PEACE.

The king encumbered of his crown,
In cot content, may lay it down:
The bird far-faring from her nest,
Some kindly spray may rock to rest.

The dark led on through upper air,
At eve forgets his journey there;
And th' eagle's eyes on glories far
Ere long recede from sun and star.

The leaves which people lofty trees;
The snow shed foam of th' over seas;
The rain that rings along the sky,—
Together meet and lowly lie.

Thou too, O Soul, striving to soar
Each flight beyond the flight before,
Shalt, past the vexed years that yearn,
To humbler haunts of peace return.

—Scriven's Monthly.

THE STONE GIANT OF COLORADO.

PROF. CALVIN.

"People like to be humbugged." So, at least, it seems. They will give more, any time, for the privilege of staring in stupid wonder at even the most clumsy and awkward of deceptions, than for the opportunity of obtaining reliable knowledge. Barnum discovered that long ago and has been turning the discovery to practical account ever since. Lesser lights in the world of humbug revolve in orbits more or less distant from the greater lumiary, and as a result of their influence we have the country swept periodically with some vicious delusion. Moon hoaxes, blue-glass, and stone giants are becoming alarmingly frequent. The latest venture in the well-trodden fields of discovery was made in Colorado. A veritable giant—a petrified giant at that—was recently unearthed near Colorado Springs. This giant had, inadvertently, permitted the toes of one foot to remain uncovered, and the place of his concealment was betrayed to the sharp eyes of one who has a "fondness for collecting curious stones and petrifications." The giant might have known better. But then he is no worse off than all the other petrified giants. It is just their luck always to be discovered. Let them hide in the most out-of-the-way place imaginable, and some collector of "petrifications" will go straight to the spot. Some people have an instinct for finding petrified giants.

The Colorado specimen is a little unique in its way. It seems to possess some decided advantages over its petrified brethren. The foot—it has only one perfect foot—resembles a monkey's, "and the extension of the lower end of the backbone for some four inches makes it look like a tail." It is true the "doctors" are inclined to take the conceit out of this last appendage by gravely saying that "the tail was formed by the shrinking of the flesh at the end of the backbone before the process of petrifaction began," but people are inclined to doubt the wisdom or the authority of any such doctors.

Seriously, have we not had enough of petrified monsters for awhile? It is certainly sufficient that we all—even those who set up a claim, founded on college diplomas or something, to having a sort of patent on the intelligence of the country—should join in the pernicious practice of discovering petrified specimens of such things as crab apples, bacon, shoes, corn cobs, wasps' nests, dogs' heads, human hands, and all other impossible petrifications that nature or science or common sense never heard of. There is probably no way to stop the discovery of such common petrifications at present, and the vice is likely to proceed until some little knowledge of the world we live in, shall be regarded as a criterion of intelligence. But petrified giants ought to have a rest. We protest in the name of all that is true and possible against the finding of any more of them for a whole generation at least. We never took kindly to petrified giants of any kind, but petrified giants with tails are something that we particularly abhor. We must insist in the name of outraged anatomy, that if men will persist in discovering petrified giants, that the tail be omitted before the "discovery" is made. Its omission will bring the claim for genuineness a little more in accordance with what is true or possible. Next we advise them to omit the "giant." A petrified man of five feet ten, is as great a tax on our credulity as we are willing to stand. Under very peculiar and pressing circumstances we might consent to six feet, but we must draw the line somewhere. While our hand is in, we would, with becoming modesty, extend more advice, and say to those who plan and execute the next discovery, that if they would give even a color of probability to their claim,
they must omit the "petrified" too, unless indeed they are willing to apply the term to a mass of empty bones. The finding of human bones of ordinary size would be within the range of possibility, but it would be a failure for the purposes ordinarily sought in making such discoveries. It would make no sensation. It would inspire no newspaper notices. It would bring in no half dollars. It can never become fashionable so long as petrified giants make more noise and are far more profitable. Even plain petrified giants, you know, have proved a good investment. A petrified giant with an extension of the back bone, was intended to be a decided hit. It is hard to see how the next one can be improved unless he should have the additional advantage of hoofs and horns. We hope, though, the suggestion will be acted upon only when it becomes a real necessity, to have a petrified giant that will eclipse the Colorado specimen.

It is rather a sad fact that the perpetrators of such really stupid deceptions can count with absolute certainty on the ignorance of the public concerning some of the most common things. Even a majority of what we regard as educated men have not sufficient knowledge of Nature to permit them to judge whether the claims of curiosity finders be fraudulent or not.

There are thousands of men eminent for what is called scholarship, that can see no absurdity in the idea of finding a petrified animal body, and yet accept with the gravest suspicion the utterances of the most conscientious and devoted seekers after scientific truths. They have no confidence for Darwin or Huxley, but absolute faith for the professed finder of petrified birds or petrified potatoes. They can not even give a moment's attention to a geological specimen that has some meaning, illustrating perhaps some critical phase in the progress of the earth's development, but they can waste hours in admiring an accidental form that impresses itself upon them as a petrified slipper or pair of spectacles or other petrified absurdity.

Unfortunately any accurate knowledge of the world we live in or of the laws governing the phenomena with which our lives are intimately associated, has never, until quite recently, been demanded as a part of ordinary mental equipment. This demand is made, year after year, with increasing earnestness by a rapidly growing class of thinkers; and though little heed be paid to it in some localities at present, the time is coming when ignorance of things that lie all around us, that our hands touch and our feet tread upon in the ordinary course of everyday life, will be regarded as utterly inexcusable. Compared with such deficiency of mental garniture, a little stumbling in the conjugation of some fossil verb that has not trembled on human lips in the ordinary purposes of speech for thousands of years, will be the smaller sin. Until then we must endure, with what patience we may, the repeated descriptions of all sorts of anatomical impossibilities and petrified frauds.

