear audience" know that three dollars have been paid for a single sweet "solo"? Certainly if the audience had known the price paid to some of the more aristocratic warblers they would not have applauded so loudly. But hard times are having their legitimate effect, and retrenchment in the music bill will materially lessen the future expenses of the societies. After fitting up elegant halls, frescoing the walls, buying comfortable chairs, erecting canopies, purchasing pictures, carpets, curtains and pianos, and paying all the reasonable expenses of such an organization, surely it were the veriest folly to add another straw to the camel's back.

CONCEIT vs. EGOTISM.

It has been said by a gentleman of experience and culture, that no class can subsist and fatten upon flattery as easily as students. Cringing adulation is to them a most acceptable diet. Compliments, at which scholars whose fame is world wide would blush, are received as suavely as though they were the just acknowledgment of superiority. But let one of these coxcombs be admonished of a flaw in his argument, a mistake of grammer, a rhetorical blunder, tautology, or affectation of voice and gesture; and straightway he flies into a passion; he considers himself insulted; he wages against his timid critic a warfare of invective and denunciation; he is sure it must be personal (for how otherwise could any one dare to make a suggestion concerning that all important, unimportant personage?) Modesty is characteristic of merit. Surely the egotist is the worst of fools, for he has fooled himself.

Friday evening, March 1oth, the Irvings and Zetachtians held joint exercises in Zetagnosthan hall. Mr. Meese presented an exceedingly fine oration upon "Liberty and Progress." John N. Baldwin rendered "Catiline's Defiance"—a selection to which his magnetic manner and magical voice added unusual fascination. L. W. Clapp appointed John J. Seerley chairman of the committee of the whole; after which many words were expended upon Nicholls vs. Packard, as aspirants for the office of Governor in Louisiana. Springer, Baldwin, Byington, Johnson and Seeds were the only members who took part; but these gentlemen caused much amusement by their caustic personals and sophistical logic.

Little knowledge of the Southern question was displayed; but great confidence was shown in the small stock of knowledge which they possessed. Prepare more carefully next time and you'll do better, boys.
INGALLS vs. BEECHER.

Pearl P. Ingalls, the genial and respected pastor of the M. E. church of this city, took occasion upon the Sunday preceding the lecture of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, to make some vigorous and caustic remarks upon the doctrines set forth in that lecture; and severely rebuked those of his flock who had attended. We wish Mr. Ingalls had attended the lecture; we believe that it is impossible to form an accurate judgement of Mr. Beecher without actually hearing him. It seemed to be the opinion of Mr. Ingalls that the great mass of ticket holders were excited by the desire, so prevalent in these days, of gratifying their curiosity for all the details of prurient living. We maintain that such a conclusion is unnecessary. We candidly believe that no one goes behind this reasoning upon this question which lead to diverse conclusions... 

REFORM! REFORM!

Naturally I dislike change. The old and tried have seemed to me good enough. But the air is full of reform. Everybody has it, i.e. for his neighbor. Why should I escape? Yes, I've got it; "got it bad." It has "struck in." The world (save myself) needs reform. There should be a reform in civil service, political service, domestic service and every other service; in journalism, in socialism, in law, in medicine, in science, in religion, in literature; and in education; a reform in "weights and measures," in "spelling" and in "pronunciation." Reform in pronunciation is last but not least. It began in Boston and must succeed. Says its advocate: "The spelling is not the only bad thing about our language. Just think of the weary years the child must spend in learning to pronounce the trisyllabic and quadrisyllabic words of our language—of the time and mental energy that might be saved, if these words could be whittled down to their minimum size! How this reform may be carried out is easily determined. Just as we get hints as to what changes are needed in spelling from those who never learned to spell, so we should be guided somewhat in our new work by the pronunciation of those independent spirits who never consult a dictionary." For instance, business would be contracred to "biz," get out, to "git," probabilities, to "probs." &c., ad infinitum.

But why multiply examples? Is not this showing sufficient to convince the most incredulous? It is said that the metric reform will save two years of the school life of a child; that phonetic spelling will save two years; and economic pronunciation, three years. Let no one go behind this "returning board." The child of three years will soon be as far advanced as his brother of ten to-day. A "royal road to learning" has been found—it is the road of reform.

Henry Ward Beecher gave his lecture on the "Ministry of Wealth" in Ham's Hall on Tuesday evening, March 6th.

