

The High School.

A LITERARY AND EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Liberator a defectione solum, qui non nititur.

Vol. IV.

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No. 2.

THE BELLE OF THE SEASON.

They say she's the belle of the season,
The Queen of the very elite;
And this I suppose is the reason,
She has had all the men at her feet.
They bow, and they smile, and they flatter,
In a way that I'll not try to tell;
For its nearing the close of the season,
She is rich—and then she's the belle.
They dance and they ride and they take
her,
Out rowing at night on the lake.
They wine and they dine and they make
her
Like a martyr of old at the stake.
They give her no moment of leisure,
But they hurry and worry and tease,
Till she sighs and declares there's no
pleasure
In life with so little ease.
Like the tale of the moth and the candle,
That we read of so long ago,
They'll hum, and they'll flutter and dandle
And—get burnt in her ladyship's glow,
For they know not that after they leave her,
With regrets that the evening's so brief,
If she told them they would not be-
lieve her.)
She goes, with a sigh of relief,
To her room and donning the neatest,
Little wrapper of white and of blue,
Takes paper and writes just the sweetest
Little note to a fellow named Lu.
She hopes (bless her heart!) she's not
hurting
His feelings; he *mustn't* feel bad.
And tells him how awfully she's flirting,
And cautions him not to get mad.
"For you know" (let us read what she's
written)
"I think it's the jolliest fun
To see these fellows all smitten
By one girl—and to think I'm the one!
But, Lu, dear, if you were a miner,
And my heart were a vein of rich gold,
I would say you had struck a big shiner,
And 'twas yours, now, to have and to
hold."

—W. A. R. in Chicago Herald.

For The High School.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN.

Some Suggestions on the Indian Question.

Now, since we have disarmed the Indians, the question naturally arises, what shall be done with them? There are numerous ways of disposing of them, some of which have been tried; others yet to be tried, are still somewhat theoretical and enveloped in no little obscurity. Different methods of civilization have been successfully operated, others less so and still others have proved to be total failures. But that method is still to be discovered which will prove successful, and at the same time, unattended with enormous expenses to the government. Then what do we want in this regard? Do the people of this civilized community wish to adopt the method of total extermination? Is it the policy of this government to risk the lives of her soldiers and defray the expenses of an army of sufficient magnitude and strength for that purpose? No, God forbid that the people of the United States should become so totally depraved, even in the last extremity, as to resort to the trade of a butcher in order to rid themselves of a burden morally placed upon their shoulders. No, we have no right, nor do we wish to extinguish the Indian race root and branch. Annihilation is not, and should not be our motto in this regard. The blood of the Indian is the blood of the native American. Their fathers were in rightful and legal possession of the soil of America, long before the white man was cognizant of her existence. Let not our soil, the soil of free America, be moistened and become red with the blood of her native race. True, if they disobey the laws of nations, of civilization or morality, they should be punished; but only when they disobey those particular laws should they be so treated, for they are not amenable to the laws of the United States any more than a subject of the British Empire, and have never been recognized by us as citizens. Therefore, they are governed in their intercourse with us only by the laws of

nations. Have they obeyed those laws? Some say they have not. Well, may be, in some instances they have deviated from those laws. But when we ask, can you find that nation which has always been right.

But notwithstanding all this it is the policy of the United States to put a stop to their warring and depredations, and dispose of them, but in some practical and humane method.

The situation of the Cherokee nation to-day is the result of long years of contention and enormous expense to the government. The squalid and indecent condition of the Winnebagos and tribes in Northern Nebraska, is the result of inattention, a want of good example, competent and honest teaching; and the barbarous and nomadic character of the western tribes, under Red Cloud and other chiefs, is the natural result of leaving too many of them together, and then having no other employment than roaming over the prairies hunting for a living.

The western tribes have made treaty after treaty with our government, but owing to a display of bad faith on the part of one party or the other, the compact has invariably been infringed upon and ultimately broken. Winter after winter have they been fed and clothed by the government, only to resume hostilities in the spring.

This state of facts is the natural result of their position toward the whites. A spirit of patriotism still pervades the breast of the Red man, just as that same spirit animates us. Tradition tells them that their forefathers were brave and powerful, that with a single blow they could have crushed their intruders and thrown them back into these. And now, when they fully realize their weak and helpless condition, when before their eyes their glories fade, when they see their power gradually dying, when they recognize the fact that before many generations have past, their blood will become extinct and their existence cease, do you wonder that they should become imbued with a spirit of vengeance toward their oppressors, the invaders of their homes and marauders of their hunting grounds.