A system of education that leaves Nature out of consideration, and places those receiving it at the mercy of every designer who may desire to capture either their opinions or their pockets, creates the kind of mental atmosphere in which witch burnings, perpetual motions, Keely motors, magnetic waters, fraudulent coal mines, blue glass, and stone giants with extensions of the back bone, most do flourish. Neglected Nature has her revenge.

THE TIDE OF TIME

CAPTAIN CHESTER.

When on the Ocean of Eternity,
There rose at God's command the bubble Time,
A speck upon a shoreless sea, and yet
Containing the material universe

With all its spheres, the new-born morning stars
Burst into song, and all God's sons for joy
Did shout, till Heaven, and Earth, and deepest Hell
Resounded.

Lucifer, who prone before
Almighty God lay prostrate, and confessed
His power and justice infinite, arose
And gazing heavenward, beheld the new
Creation, pure and good, and shouted too,
Yet not for joy, but in amazement, and
Perforce confessed God's ways incalculable.

And as the shadow swept across the face
Of infant Time, and marked the dawning hours
Of the primordial day, each hour an age,
Behold a ray of Everlasting Light
Appeared amidst the gloom, and order dawned
In Chaos. Atoms, dead and motionless,
Became alive with strange instinctive powers,
And universal Energy appeared,
The offspring of the Light. And God pronounced
It good. And angel choirs sang vesper songs,
To close the record of primordial day.

Now Chaos' kingdom, revolutionized,
Had disappeared, and that ethereal, blue,
Expans of heaven—the Firmament—shone forth,
A setting worthy of celestial gems.

And still the endless stream of atoms flowed
The circuit of the universe around,
And murmured inarticulate praise,
And angel choirs renewed their vesper song.

And now the river, ever flowing on
In its orbital course, became disturbed,
And swirls and eddies formed, and whirlpools grew
Until the placid stream became a chain
Of whirling nebula, which swept around
The endless orbit of the universe.

And as they whirled, they sang harmoniously,
And joined their voices to the heavenly choirs,
Which sang at eventide the vesper song.

Again uniting energy effects
A change, and living atoms, drawn by strong
Affinities to atoms of their choice,
Are welded into one; and joy prevails;
And benedictine molecules glow with love,
And hand in hand in ever growing throngs,  
Sing of their love, and joy, and thankfulness,  
And whirl the merry dance before the throne,  
Around the circuit of the universe.

And as they closer eling, the more they glow,  
And wilder whirls the dance, till giddily grown.  
The outer molecules lose their hold, and form  
New circles by themselves, which still keep time,  
In cadence to the universal song.

And angels sang, and all the Sons of God  
Joined in the universal shout of joy  
Which startled Lucifer, who now arose.  
And thus in deep amaze soliloqued:

"Can everlasting vengeance hold its hand,  
Or justice infinite relent? Or does  
Almighty Power evaporate in space  
And lessen with the distance? Foolish thoughts.  
E'en darkness can not cover from his wrath,  
Nor distance shield from his avenging hand.  
Almighty Power and Magnanimity  
Are inconsistent attributes. What boots  
It to confess his power omnipotent,  
Accept the consequences of defeat,  
Acknowledge him Almighty and Supreme,  
And grovel suppliant before his throne?  
He will not stay his hand, nor hate one blow.  
Till my humiliation is complete.

"I cannot add to my offense, nor he  
To my eternal punishment. I am  
Defeated not destroyed. Expelled from Heaven  
Yet Emperor of all the dark domain  
Beyond the gates of Light. I still retain  
Some power—by sufferance perhaps of him  
Whom I acknowledge Conqueror, confess  
Almighty and unmercifully just.  
My lost estate can never be regained.  
My followers can never more be led  
Into the realms of Light. But here in hell,  
Or any where within my dark domain,  
They may do service yet. That universe  
O'er which the Sons of God rejoice, is mine:  
No colony from Heaven shall settle there  
And not confess me king. No neutral power  
Shall there erect a barrier, between  
And I stand unaided. What may be met  
I'll meet. What may not, I may circumvent."  
(TO BE CONTINUED.)

SATAN AND MEPHISTOPELEES.

DELIVERED BY O. A. CURTIS, AT THE INTER-STATE  
ORATORICAL CONTEST, HELD AT MADISON,  
WISCONSIN, MAY 10TH, 1877.

Prominent among the devils of fiction are Milton's  
and Goethe's. Representing the same Evil Being, they  
are yet as unlike as Macbeth and Iago, each character  
being as unique as it is masterly, both becoming only  
the more clearly defined as we study the entire family  
of demons from Marlowe's to Byron's. Whatever may have  
been the poets' intentions, whatever may be the critics'  
final decision, Satan and Mephistopheles are certainly  
heroes,—the central figures of the two poems, holding  
our attention with a grasp at once fascinating and ter-  
rible. In spite of our worthy purpose to hate devils  
whether in the body or out of the body, to be interest-  
ed only in those creatures and those conceptions which  
seem so persuasive, these brain-born fiends, in the  
presence of angels the holiest and humanity the most  
inspiring, command our thought, enchant our will, and  
marshal our emotions as with the mystic charm of  
Ismeno's deadly spell.

The body of Satan, in comparison with which that of  
our classical Hercules is pigmean, would be a burden  
sufficient to crush any other character in fiction: but,  
touched by Milton's remarkable genius, rendered form-  
less and indistinct as well as vast, and thus having, as  
Macaulay has said, "none of the fee-faw-fum of Tasso  
and Klopstock," it seems perfectly adapted to his men-  
tal features and serves but to increase what Geo. Eliot  
calls "the grandeur of the wild beast."