Ticket holders had been anxiously awaiting the event. The lecturer was greeted by a large and appreciative audience; and by the masterly effort fully sustained his world-wide reputation as a speaker. In thinking of Mr. Beecher we are led to compare him, or perhaps it would be better to say to contrast him, with the man whose name must henceforth be linked with his own. Tilton's lecture on "The Problem of Life" is still fresh in the minds of our lecture-going people. Of the two, Tilton is the more poetical, the more classical, the more ornate. His eloquence is of that impassioned kind which sweeps everything before it. He is stormy impetuous, vehement, and will drive where Beecher would lead pleasantly along. And, while Beecher's wit is the continuous sunshine of a genial nature, Tilton's is the sudden and dazzling flash of the lightning. Beecher's language is uniformly plain; but if the prevalence of Saxon words renders his speech less elegant, it imparts to it the rich glow of vital strength. To the listener he appears always to have an abundance of power in reserve; and his lecture, seemed more a spontaneous effort than an elaborate preparation.

Beecher's power as an orator, consists in his intense sympathy with humanity. Sympathy is the golden cord uniting man with man; and he alone can deem it a labor of love to work for the amelioration of his race who has discovered in his soul's depths the bond of sympathy that makes him glad to claim kinship with humanity.

Chancellor Hammond desires No. 1. Vol. 1, of the University Reporter, to complete a full volume. Any one furnishing it will be suitably remunerated.
NATURE OF LIGHT.

Of all the phenomena of Nature, those of light are among the most common and the most extraordinary. What is more beautiful than the colors of that intangible thing, the rainbow? What is stranger than the fact that under certain conditions, "light plus light produces darkness?"

Yet light is as common as the air we breathe. Our sun continually pours forth luminous floods. Our world rolls in a sea of light.

Being so closely connected with their everyday experience, light early attracted the attention of scientists.

Newton supposed each ray to consist of a vast number of minute particles that travel with an almost infinite velocity. Of course these particles would rebound from any surface in accordance with the laws that govern the reflection of ordinary bodies.

This explanation is simple and satisfactory. But in reconciling his theory with the laws of refraction Newton was compelled to introduce a second hypothesis, viz: that in passing into a more refractive medium light increases in velocity. Fizean has however physically demonstrated that the opposite of this second assumption is really true. That is, light travels less rapidly in the more refractive medium.

Moreover, there are certain phenomena of diffraction that cannot be explained by the assumptions of Newton. His hypothesis, consequently, in these modern days has been rejected. But for many years the untruth of the Corpuscular theory lay concealed in the shadow of Newton's great name.

On the other hand the rival theory by Huggens, at first rejected, has gradually grown in favor, until now its assumptions are admitted by the whole scientific world.

According to the Undulatory theory, light is a peculiar wave motion that is propagated in an unknown but highly elastic fluid called Ether.

Huggens, with entire success, showed that his theory harmonized with the laws of refraction and reflection. His assumptions agree with the experience of all modern investigators, and the truth of his views has within the present century been rigidly demonstrated by Young and Fresnel.

The Undulatory theory has thus become the nucleus around which has accumulated that great collection of facts which is called the science of Optics.

LOCALS.

The Zetagathians and Hesperians held a sociable in their society hall on the evening of Saturday, February 24th. The sociable took place after the regular session of the Hesperian society. It was well attended; and is reported to have been a success in every particular.

A few evenings ago those waiting in the postoffice for the distribution of the mail were regretted by the following brief but pathetic conversation:

He—"Whooze sweet?"
She—"Boa' or us."
He—"Whooze queam candy is oo?"
She—"Ooze."

But observing at this point that they were attracting the attention of the curious, they became silent. She nestled to his side like an affrighted bird seeking protection. One moment he held her gentle hand within his brawny palm—one moment gazed into the luminous depths of her lustrous soul-lit eyes; and then together they sought the retreat of peaceful starry night.

One of our Seniors, who was complimented on his uniform success in reciting on general principles, states that his cheek, like the vitals of Prometheus, grows during the night what it wastes through the day.

There is a balm for every wound. Brigham Young may forever be able to regain the affections of his Ann Eliza; but he has taken the right step towards solacing the broken heart—He has proposed to Vassar College. Where now oh! Ann Eliza are thy jeers?