And now it is proposed that they shall leave their present home and go in quest of another. It is proposed that they shall go to Indian Territory, there to be maintained at the expense of the government. Gen. Sheridan demurs to this manner of disposal and says that we have no right to throw a pack of savages among peaceful and civilized Indians. The General says, "Let us quarter them along the banks of the Missouri, where provisions and clothing can be shipped to them at the least expense."

All very good General; but why should we be at the enormous expense of supporting so many Indians, when we can devise a practicable and at the same time humane method of making them support themselves.

There are thousands of acres of fertile, uncultivated and unoccupied lands in Western and Northern Nebraska, as well as in Indian Territory. This land as it now lies is utterly worthless to the government. Could not these Indians be distributed over this expanse of country? Could they not be divided into parties of twenty-five, under the supervision of one good, sensible and practical farmer, whose qualifications for office should be an amiable disposition, and thorough practical knowledge of the best mode of farming the western soil? Let the whole number of bands be under the care of a committee or Indian bureau, appointed and receiving its power directly from congress. Let this committee act conjointly with the high chiefs of the Indian nations in question.



View of the Omaha High School Building.

Let each branch with its superior be placed on a tract of land say 320 acres. Let this tract be converted into a school for teaching the Indians the trade of a farmer. Let them be taught the art of raising corn, wheat, oats, barley, and other bread-stuffs; the mode of planting and transplanting trees; and of raising what vegetables they want. Offer them some inducements to forsake their idle and nomadic habits.

Establish a system of rewarding the better and best farmers among them, also those who manifest a willing disposition to work and learn. Offer them a clear title to fifteen or twenty acres of the land thus cultivated as a reward for so many years of useful labor. This would create something for which they might become ambitious. It would be the inroad, the key to their final civilization, and at the same time the boundless prairies of the west would be cultivated, and become a mine of wealth to the country.

This plan might be somewhat expensive for the first year, but would be a source of revenue ever afterwards. Even for the first year, the expense of carrying it out, would not much exceed that of maintaining them in idleness; the only extra expense would be in furnishing them farming implements.

Should this principle be carried into effect, justice would be done to the Indians as well as to ourselves. In a few years we would have on our western borders a class of people placed in a position to earn their own living instead of a nation of savages continually preying upon our pioneers.

G. W. SHIELDS.

For The High School.

FLIRTING.

Flirting grows gradually. It is acquired by habit. Sometimes by striving to please the opposite sex with affected delicate words, significant glances, and stolen signals; sometimes by endeavoring to create admiration for oneself. Occasionally affectionate sentiments are exchanged with laughing, roughish looks, and overdrawn tenderness. This is burlesque flirting, and is practiced openly in company, without attempts at concealment. It is indulged as much for the amusement of others present, as that of the principals. Probably no other style of flirting is fraught with as much pleasure, and as little harm. Some there are, who under the guise of tender solicitude, and endearing patronage strive to make others love them. Their actions are prompted purely from the selfish motive to be loved, with out loving. They have not thought of the consequent pain to the

deceived, when the deception will be unveiled; or, if they have, their cruel selfishness so far exceeds every better feeling, that the thought will but add to their morbid gratification instead of causing remorse.

Flirting is practiced almost exclusively by those of vain tendencies. Once the habit is acquired it becomes almost a second nature, and is as difficult to suppress as any other objectionable trait in the catalogue of human weaknesses. Its index is found in the physiognomy, where it advertises itself as conspicuously as any other peculiarity of disposition. It is one of the traits of character that is quickly discernible by others, seldom known to ourselves and less frequently acknowledged. To be a successful flirt, so that no unpleasantness will be occasioned by plying the unenviable habit, one must be a keen discernor of human nature; be able to distinguish the soft from the adamant; have a heart of flint that will not be affected by the returning fire, and an inclination for justice that will not allow the treacherous arrows to be directed at any with a nature softer than steel, so that spark may answer spark without smoke lingering to tell the tale. Flirts do not command the average respect. They may be considered ornamental and entertaining at times, but they do not receive that deep rooted and never changing love that is bestowed on the more serious. The habit of dropping artificial love here and there often unfit them to bestow as sincere and single an affection as that which they receive.

It does not necessarily follow that because flirting is superficial that the flirt is incapable of a deep and sincere devotion; but for whom they feel this devotion they do not flirt, and with whom they flirt they feel not this devotion. Love springs from the most sensitive chords in the system, and cannot be trifled with without causing pain. It controls the mind with a force unequalled by any other passion. It is never satisfied until the reciprocal love is as that bestowed. Flirts are triflers. They counterfeit the actions of those deeply impressed, and often make use of extravagant ideas and language to show their dissembled affection. The burlesque thereof may be amusing to the looker on, but it may cause the person addressed to experience emotions that are more disagreeable than entertaining. Flirting may often bring bubbles of amusement to the surface, but sometimes a treacherous seed is dropped that finds its way to a peculiar soil, from which a plant of silent anguish will blossom to be nurtured in secret.