Indeed, what body can be too enormous for Satan?  
Is there one aspect in which he is not utterly bewilder-  
ing? Can we, amazed at the valor of Rinaldo and the  
aspirations of Napoleon, comprehend this devil who  
"dares defy the omnipotent to arms?" Here is an  
ambition that seeks the throne of God, and reaches  
after the scepter of eternity; a courage that feels no  
pain, knows no fear, dreams of no disaster; a daring  
that sweeps through the battle as the fiery breath of  
a simoom; a pride as obdurate as fate; an egotism  
absolutely infinite, speaking and acting as though con-  
scious of strength to annihilate the Almighty and  
splitter his dominion; a spirit so admirable that our  
thoughts at times all but leap the holy barriers and cry  
out for the overthrow of the chariots of God!

Witness the manifestation of these various character-  
istics. Though wounded by the restless sword of  
Michael, though defeated, his troops scattered in wild  
confusion, yet Satan has no thought of yielding, but  
cheers his comrades with more than the art of a Xeno-  
phon, then invents his "devilish enginery," and once  
more meets with fearless march the "rattling storm of  
arrows barbed with fire." Now his complete punish-  
ment has come. His flaming volley has been answered.  
His squadrons have been buried under the moun-  
tains, plucked from their foundations and flung as  
pebbles speeding from the slinger's brawny arm. The  
son of God, with thunders "winged with red lightning  
and impetuous rage," has driven the rebellious multi-  
tude over the crystal wall. But Satan is not subdued.  
His arm has failed. His might has proved of no avail.  
His followers are "overwhelmed with floods and whirl-  
winds of tempestuous fire." His fairest hopes, like  
brightest skies have vanished—but his heart is still  
invincible. Regrets are banished. Despondency and  
sorrow are spurned. Despising compromise; unwilling  
to repent though the premiership of glory would  
come thereby; madly reckless as to results; bound to  
pay back the Almighty; meaning to shadow all heaven
with sorrow, to agonize the infinite Heart, to hush the hallelujahs before the throne,—this Arch-Fiend determines to build up a rival kingdom out of the very chaos of hell, and, forcing his entire being into this one 'desperate purpose,' he takes the black crown with that sad, malignant, terrible coronation speech,—"Hail, horrors, hail, infernal world!"

In striking contrast with the character of Satan, is that of Mephistopheles, whom Carlyle has called "the only genuine devil of these latter times." Satan is the culmination of ambition; Mephistopheles, the quintessence of skepticism. In Goethe's metaphysical devil there is condensèd every form of doubt from that of the Deist to that of the libertine. He is not only literally "the spirit that constantly denies," but, as Madame de Stael has said, "he expresses doubt itself with a tone of decision, which, mixing arrogance of character with uncertainty of reasoning, leaves no consistency in anything but: evil inclinations." With what infernal irony he sneers at philosophy, declaring that an entire system may be built up with words, yet advising the anxious student to write away as zealously as though the Holy Ghost were directed to him! With what bitter pleasantry, what diabolical coldness, what pitiless sarcasm he insinuates that love is a mere passion—spark from the animal, that virtue can always be bent like a reed under the tread of the storm? Mephistopheles would shatter every blessed hope and every cherished opinion; would blast whatever of zeal, whatever of trust, whatever of affecțion ennobles our toil and hollows our homes. Acting upon his tersely-worded theory that "everything which has originated deserves to be annihilated," he would become the supreme destroyer of mankind. With words that sting like scorpions, with glances and motions as full of poison as were Armida's fountains, with a malicious grin more consumately hellish than is the atheism and blasphemy of Byron's Lucifer, this philosophical demon would undermine the foundation of the sciences, affirming that deduction is folly because there may be no mind, and induction absurd because there may be no facts;—would overthrow religion, not with the argument of Hume, but by denying the reality of reason and testimony both;—would call life a gigantic myth, and immortality a stupendous lie;—would put an interrogation point after all existence, and utter the name of God with a rising inflection!

In his work of doubt and demolition, Mephistopheles exhibits an intellect vastly superior to that of Satan. The deceit that led the parents of the race to ruin was Japanese jugglery in comparison with the marvelous transformations by which Faust and Margaret were ensnared. Mephistopheles can adapt every power of his mind to any situation. Now he is as jolly as King Lear's jester; now as kind and attentive as a lover; now as metaphysical as Aristotle. Perfectly understanding the human heart, knowing all its points of weakness, just how it will meet every infirmity and so transforms himself body and mind as to be one successful spring and accomplish the deed.

Yet more wonderful than this adaptation, is the multiplication of forces. Satan is grand in his power, but Mephistopheles in his economy of power. In the same way as he would have killed Valentine with a great expenditure of rage and strength, Mephistopheles does it quite an unseen turn of his fore arm. The one triumph by skill what he can do by might, the other by might what he can do by skill. Neither Omniscient, Mephistopheles is the greatest enemy of the universe. He gorges the breath of his existence wastes not even a sneer. Like Von Moltke in everything and never strikes without a map, men by the nicest mathematical calculations, i.e., women from the swift conclusions of a theory. Where Satan would work through the misfortunes works through the heart, seeing this to be the shorter route to death. He draws Faust from philosophy to pleasure, from thought to feeling through his veins blood a-flame with lust, and, that once in the fiery furnace of passion, having with them "the form of one like unto God" can possibly escape without "the same having passed on them." He overcomes them through her affections, clearly foreseeing that and to these alone—she will make any sacrifice even her precious garland from her head; yea, temptation till her peace is gone which she finds never and never more; becoming enslaved heart is rich only in sad memories, till her has fled as a Magdalen's dream of heaven, pure.

"Feelings that could once such noble life in
Are quenched and trampled out in passion's
This is Mephistopheles. Satan,—revengeful, haughty, intrepid, ambitious Satan,—an angel fallen, yet still resplendent with a lingering original glory,—like the coliseum, magnificence a ruin—seems worthy of the crown of satan contrast with this mean, jeering, sarcastic this confident sophist; this cool, artful, caution this malignant destroyer grinning calm damnation of souls; this "abortion of dirt a this counterpart of the real devil who has crowded our lives with anguish and filled this world with the bitter pangs of hell.