Word of salutation among the students:—"What did he mark you on benevolence? Did he tell you to restrain self-esteem?"

Officers of the Freshman class organization are as follows: President, Sophy Hutchinson; Vice President, F. A. Vanderpool; Secretary, O. P. Myers.

Capt. Chester has lately returned from New York, after an absence of two weeks. The students were well pleased to see him again.

Washington's birthday was gloomy enough. Possibly, an evil portent, foreshadowing Hayes' election(?)

The Reporter didn't get a valentine. It is consol'd however, with the thought that its friends have too much dignity and intellect to dabble in such utterly effeminate, nonsensical things.

The appointees for the Junior Oratorical contest are as follows: Wm. D. Evans, Albion N. Fellows, G. T. W. Patrick, J. J. Pollard, Lou Hughes and Minnie E. Leonard. The time for the exhibition has not been set but it will probably occur soon.

One of the Juniors is easily prejudiced. He thinks it hardly strict propriety for a feline to stay in a well more than two days at a time. We do not deny admiring his taste, but still, he really might be less fastidious.

The Seniors, in imagination, already smack their lips.
o'er the dainty dishes which their friends are expected to set before them during the closing term of their halcyon days. Don't "count your chickens before they are hatched," boys.

Bright and smiling as usual, the dapper form of the Senior, who staked his famous but diminutive mustache upon "Tilden and Reform," appeared at Chapel on the morn of March fourth—but sine borda. Ray, your pluck is commendable, any how.

At a meeting of the Senior class, Feb. 16th, the following officers were elected: R. M. Goshorn, President; Ray Billingsley, Vice President; J. C. Warnock, Secretary; L. W. Clapp, Treasurer.

The Reporter corps boasts of only one Tilden man. That's rather dubious for Reform, but let us hope for the best. 'One Plato almost swallowed the world.'

A sub fresh when asked if he had seen the new moon replied, "New moon! why, no! Isn't that the same old moon as ever?"

By no means ignoring the fact, that we are rather musical ourselves, we cannot refrain from saying a word in respect to the vocal music, heard in the literary halls at society sessions. It is not our intention, nor do we wish, to say anything in depreciation of the quality or manner, for that is generally unexceptionable, but we would call attention to sentiment. While we can scarcely eulogize highly enough the majority of the pieces for their expressive thought and noble sentiment, we cannot find even extraordinary language to fully express our infinite disgust of some of the sentimental twaddle, too frequently heard. Arrogating the right of advising, we would especially emphasize choice of sentiment first, then music.

The verdant law who came into class some mornings since with a long black hair clinging to his Sunday coat was the object of considerable merriment to his classmates. Many ludicrous attempts were made to arrive at a solution of the problem.

The subject of observing the anniversaries of the birth day of George Washington, (once President of these United States) was broached at this patriotic institution on the early history of England and English law; but owing to a temporary illness he was unable to deliver the usual lecture on the 28th ult., and Judge Love filled his place with an interesting discourse on "Faith in Human Testimony."

Several of the students have formed a secret society for the purpose of improving their powers in extemporaneous speaking, the literary exercises being wholly extempore. While the object may be somewhat commendable, and the end to be attained, in many respects desirable, the propriety of such organizations might be questioned. In our estimation, every existent organization, entirely secret, of whatever description it may be, has yet to prove valid its claim to the patronage and respect of an American people.

Judge Austin Adams, of Dubuque, completed a two weeks course of lectures before the Law Class on Friday, the 2d inst. The subjects treated by the worthy Judge, were "Domestic Relations," and "Corporations." To say that these subjects were skilfully treated would be but a repetition of the sentiment of every class before whom Judge Adams has appeared since his connection with the Law Department. His long and successful practice in this State and his experience upon the Supreme Bench all tend to render him pre-eminent as a teacher of Law. Every member of the class of '77 was proud of his acquaintance and sorry to part with him. Long live Judge Adams.

MARRIAGES.

Wednesday, March 14, at the residence of the bride's mother, by W. Bayard Craig, Mr. John L. Hiatt, of Oskaloosa, and Miss Mattie E. Shell of this city, former a student of the University.

Our best wishes attend them.

Married, at the residence of Mr. Ed. Fracker, by S. N. Fellows, Dr. Joseph T. Brenaman of Solon, and Miss Alice Ewing of Morse. Mr. Brenaman was with us for some time, and we extend to him the cordial congratulations of the entire corps.