GRACE DARLING.

For The High School.

ROBERT BURNS.

The twenty-fifth of last month was the one hundred and eighteenth anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, which event Scotland fitly celebrated by the erection of a handsome monument at Edinburgh, in honor of her noblest bard. The author of Tam O'Shanter was born on the 25th of January, 1859, in a small cottage near the river Doon, about two miles from Ayr. We obtain the best knowledge of his life from a letter written by himself to Dr. Moore, an autobiography in which all its chief incidents are related and which is generally prefixed to every edition of the poet's works. Whence this assembling at Edinburgh of all classes of Scotch and English society to do honor to the memory of one of Scotia's rustic sons of toil? Is it not that his originality, his patriotic fire and the ardor of his verse have endeared him to the hearts of men?

The poems of Burns are especially noted for their originality, great depth of feeling and a lively imagination, which clearly denote the presence of the true essence of poetry. To define poetry, however, by citing some of its attributes is very like the pedant in Hierocles, who when he desired to sell his house carried a brick in his pocket as a specimen. When we hear the question, what is poetry, there is not exactly derided a definition of words rhythmically arranged, but a definition of the essence of thought most beautifully glowing in rhyme. This sentient feeling Hickok describes by nicely defining the power which infuses it, and which he calls genius. Genius, according to the author of the "Science of the Mind," is the rare gift of the power to infuse sentiment into the production of the imagination. We could cite no more fitting example of this definition than Robert Burns. Tam O'Shanter is aglow with humor and sentiment, and is wital probably the finest production of the author's imagination.

What shrew would desire a thought more expressive of her own feeling than this from Tam O'Shanter:

"Ah! gentle dames! I gars me greet
To think how monie counsels sweet
How monie lengthen'd, sage advices,
The husband frae the wife despises."

Or when we have tried all that life in its turn can supply, what simile is more expressive of the effervescence of pleasure than the following from the same poem?

"But pleasures are like poppies spread,
To think how flow'r, its bloom is shed;
Or, like the snow-falls in the river
A moment white—then melts forever;
Or like the borealis race
That flit ere you can point their place;
Or like the rainbow's lovely form
Evanishing amid the storm."

What poet more faithfully depicted the sublimity of a storm.

"The wind blew as 'twad blown its last,
The rattling showers rose on the blast,
The speedy gleams the darkness swallow'd;
Loud, deep, and lang, the thunder bellow'd."

"Before him, Doon pours all its floods;
The doubling storm roars thro' the woods;
The lightnings flash from pole to pole;
Near and more near the thunders roll;
When, glimm'ring thro' the groaning trees,
Kirk-Alloway seem'd all in a breeze."

We have all probably known streams more impetuous than the Doon, or more clear-winding than the Devon, but none ever appeared more beautiful than his beloved Ayr described in his immortal "Mary in Heaven."

"Ayr gurgling kiss'd his pebbled shore
O'erhurling with wild-woods thickening green,

The fragrant birch, and hawthorn hoar,
Twind am'rous round the raptur'd scene,
The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
The birds sang love on ev'ry spray
Till too, too soon, the glowing west
Proclaim'd the speed of winged day."

Burns was a hapless son of misfortune, save in the galaxy of song, in

which he was destined to be a poetic star of the first magnitude. The hardships of his life undoubtedly gave to his mind that tone of despondency so characteristic of such poems as "Man was made to mourn."

He died prematurely at the age of thirty-seven, beloved by all who realized in his death the departure from life of a rare prodigy, whose intellectual greatness gave to man a clearer perception of the Beautiful, and whose fire will e'er relume the hidden light of thought.

MANFRED.

For The High School.

READINESS.

Artemus Ward says: "I have the gift of oratory; but I have not it about me."

Bottom is a good thing. It is not the speed for a few rods that tells, but the endurance at the fifth heat. Yet we know of horses having a record of 2:30, being beaten by a 2:38, because, when the moment came to pass the competitor, a slight balk, a want of readiness to answer to the bit, left them distanced by an inferior. In the race of life, the ready man often passes the better equipped and stronger man in the same business, and occupies a better position.