THE SKEPTIC.

CAPTAIN CHESTER.

We live in an age of skepticism. Men can now-days, who doubt everything, even their existence. Yet morality seems none the worse. The time has been, when to doubt, was to
torture, and to exercise the reason, a capital crime. Now the philosopher may doubt and the meanest man may reason, and none can make them afraid,—in this good land at least. Toleration has emancipated thought, and skepticism has stepped into the sunlight. There is no longer any necessity for concealment. The clouds of doubt have discharged their thunderbolts and the atmosphere of religion has been purified by the storm. Truth has scored a victory on both sides, and the world should rejoice.

Yet some there are who mourn. The erstwhile master mourns his manumitted slave, and longs to have him back again. It may be that he hopes, again to rule his conscience with the rack, and break his intellectual aspirations on the wheel. Perhaps it would content him if his former slave would wear a mask, and look the thing he is not. But all such hopes are vain. The intellect will wear a yoke no more.

Few honest men would hesitate to choose between a skeptic and a hypocrite. Both are doubters, but this marches under the flag of falsehood, that under the banner of truth. The honest doubter labors in the same vineyard as the most rigidly orthodox. Both are trying to grope their way from darkness to light; one with the tallow dip of reason, the other with the electric and rhetorical. The markings of the judges upon the banner of truth. The honest doubter labors in the privilege of entering the lists at the most doubtful and the most bankrupt of intellectual enterprises. The elections for the presidency of the university were amicably adjusted by previous arrangements at the university.

As well might we believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the second coming of Christ, as that the creed may be true, constitute a good delegation, and unlearn the thing he is not. But the credulous believer does not know it. He at once gives up his intellectual convictions, and passes into a state of religious truth? Impossible. Importance. C. B. Marine, of Cornell College, was the most mature member of the senior class,—should be our representative, the Mt. Pleasant sequel was eagerly anticipated by students and citizens,—for all of whom the halo of hope certainly had a roseate hue. While our orator did not come off first best, the second rank was generally conceded to him; and the refined rhetoric and the mature thought of his production evinced the culture gained by sedulous study under the rigid instruction of the University. It is with reluctance, yet not with dissatisfaction, that we submit to the unanimous decision of three competent judges—Rev. D. S. Tappan, of Mt. Pleasant, Buren R. Sherman, Secretary of State, and Sam. Clark, of the Keokuk Gate City. Nor does jealousy restrain us from passing a high compliment upon the elegant style, the literary discrimination and magnetic manner which enabled Mr. Eberhart to entrance his auditors and win the privilege of entering the lists at St. Louis. Still we must maintain Mr. Evans' superiority as a thinker; and in practical life thought is paramount to eloquence and rhetoric. The markings of the judges upon the two highest are thus:

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Previous to the combat the business session of the Association was held in Union Hall. W. A. Hesell, the president, is a very genial gentleman, and a shrewd, impartial parliamentarian. The elections were of chief importance. C. B. Marine, of Cornell College, was elected president for the ensuing year. From a half hour acquaintance in Mt. Vernon we pronounce him admirably adapted to the position. His election was unanimous. The other offices were distributed here and there. Pella secured the secretarialship. The University came in on the delegation to St. Louis—Albion N. Fellows being duly chosen as chairman of the delegation, and Miss Emma Potter, of Mt. Pleasant, and Mr. Watters, of Ames, being added thereto. They constitute a good delegation, and under them Iowa oratorical interests will not suffer.

The Gault-Parker matter did not come before the assembly. It was amicably adjusted by previous explanations made at Mt. Vernon. The misunderstanding was removed and good feeling reigned supreme. The representatives of the various institutions were gentlemen in demeanor and thoroughly sociable. The arrangements at Mt. Pleasant for the entertainment of strangers were admirable. It was one round of pleasure; and, did custom permit, we doubt not the association would have been desirous of meeting there every year. The star of Iowa oratory is in the ascendant. May it never set, and may the juniors take up the cross and eclipse their predecessors.

ORATORS AND ORATORY.

Dismal and damp weather alike greeted our home and the State oratorical contest. Saturday evening, October 27th, the competition prior to the Mt. Pleasant contest occurred in the Zetagathian hall. Wm. Lytle, Mrs. Emory, and Rev. Bird adjudged the merits of the contestants—Evans, Fellows, Patrick, Butler, and Miss Hughes.

It having been decreed that Mr. Evans—probably the most mature member of the senior class—should be our representative, the Mt. Pleasant sequel was eagerly anticipated by students and citizens,—for all of whom the halo of hope certainly had a roseate hue. While our orator did not come off first best, the second rank was generally conceded to him; and the refined rhetoric and the mature thought of his production evinced the culture gained by sedulous study under the rigid instruction of the University. It is with reluctance, yet not with dissatisfaction, that we submit to the unanimous decision of three competent judges—Rev. D. S. Tappan, of Mt. Pleasant, Buren R. Sherman, Secretary of State, and Sam. Clark, of the Keokuk Gate City. Nor does jealousy restrain us from passing a high compliment upon the elegant style, the literary discrimination and magnetic manner which enabled Mr. Eberhart to entrance his auditors and win the privilege of entering the lists at St. Louis. Still we must maintain Mr. Evans' superiority as a thinker; and in practical life thought is paramount to eloquence and rhetoric. The markings of the judges upon the two highest are thus:

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We despise vanity; still there is sometimes laudable pride. Over this number, the Reporter corps feels justified in forming a mutual admiration society. This society is not exclusive. It has no "black balls." The only requisite for admission is fifteen cents. For free copies, you can peruse the satirical article by Prof. Calvin, the inter-state prize oration of Mr. Curtis, the admirable articles of Captain Chester, numberless locals, personals, and editorials, to all of which is affixed three pages of legal lore! The Reporter pledges its honor to improve with each issue. Out of respect for your alma mater, out of love of the editors or for your own good we beseech you—subscribe. Extra copies at the book stores.