Married: Feb. 15, 1877, Mr. A. J. Brown, medical '77 '0 Miss Manta Rush, of Ainsworth, Iowa. We wish Dr. Brown success in his profession; and long life and happiness to both.
PERSONAL.

Maggie King, of Des Moines, has been visiting her friends in the city.

Dr. Preston, brother of W. M. C., spent a few days in the city during commencement.

Miss Abbie Cleaves, a graduate of the medical department, was in the city during Commencement.

Mrs. Shepherd, a graduate of the medical department, and her two daughters of Oakland, California, were in attendance at the Medical Commencement, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Shepherd.

'72. Rev. W. B. Craig still continues a series of Sunday evening lectures at the Christian Chapel. His subjects are the great reformers, Wycliffe, Hass, Luther, Wesley and others. We find the lectures very interesting and instructive.

'77. H. W. Ames is attending Law School at Chicago.

'77. J. B. Chapman is editing the Tama City Press.

'77. E. H. Hoag edits one of the Strawberry Point papers.

'79. Ella Wilkinson is at home in Tipton.

'79. W. V. Smith is teaching near Lytle City.

'79. Mary C. Noyes has been obliged to leave school on account of having the measles. Her many friends wish her a speedy recovery.

'79. E. H. Sanford has left school on account of weak eyes. He expects to return as soon as he is able to resume study.

'80. W. H. Coutts surprised his friends by a short visit while on his way home from Lytle City where he has been teaching.

'80. The smiling countenance of Bruce P. Moore may be seen every day on the corner—at Furbish’s boot and shoe store.

'81. W. W. Schaffer is teaching near Downey.

'81. T. A. Pierce is teaching near Tracer, Iowa.

'81. J. J. McConnell is at his home in Port Byron, Illinois.

'81. E. M. Feaster, who was detained at home during the Fall term, on account of sickness, is with us again.

'81. D. H. Young is teaching near Manchester, Ia. His cousin, D. F. Young, is at his home near the same place.

The marked success of our alumni is proverbial. They always win the confidence and esteem of those they meet. At the recent election in Arkansas, Allen B. Lemmon was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction. Now comes tidings of another, W. M. Forbes. The extract is from a Beatrice, Nebraska, paper:

"W. M. Forbes, Esq., has been appointed to the office of county judge in the place of Judge Hazlett, resigned. We commend the commissioners for their judgment and discretion, which have been indorsed by every attorney in the county. Mr. Forbes is a young man of ability, scholarship and strict integrity. He is an active and industrious citizen, and during his year’s residence among us has added materially to the growth and permanent improvement of our county and city. He is withal a good lawyer, and with the necessary experience in office, will gain from the people the indorsement which has already been given him by the attorneys and commissioners of the county."

Julien W. Richards, of the Centennial class, who wields his Faber upon the Waterloo Courier, dropped in upon us lately. "Rich" is doing well—he is developing a poetical genius, we notice.

EXCHANGES.

The Irving Union takes a justifiable pride in the able corps of lecturers in the Faculty of Washington University (St. Louis); and shows the advantages derived by the students from the thorough system of lectures that are the distinguishing feature of that college. An I. S. U. alumnus Prof. F. E. Nipher, fills the chair of physical science.

Dartmouth rejoices in the possession of an electric battery once owned by Benjamin Franklin. It has been in constant use in the college for over fifty years. It ought to be retired on pension.

This from the University Press:

High above the sound of the roaring Niagara is heard the Shawnee yell of the maniac Index. And its exchanges stare about in mortal terror whilst from Chicago to the Atlantic the startled enquiry goes the rounds: "Ye gods! who let him out?" Such is fame.

The University Reporter brags about the good department of its students. Bad taste.—Berkleyan.

Perhaps it wouldn’t taste so bad if our Zallian brother could do as much for the disciples of his own alma mater.

The Round Table is brim full of good things. Beside some excellent advice to college contributors (which we should copy but for the fact that we have no contributors and a full local department,) it contains a good review of Harold and an able appeal for the admission of ladies to the privileges of Beloit college.

The Missourian is fearful that the solons of that state will not appropriate the necessary funds for the University. We are in the same boat about once a biennium and can extend our sympathy, knowingly.