A man should thoroughly train himself for his calling, he should not merely seem to be, but should be master of it. No man can sustain himself by erratic flights, nor by cramming himself on special occasions. There come times in the life of every man, when, if he were only ready, he might signalise himself forever; but, it must be done at that moment, without any time for preparation, and if the man find himself, like Lord Nelson always was, fifteen minutes ahead of time, like Erskine, his fortune is made; because, by this men realize the man is greater than the occasion, and that he has "large deposits in his bank of memory, that he can draw on when he needs."

Sir Robert Peel's father made him repeat over, aloud, the sermon and lecture he heard, so that at ten years of age he could repeat them almost verbatim, and so he gained the power of restating the arguments of his adversaries; and answering them, having gained power of attention and memory. He who studies a few pages of a book, in any language, and confines himself to those pages till he possesses them, will gain the language quicker than he who discursively passes over many books. Power of attention, and previous thought are necessary to readiness.

John C. Calhoun had gained such mastery over the power of attention, that he could confine himself to any subject, and it was a habit of his, in his rides and walks, to think out some subject and not suffer his attention to wander till he was satisfied with the examination; this made him accurate.

An old physician, of very large and successful practice, told me that in the early days of his work, he had long rides, and that to use the time, he would imagine cases of fracture, accident, &c., and plan what he would do in case of a sudden call. In after life, he found almost every case that he had imagined had its reality, and he knew exactly what to do. One of the most ready public speakers I ever met, told me that he passed hours in preparing imaginary speeches, and he always found, afterward, the time and place came when he could use them.

We are told, that some of the most eloquent "bon mots," that seemed to fit right into the occasion, had been waiting in the minds of men for weeks before they were delivered. Of course, this requires tact and levelheadedness, but the levelheadedness generally is with the man who is ready, and, therefore, master of the situation. JAY GEE.

The High School

OMAHA, NEB., FEBRUARY, 1877.

THE HIGH SCHOOL is published every month. TERMS—\$1.00 per year; 50 cents for six months; single copies, 10 cents; delivered by carrier in the city or postpaid to any part of the United States.

The paper will be sent until ordered discontinued and arrearages paid.

POSTAGE—The postage will hereafter be prepaid by the publisher.

CLUBS—Parties sending the names of five subscribers, accompanied by the cash, will receive one copy free.

Subscribers changing residences can have the addresses of their papers changed by sending notice to the Business Manager.

PUBLICATION OFFICE is in Odd Fellows block, cor. 14th and Dodge. Office hours—8 to 10 A. M., 5 to 6 P. M., and 7 to 9 in the evening. Calls should be made only within those hours.

Articles for publication must be handed in before the 20th of the month.

Anonymous communications will not be published.

Rejected MSS. will not be returned unless previously accompanied by the necessary postage.

Address all communications to
J. F. McCARTNEY,
Editor and Publisher, Omaha, Neb.

THE original Charley Collins, formerly of the Sioux City Times, is now publishing a paper at Atlantic, Iowa, called the Democrat. What did you do with that Black Hills steamboat, Charles?

GOV. GARBER recommended in his message that one wing of the State Penitentiary be used as a reform school for the present, and he was seconded by every intelligent man in the State. Capt. L. F. Wyman, who has recently been reappointed warden—a fitting compliment to one whose past administration of that office was entirely satisfactory—volunteers to take charge of this school, and do all he can toward making it fruitful in its results. As yet we have not heard of any definite action on this matter by the Legislature, but we are almost certain that the proposition will be carried into effect.

THE NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION met at Lincoln, on the 4th inst., in the parlors of the Commercial Hotel. The attendance was quite general and several matters of importance came before the meeting. J. C. McBride was elected president; W. H. Micheal, vice president; J. H. McMurphy, secretary, and W. A. Connell, treasurer for the ensuing year. It was decided by a unanimous vote that the association indulge in an excursion to the Pacific coast sometime during the coming summer, probably in May, and the executive officers were delegated with full power to make all arrangements. Previous to starting on the excursion the members will hold a meeting and literary entertainment in Omaha, on which occasion Mr. W. H. Micheal will deliver an address and Mr. Fred Nye read a poem.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION A FAILURE.

Michigan has had a law for nearly six years to compel children to attend school, and it is a fact that not a single instance of its enforcement can to-day be cited. New York State adopted the Compulsory Education Measure in 1873, but beyond a mere attempt at enforcement that most ingloriously failed, nothing has been accomplished. The views expressed by the HIGH SCHOOL some three years ago, viz: that compulsory education, however good it might appear in theory, was decidedly impracticable—have been proven correct. Essayists and debaters may arrive at conclusions that compulsory education is a great desideratum, but repeated failures to carry out the system wherever tried prove that it is not wanted by the people, and can never become popular in America.

A VALUABLE HISTORY FOR SCHOOLS.