The famous "Pueblo petrifaction" has been examined by Prof. J. E. Todd, of Tabor College, and he pronounces it "a worthy successor of the Cardiff giant," "made out of stone but not made into stone."

The practice of writing to their home papers is much indulged in by some of our students. It is commendable and very advantageous to the correspondent and to the University. Society exhibitions and commencements should attract attention all over the state. Encourage this custom and good will result.

The annual wave from Iowa College bears off Prof. John Avery who served there seven years, and Prof. Irving J. Manatt whose name only had appeared in college notices while he was teaching elsewhere or a student in Germany. Prof. Pliny, S. Peirce (late of South Carolina University and formerly consul at the Peiraeus,) succeeds Prof. Avery. "Inadequate salaries" are some of the causes of the instability of that faculty.

The late Congregational Council brought out very boldly the fact that State university officers are not seeking to destroy christian colleges but that some Congregational college-men would "crush out" State universities. The President of Iowa College is reported to have indicated the reason for this opposition by saying that denominational colleges could not compete with State universities! Yet christian colleges will live and they ought to live.

Our genial friend, David Price, Jr., called on us a few days ago. He will be remembered as the universally popular student in 1873, and as the easily successful candidate for the West Point cadetship to which he was recommended by Hon. James Wilson. Two hundred and thirty sought to enter the Military Academy with him, one hundred and twenty-one succeeded, but only seventy-six of them graduated last June. In this large and winnowed class his standing was fourth in mathematics, and, after graduation, he was one of five—three Iowa boys—who were retained at West Point for special, honorary service. He now goes to join his battery at Newport, Rhode Island.

He tells us that his examination was closer here than on entering the Academy. He was always a fine scholar, a pleasing conversationalist, a genuine man, and, if any one must ever succeed Capt. Chester as the Instructor in Military Science here, we vote for Lieut. Price.

"THE REGENTS’ PRIZE."

It will be remembered that the Regents have offered two prizes for essays "on some subject connected with American history," and that the first prize is to be $30 and the second some unspecified though probably smaller amount. The prize committee (consisting of Prof. Parker, Mrs. W. J. Haddock and Milton Remley, Esq.) have selected the following question for discussion, viz: "What are the Elements and Prospects of our National Stability?"

These essays are not to be more than thirty minutes long, and to be mailed to the chairman of the committee as early as June 1st, 1878. Each contestant is requested to append an assumed name to his essay and to send with it a sealed envelope containing his real name and superscribed with his assumed name. The prizes will be awarded only for essays deemed truly meritorious in thought and style, and the prize-winners will be announced at the next general commencement.

SOCIETY IMPROVEMENTS.

We always feel like praising well directed energy wherever we find it. Whether found in the man of business, or in the boy at play, it is a quality that calls for admiration and praise. So when we see a society
of young people employing their time and money for the accomplishment of a praiseworthy object we feel it our duty to wish them "God speed" in their endeavors. All praise then to the Irivgs and Erodolphians! May prosperity and success be theirs during coming years. For many years the University has had just reason to be proud of her literary societies. With halls second to none in the State for size and beauty; with active, energetic and hard-working members; with the appreciation and aid of the good citizens of Iowa City, the societies have steadily increased in effectiveness, until they have become one of the powers of the school. The advantages offered by them are among the strongest inducements for young people to come to Iowa City for self culture. And again another step has been taken by two of the societies which shows that the spirit of enterprise and progress is strong within them. During the summer some alterations having been made in the hall where the Erodolphians and Irivgs hold their sessions, the members decided to stop at no half way measures. So it was decided to refresco and repaint the whole hall. It was a serious undertaking as they wished to employ none but first class artists and to have nothing but first class work done. However, it was undertaken and is accomplished, and the hall is resplendent in the latest and most beautiful style of the frescor's art. And now with every dollar paid, the members of the Erodophilian and Irving societies welcome their audiences to the pleasant, beautiful and home-like hall which is a monument to their spirit and enterprise. Henceforth there will be "a sound of speech-making by night and the North Hall will gather now her beauty and her chivalry."

The preliminary term of the Medical Department, in accordance with the announcement, opened October 10th, with a large attendance of both lady and gentleman students.

The preliminary term this year differed from those of previous years in that five didactic lectures were delivered daily, whereas, heretofore two only had been the custom. On October 24th, all the members of the faculty save one whom the workings of nature prevented from attending, were present, and after a few well appreciated words of welcome from the President, the regular term of the department was opened by an address from W. D. Middleton, M. D., professor to the chair of Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy.

Never before did the department open under more favorable circumstances.

There is an increase in the number of students of about five per cent over that of any previous year since the department was put in operation; and its apartments have been remodeled and greatly improved since the last course of lectures.

We now have a lecture hall vastly superior to the one formerly in use. The seats in the amphitheatre are unfastened chairs, and extend from the arena which is in the west end of the hall, nearly to the east wall; there being sufficient room left here for the entrance. The ceiling of the hall is supported by four beautiful pilasters which are perhaps more nearly after the Tuscan style of architecture than any other, and when viewed by the lover of aesthetics, can not fail to speed the blood in his veins.

A firm purpose to search diligently after the truth wherever it can be found and to do all that is right and honorable seems to characterize the class, and if the map of the face or the picture of the eye is to be taken for anything this class means business.