The Essex Index, edited by L. S. Hanna, whose alma mater we are, contains a well written communication from here on the State University. Smith, your correspondent forgot to give us credit for the finest Laboratory in the West.
The 'Woman's Journal' thinks that the "Harvard Mob" is becoming too much of a "feature" in Boston circles. Wonder if some Harvard Literary Society has decided that women have no right to "suffer."

The righteous indignation of the University Press is excited by a circular from the "Dayton Literary Association," received by several of its students, wherein orations, impromptu speeches, &c., are offered at the "lowest living rates." In making war on such a contemptible concern the Press must have the sympathy and moral support of every college paper, even the Index.

The Trinity Tablet (Hartford) criticises its "respected Faculty" in three severe articles. On general principles we are decidedly averse to such criticisms from college papers, but in this case we think the Tablet has rather the best of it. We hope it may succeed in bringing the faculty of Trinity College to a realizing sense of the impropropriety of interfering with the harmless sports of the students.

The University of Virginia has been endowed with a fund to establish historical, literary, and ethical professorships. Mr. Corcoran, proprietor of the Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, is the donor.

ANTAGONISM.

Whatever subject we may consider we must admit that somebody in the past has considered the same subject, and that his thoughts are handed down to us through years, ages and centuries.

"Of what avail is then this ruminating of old ideas?" exclaims Melancholy in his most melancholy mood. The gloomy skeptic with despair and derision pictured Thorny is the path of her whom nature has clothed around them, the arches which connect them, the masterwork of sages, but the ivy which twines unappreciated, she is the masterwork of sages, but the ivy which twines unappreciated, she is the masterwork of sages, but the ivy which twines unappreciated, she is

and the air which pervades the whole, are my own.

With an unearthly groan the tempter left me, and my modest room, so dreary in his presence, was lit again with all its wonted sunshine. How much success owes to these antagonistic forces is often underrated.

Were it not for the resistance of the atmosphere, would not the sun's rays fall heatless upon us and life soon be extinguished in the deathly cold? The gale which sweeps over field and forest, apparently aiming to destroy the tender stalk, strengthens and prepares it for future struggles.

The storm which seems to rend the heavens and deluge the earth calls into life a purer day and stronger growth. The winter with its chilling blasts and icy shroud is but in secret weaving laurels for the cold conquerer, Spring.

Without antagonism can be no success. Only upon blood drenched fields thrives liberty. Even those low, bleak mounds which cast their shadows far into the west serve to enhance the beauty of the day.

The fruit of love is pain but is not love the fruit of pain as well? Is not the intensity of love measured by the intensity of pain which we suffer for her sake?

"Creit nur hinein ins volle Menschenleben!" Reared in luxury, indulged in every whim, the rich youth lacks the essential qualities of success which only antagonism can give, and should he ever be called upon to weather the storms and lead, his strength would fail him. The exceptions only prove the rule.

The treasures which are gained by hard days labor in workshop and field, the knowledge which is interwoven with the sweat of the brow, in short, poverty with her formidable obstacles, with her triumphs, and deteats, with her sweet reward and hollow-eyed care, is the true helpmate of success.

Every door is opened and every hand extended to beauty. She wins hearts wherever she goes. A smile is at the best the greatest effort she needs to put forth in order to gain a friend. She reigns by that magic power which Nature bestows on her favorites; but her mental life, undisturbed by those storms which her less gifted sisters must endure, and unruffled by the waves which antagonism creates, has become the stagnant pond that during spring and summer hides its odious face behind the wreath of water-lillies, but which the autumn disrobes of every flower, and thus undorned leaves it to its bitter fate.

Thorny is the path of her whom nature has clothed with unsightly form and homely face. Every door is shut and every hand withdrawn when she approaches. She longs for friendship, but, alas! her companions shrink from her in secret horror; she fain would give her life blood for the one she loves, but unheeded and unappreciated, she is left alone to bear unaided the heaviest burden that the human heart can bear.

And still she does not yield to despair. A gleam of firm determination beautifies her eyes, and what nature and society for years has denied her, she with her own strong hands and will at last has conquered.

Her mental life is not the stagnant pond which the approach of winter condemns to despairing inactivity, but the ocean rather upon whose surface antagonism has plowed deep furrows, upon whose billows adversity has wrecked many a fondly expected ship, and which in its wonderful depth harbors the diadems of Kings.