**MORE ABOUT THE CONTEST.**

After our hastily penned notice of the contest was in type, there fell into our hands a summary thereof written by Sam. Clark (one of the judges) and published by him in the Keokuk Gate City,—of which he is joint editor and proprietor. We leave out other matter for its insertion because it is the personal expression of one upon whose judgment the decision pivoted; because its observations apply to college orations in general and manifest an astute insight and practical sense bred of a long, literary life; and, lastly, because, being as it were a glimpse behind the scenes, it has more interest than the words of an outside observer and critic:

In the State collegiate oratorial contest at Mount Pleasant last week, several of the productions were below a good high school average in both scholarship and thought. The successful orator, Mr. Eberhart, of Cornell College, had Dante for a theme. It was in a purely oratorical style; in cold critical reading it seemed florid, over-strained, almost approaching pathos at times, but his delivery cured all defects and made it a fine piece of oratory. While there were some irrelevancies of thought, in its critical estimate of the great poet of medievalism it was subtle and acute. As an essay the paper of Mr. Evans of the State University, upon "American Democracy," ranked higher than Mr. Eberhart's. But it was not an oration and was not effective as delivered. But in the reading of it we found it full of merit and promise. It was an excellent piece of literary work, original, clear, comprehensive, full of suggestiveness, unfantastic, unsophomoric, in severely calm and rational phrase. Mr. Evans is evidently a young man of fine capacity for scholarship, of evenly balanced powers, a thinker and a worker, already mature in his mental habits and able to get out of the ruts of collegiate thought into the practical thoughts of the present and the future. Mr. Kauffman, of the University at Mt. Pleasant, took for his subject "Personal Effort." The theme was too much in the usual college commencement line to let Mr. K. appear at his best. And the oratorical part of his performance was not good. But he showed that he was a young man of superior mental qualities. He showed force and personality and intelligence. He in-
vested his hacknied theme with a good deal of interest and originality. In intellectual and in scholarship and capacity for scholarship he probably had no superior among those who spoke. Miss Sue Morrison, of Simpson College, had a graceful but not greatly original essay upon “Soul Revelations” which she gave excellently. Mr. Greer, of Grinnell College, spoke upon “Conscience as a Factor in Human Progress.” His performance both in matter and delivery had a good deal of merit. It is strange that the contestants in an oratorical fray like this do not choose themes they can invest with identity and personality of their own. It would be grotesque if it were not vexatious for young gentlemen to use the occasion to preach or ring all the old phrase worn echoes upon Greece and Rome and Progress.

LOCALS.

—Some of the professors who have not, hitherto, been suspected of devotional habits now take part in chapel exercises.

—The Home Oratorical Association elected Albion N. Fellows, Edgar B. Butler, and Simon H. Snyder, delegates to represent it in the State Association.

—The lower societies have taken in several good members, and are doing fair work. These societies have an important part to play and should look well to their best interests.

—Rain, repairs and sundry other causes united in making the literary societies, thus far, very irregular. At present, however, the prospects for steady, uninterrupted labor were never brighter.

—A class in Latin were discussing a point; the teacher suggested that the conversation was unnecessary. A student arising translated “I cut the matter short.” The class looking up wondered who had the floor.

—The necessity of organizing the Medical Class led on the 25th (Oct.) to the appointment of F. H. Burnett as chairman, and the election of the following officers: president, S. S. Lytle; vice-president, J. S. Remsburg; secretary, C. W. Smith; editor, H. L. Green.

—The Homeopathic Department of the Medical School is held in Vogt's building on Washington St. There are already fourteen matriculants and more are expected. Dr. Cowperthwait—the Dean of the faculty—is a fine gentleman and an earnest worker.

—The dissecting rooms have opened up in full blast and there is a good supply of church-yard carcasses. The way the boys (and girls) loom up in costume, scissors and scalpel shows that the physical man must yield to posterity, through the inquisitive medico, all that is in him.

—The officers of the Freshman class are as follows: president, A. S. Young; vice-president, Hattie Clapp; recording secretary, Lillie Lewis; corresponding secretary, J. E. Richardson; treasurer, E. M. Fenster; janitor, Wm. Skinner; committee on possible contingencies, Bene Seibl, L. D. Younkin, H. B. St. John.

—The gentlemen's societies have had several joint sessions this term. The debates during these were characterized by considerable vivacity, owing evidently to the political nature of the questions discussed. These union meetings evince a kindly feeling among the members of the two societies, and are always marked with great interest.

—The great excellence of the address delivered by Prof. W. D. Middleton at the opening of the Medical Department, characterized, as his classical attainments well calculated it to be, by profundity of thought and noble, honest sentiment, features always noticeable in his lectures and private conversation, induced the class to have it published in pamphlet form. This is but a slight indication of their appreciation of his fine qualities as a gentleman and as a scholar of the highest order.

—The death of Wm. McClain, the founder and proprietor of the Iowa City Commercial College, occurred on the sixteenth of October. He was at the time residing in Des Moines where he had a few months previously opened a school. He was an experienced and successful teacher, and leaves a void in the educational world which can not easily be filled. It is several years since we were in his classes but we vividly remember his accurate scholarship and ripe mind. All students of the Academy join in tributes of respect and love for their old teacher. His son will take charge of his schools.

—The “Laws” have challenged the “Meds” for a game of foot ball for the 3rd inst. The two classes met two years ago in a contest of this kind which wound up in rather a pugilistic way, it being acknowledged the “Meds” were the victors. The “Laws” undoubtedly have not forgotten this experience, since this challenge was sent with the proviso that we come furnished with splints, bandages, nurses, etc. The ladies of the medical class were appointed nurses and the challenge accepted under condition that all still “Laws” be consigned to the department for anatomical purposes, all of which have been assented to by the “Meds.” This hotly contested game may be looked for.

—At the recent game of foot-ball between the Laws and Academics two facts were demonstrated: one, that the Laws must seek other conquests else their laurels will soon fade; another, that one woman, one resolute woman, can keep at bay two hundred blooming youths; for didn't a woman—a modern Mollie Stark, her husband not having been killed, but gone for the Marshall—defend her fireside and her home against the invaders? If any one doubts the efficacy of dish-water as a weapon of defense, let him ask the “sweet singer,” not of Israel, but of the Law Class! Boys be cautious. Until you have learned your enemy adopt the Fabian policy and such disastrous results will be avoided.
—"LAWs" and "MEDICS" vs. FOOTBALL.—Wm. Os. mond referee; Frank Sherman and Chas. Kenter judges—According to appointment the two classes met on the 3rd inst. for the purpose of deciding which was the best at foot ball. There were thirty "laws" present and desirous of playing. There were not this number of "medics" by about eight or ten; accordingly by the wish of the "laws" (as expressed by vote), a sufficient number of "academics" were allowed the "medics," to make their ranks equal those of the laws. It having been decided that seven games should be played, and everything being in readiness, the ball was canted and seven games played with the following results: the "laws" won the 1st and 2d games; the "medics" the 3d, 4th, and 7th; games 5 and 6 were parallel games. The referee announced the game three to two in favor of the medics.

It is announced the game three to two in favor of the medics.

PERSONAL.

Moser, Dora, is in California.
Soule, J. F., is in Oakland, California.
Gates, Vira, is teaching in Wright county.
Farrell, J. Seth, is located at Rock Island.
Ryan, P. F., Med '77, is practicing at DeWitt, Ia.
Booth, W. H., Med '77, is practicing at Altoona, Ia.
Hasson, D. W., is located at Vermilion, Dakota Ty.
McLeod, Ed. S., has commenced practice at Logan, Ia.
Guernsey, Nat. T., entered the freshman class at Yale.
Arnold, R. R., Med '77, is practicing at Humes- ton, Ia.
Kessler, J. B., Med '77, is practicing at Dixon, Scott county, Ia.
Hager, C. E., '75, is officiating as an M. E. preacher at Osian, Clayton county, Ia.
Wilson, S. W., is in partnership with J. S. Ormston, Med '75, and practicing at Chelsea, Ia.
Kerr, J. C., '77, has been rusticating at home, preparatory to beginning his duties as principal of the school at Bedford.
Slagle, Virginia J., and Minnie Acheson visited a short time in the city. Hope they will come again and stay longer.

Noyes, Mary, is teaching in the public schools of Grinnell. She expects to return to the University for the spring term.

McKibben, F. T., '79, is at his home in Garden Grove, recuperating preparatory to further exertion in the ways of the wise.

Vest, W. E., formerly a student in the academical department has returned to take a course in medicine. His friends gladly welcome him back.

McCaw, H. E., '82, has been studying medicine at Milan, Ill., during the past summer, and is at present attending the Rush Medical College at Chicago.

White, Miss Minnie, departs for Boston in a few days. There she expects to pursue the study of elucution. She is endowed with fine ability and is sure of success.

Nipher, Frank E., of Washington University, St. Louis, is engaged in organizing a Missouri Volunteer Weather Service on the same plan Prof. Hinrichs uses to advantage.

Billingsley, Ray, is rusticating upon a farm near Denver—bemoaning, we presume, the mustache which, since the defeat of Tilden, has been "lost to sight, to memory dear."

Fort, W. H., has been elected on the Republican ticket County Superintendent of Jackson county. He overcame a democratic majority of over three hundred. We rejoice at his success.

Baldwin, Miss Julia, of Keosauqua, visited here a few days and agreeably surprised the oratorical delegates by putting in her appearance at Mt. Pleasant on the evening of the contest.

Henderson, T. G., formerly one of the most energetic members of class '79, is now reading law in Sioux City. May richest rewards attend your efforts, Tom, is the earnest wish of your many friends.

Wood, A. E., one of our former law students has gained an enviable reputation in our western army and has returned to West Point to enjoy civilized life; but Gen. McKenzie has such an appreciation of his abilities that he sends for him every month.

Fairall, Herbert S., '74, visited his home and friends a short time ago. He has been for some time upon the New York Tribune as reporter. He is at present at the head of the "Tribune Police Bureau," 333 Mulberry street. Herbert has much ability and is making rapid strides to success.

Wilson, Rollie J., '75, has a neat law office in Fairfield. We called upon him recently and found that he had not forgotten the University. A stray newspaper which chanced to fall in our way some months ago contained an eloquent Fourth of July oration. It was splendidly written and with Mr. Wilson's matchless delivery must have electrified the audience. Our alumni are the pride of the commonwealth and an honor to their institution.

Eggert, Robert, '77, is a staunch and reliable graduate of the law department. He has an interest in the Reville of Rockford, Floyd county. Thus he speaks: "To our Alma Mater, the State University of Iowa, located at Iowa City, we send our love, and shall do everything in our power to induce our Legislature to keep our benign mother from starving, by changing the present niggardly support of that institution to one which is worthy of the State of Iowa."
No graduate of the Law Department, however high he may rise, will ever honor his Alma Mater by a finer example of moral heroism, in our opinion, than Uriel S. Hart, of '73. Many of our readers will remember the terrible accident which befell him at the Market Hall fire, in May, 1873, in consequence of which he has ever since been paralyzed from the neck down. Few men could bear up under such affliction with the manly courage which has enabled him since to prosecute his studies, and even practice his profession to some extent. He writes a clear and beautiful hand (if that is no misnomer) by holding the pen in his teeth. He has discharged for some time acceptably the duties of Notary Public, and we are gratified to learn that his fellow citizens of Camanche elected him in October to the position of city collector by the largest vote given any candidate on the successful ticket.—Daily Press, October 23rd.

THE STATUTE AS A TEXT-BOOK.

The purchase of several copies of the revision of the statute laws of Illinois by Chancellor Hammond for the use of the members of the class intending to practice in Illinois, has caused considerable surprise and even criticism by some less advanced in the science of teaching the law than the Chancellor. The wonder is, of what use a volume of statutes can be as a text-book in a law school.

On invitation of the Legal News the Chancellor addressed a letter to its editor, setting forth his views on the subject in a satisfactory manner which clearly showed the author to be fully up with the advanced modes of teaching the law.