And you—Are you less courageous than she?
LIBRARY NOTES.

List of books recently purchased for the Library:—
Hartwig's Tropical and Polar Worlds.
Brazil at the Centennial.
Woodbridge's Experiments on the mechanical properties of steel.
Lester. Our first hundred years.
Schuyler's Turkestan, 2 vols.
Fox Bourne's life of John Locke, 2 vols.
Warner. Chas. Dudley; In the Levant.
Shelley. An Anecdote Biography.
Martineau. Religion and Materialism.
Anderson. Viking Tales of the North.
McCosh. The Development Hypotheses.

Filth Diseases and their Prevention.
Larned's Talks about Labor.
Adventures of Capt. Mago.
Hutton's Essay in Literary Criticism.
Oliphant's Standard English.
Preston. Troubadors and Trouveres.
Ludlow. The war of American Independence.
Stubbs. The Earl Plantagenets.
Cox. The Athenian Empire.
Catullus. Tebullus and Properlius.
Stanley. History of the Eastern Church.
The Presidential Counts.
Smith's Christian Antiquities, vol. 1.
Landor, W. S. Works, 8 vols.
Hagenbach's History of Doctrines, 2 vols.
Capes. The Early Roman Empire.
Tennyson's Harold.
Fiance. A Young Man's Difficulties with his Bible.
The Tiber and Thames, Illustrated.
Basque Legends.
Adams, J. Q. Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory.
Grant's Home Politics.
Quincy's History of Harvard University, 2 vols.
Sullivan's Protection to Native Industry.
Wilson's Modern English Law.
Rowland's Welsh Grammar.
Dowell's history of Taxes in England.
Ricardo's Political works,
Local Government and Taxation.
Chapman's Cotton and Commerce of India.
Taswell. Langmead, English Constitutional History.
Blackie. Language and Literature of the Highlands.
Hetele's History of the Christian Councils.
The Last Act. Funeral Rites of Nations.
History of Signboards.
Jone's Finger-ring Love.
Acreocracy of England.
Parker's Forum Romanan and Via Sacra.
Civil's Encyclopedia of Architecture.
Stephens History of English Thought.

COLLEGE EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS.

We learn from the Tribune that the present Senior Class of Princeton College has organized a scientific exploring expedition to the west. An association has been formed to train men in scientific studies, and fit them as far as possible for the work to be done. The plan of the association's work is as follows: A knowledge of geology, as good as can be obtained, is required of each man. Then the work is mapped out into subdivisions of natural history and paleontology, and from these each one selects a specialty for himself. The meetings are held fortnightly. At these, the association generally receives an address from some scientific member of the faculty. After this, scientific papers are read by the members, in alphabetical order, each evening. A question chosen at the previous meeting is then discussed. The faculty have given a room, have arranged the studies to help the association as much as possible, and given facilities for special and outside work. The association is forming a working collection of fossils and minerals, not intended to be complete, but typical. In the mean time the executive committee are taking steps to secure government aid in the shape of wagons, mules, etc., and to get the most favorable possible terms from the railroad companies. If, as is hoped the committee is successful in obtaining free passes, the expenses will probably not exceed $100 per man. It is not yet fully determined what portion of the west will be explored—probably, however, the Green River, in Wyoming Territory, and Yellowstone National Park or else the Wasatch Mountains, will be selected. The membership is limited to thirty regular and ten alternate members. Vacancies occurring in the regular membership are filled from the alternates, who attend all meetings, and perform regular duties.—Popular Science Monthly.

A CONDENSED NOVEL.

(Selected.)

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<th>VOL. I.</th>
<th>VOL. II.</th>
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<td>A winning wile,</td>
<td>A little doubt,</td>
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<td>A sunny smile,</td>
<td>A playful pout</td>
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<td>A feather;</td>
<td>Capricious!</td>
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<td>A tiny talk;</td>
<td>A merry miss,</td>
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<td>A pleasant walk</td>
<td>A stolen kiss,</td>
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<td>Together.</td>
<td>Delicious!</td>
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<tr>
<th>VOL. III.</th>
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<td>You ask papa,</td>
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<td>With pleasure;</td>
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<td>And both repent,</td>
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<td>The rash event,</td>
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<td>At leisure.</td>
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