"So far as the use of the statutes is concerned," he says, "it might be enough to say that upon almost every topic which a law student can study, he will find something in the statute books materially modifying the law laid down in his text-books. The only question will be, therefore, whether he shall read the statute in connection with the text-book, or confine himself to the latter for a time, and leave the statute to be studied separately and subsequently. These assumptions have been repeated so often, and with so little examination of their real meaning, that it is often a surprise to the student when he finds, as eventually he must, that the statutes of his own state have in some cases modified important principles of the common law, or made, in a single sentence, changes, the effects of which run through a great many rules. The result usually is, that after taking a good deal of pains to learn the details of the law of Blackstone's time, or Kent's, he must either repeat the whole process, in order to understand the effect of statutory changes upon each detail, or must content himself with remembering the fact that there is a change, and leave its application to the discretion of the courts.

Yet, without considering the defects of our statute laws, or the style in which they are written, as a whole, the student will agree that a volume of statutes can be as a text-book in a practical method. It is a serious defect in our legal literature that even the works expressly designed for students make no account of this part of their education. We have an abundance of books stating the rules of law, in all forms, briefer or fuller as the student may wish: but none whatever that guide him in their application, or even point out the difficulties he will have to meet—except of course as he reads the original reports. Yet every one who has had much experience with law students knows that they blunder oftener by mistaken applications of a correct principle, than in all other ways together. A man may know treatises and
statute books by heart, and yet be no lawyer, if he cannot discriminate between them, and between facts; and the man who by nature, by experience, or by education does this well, is he who succeeds as a practitioner, even while pedants are complaining that he knows no law.

Now so far is this from being a branch of education which the office only can give, we believe it to be that of all others where the law-school has the clearest superiority. Even if books were to be had by the office-student, teaching the process, this would be so; in the absence of such books, it is upon the professor, of all men, that the task of training this faculty devolves.

The present defects of our law-schools may be summed up in one very familiar antithesis. They do not educate, they only instruct. They aim only to heap up in the student's mind a great mass of legal "points"—rules, definitions, etc., but they do not fashion these into a system—nor even do they give him the faculty of constructing for himself such a system. The mutual influence of different rules, the construction of legal relations and institutions, the processes by which the law is constantly developing and assuming new phases, are neglected or rather positively ignored. He is supplied with an abundance of crude material, but not taught to use it. In office study, the daily participation in actual business gives the student at least some empiric training. He learns to use his acquisitions as an apprentice learns to use the tools of his trade,—not by any rules, not by a systematic explanation of their various powers and the principles on which they act, but by constant handling,—"by rule of thumb" as the saying is.

The process is a rude and imperfect one, very uncertain in its results, and exceedingly wasteful of time and labor, but for two or three centuries it has been the way in which English and American lawyers have been instituted, and it will not, perhaps cannot be abandoned without something better is offered in its place. Our law-schools, as usually conducted, offer nothing. Most of them do not in their plan of study seem even to recognize the need. It is fortunate for them and for their pupils alike that the training thus omitted may be supplied in the early years of practice, at least to a very considerable extent.

It has been customary for students to learn the law almost solely by the perusal of text-books. If they referred to cases at all, it was only to compare them with the rule already given in some treatise, and the examination rarely went beyond the head note. Or if they were thorough enough in their study to read the case all through, their attention would be given chiefly to the judge's decision, and the statement of the case would only receive so much attention as they might find necessary for the comprehension of the opinion. In any event, the result would be a legal education confined almost entirely to the rules of the law, with perhaps some little effort to master those broader rules usually dignified by the title of principles. W. G. H.

[TO BE CONTINUED]
MERE MENTIONS.

—Still they come. The latest accessions to the Law class are E. F. Campbell, Mt. Pleasant, and J. F. Oliver, of Onawa.

—Those songs indulged in by the devout members of the class are growing stale. Won't some one furnish a new supply?

—Foot ball is the rage. The last is a challenge from the Sub-Fresh. The class expects challenges from the four ward schools respectively.

—William E. Dean has gone to his home in Ill., having been attacked by typhoid fever, H. D. Rowe accompanying him.

—The fifth court was organized last week called the Love Club Court, of which G. W. Cloud is judge; E. A. Owens, clerk; and A. H. O'Connor, sheriff.

—The narrowness of each private easement in the lecture room renders it extremely dangerous for the os- His was an active, busy life. While not engaged in teaching, his time was employed as a carpenter, and as a master mechanic he acquired considerable skill.

But yet not content with these attainments he determined to take another step—he looked to the law as a broader field for exertion. Before entering here he passed several months in the law office of Samuel P. Leland, in Charles City, Iowa.

Of his many noble attributes it seems almost idle to speak, especially to those who knew him best. As a student he was always kind and obliging. As a friend he was always willing to deprive himself, if he could by so doing further the happiness of another. In his last illness he was deeply sensible of the kindness of the individual members of the law class for the interest they manifested in his behalf, and often expressed himself as very grateful for the kind and considerate attention they paid to him. Having been intimately acquainted with him for several years, the writer always esteemed him highly and deemed it an honor to have been his friend.

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—Judge Howe greeted the class on the morning of the 23d ult., with one of the finest and most striking lectures of the course. It contained so many good points and so combatted the foolish notion prevalent among over-strained orthodox clergy, that an honest lawyer cannot defend a known criminal, that measures have been taken by the class to have it published in convenient style for preservation.

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OBITUARY.

—Died at the Trusell House, in Iowa City, on Saturday evening, Nov. 10th, 1877, of typhoid fever, George S. Griggs, aged 26 years.

Deceased was born and lived in Boone county, Illinois, until he became of age, when he removed to Floyd county, Iowa, where he resided until he became a member of the law class of this University.

His was an active, busy life. While not engaged in teaching, his time was employed as a carpenter, and as a master mechanic he acquired considerable skill.

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ROOM-MATE.

—Law Dept., Iowa State University,