We have received the University Edition of Our First Hundred Years, just published by the United States Publishing Company, No. 205 East 12th st., New York. This work is an abridgement of the history of our first hundred years, written by that eminent historian, C. Edwards Lestor, and is specially adapted to the wants of universities and schools. It has been unanimously adopted by the New York City school board and is furnished as a text book in history to the schools under its control. Quarto, 480 pp., price \$2.50. Send direct to the Publishers.

SUPERFICIAL SENTIMENTALITIES.

Unpremeditated Descantings on Everything in General and Nothing in Particular.

THE open hostility of an avowed enemy is far preferable to the underhand detractions and blows of a pretended friend.

THE individual who can hold up his head and look every one straight in the face, is the one who, though he may do wrong every hour in the day, does not act the part of the deceitful villain in dealing with the characters of his fellow men. There is an air of true nobleness about such a one that we cannot but admire. That man never existed who could justly lay claim to perfection in all his actions. That man who haughtily assures himself that he, of all others is immaculate, is full of vanity, and the longer he continues the more limited will become the number of his admirers.

NOTHING was more characteristic of that noble trait in man which we so ardently admire as the remark made by Leonard Jerome, of New York city, when the actions of James Gordon Bennett were brought up for discussion before the court of public opinion. When asked if he thought Bennett did wrong, he said that he wanted it distinctly understood that he was a friend of Bennett's, whether he did right or wrong, especially if he did wrong, for then is the time that he needs friends. In saying this he struck a key note which finds a sympathetic chord in the heart of every true man in the land. It is too often the case that all the pretended friends a man may have will immediately cut themselves off on hearing of a reverse in business, a misfortune or a downfall, and an exception like this is certainly refreshing.

NEVER make a big ado about a newspaper item concerning you. If it is true, it may hurt your feelings, but you will call more attention to it and only make the matter worse if you flounder around and try to explain it away. If what is said about you is not true, your happy consciousness of that fact will relieve you of any remorse on account of it.

THERE is a brace of young men in this city who draw their rations three times a day and stand around on street corners fervently thanking God that they are not like some men. They don't like the HIGH SCHOOL. They wouldn't subscribe for it if it was given to them. We can't please them. What shall we do?

Never allow yourself to become involved in difficulty with a scullion or a scavenger. We know persons who will fan the slightest cause into a flame, not with a desire of revenging any real or fancied injury, but for the sole purpose of dragging you down to their own level, if possible, by associating themselves with you in a quarrel. Certain grievances, for which there can be no redress, you will inevitably meet in the course of life. The historic individual, who was ostensibly victorious in his encounter with the speckled quadruped of the feline species, was forced to the conclusion after the battle was over that, although he killed the "bird," he was himself the real victim. There is more real victory in avoiding difficulty with some persons than there would be in vanquishing them, though you could easily do the latter.

EX-GOV. A. SAUNDERS, of this city, was elected by the Legislature to represent Nebraska in the United States Senate for the next six years. The history of his life has been widely published since that event, and young men who read it can deduce this fact from it, viz: That although Mr. Saunders has been actively engaged in politics all his life, he has never deviated from the straight path of honesty. To be able to say this of a public man in these days is to say a great deal, and although his reward was slow in coming, it finally did come, and it can be doubly appreciated by both himself and his friends because it came honestly.

EDUCATIONAL.

A bill has been introduced in the present session of the Nebraska Legislature for the abolition of the Agricultural College, and is now in the hands of a committee. We earnestly hope it will not pass, as it would certainly have a very discouraging effect on education in general. The fact that the Agricultural College has in the past been very unsuccessful should not bring down the censure of our legislators on its now defenceless head, but on the other hand this institution, should receive every encouragement that can be given it.

The following item was clipped from the January number of the Pennsylvania School Journal:

HARRISBURG, Dec. 8, 1876.
To Hon. J. P. Wickersham, LL.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction: Having been unanimously elected to the Principalship of the Nebraska State Normal School, and having accepted the same, I hereby resign my position as Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, my resignation to take effect December 31, 1876.

Respectfully and truly yours
ROBERT CURRY.

Prof. Curry takes the place at the head of the Normal School of Prof. S. R. Thompson, also a Pennsylvanian, and well known among school men here, who has recently been elected Superintendent of Public Instruction in Nebraska. With Thompson as Superintendent and Curry as principal of the Normal School, we expect Nebraska to make rapid advancement in her educational affairs.

One of our educational exchanges contains the following conclusions of a teacher:

I have found it to be a universal fact, without exception, that those scholars of both sexes, and of all ages, who have access to newspapers at home, when compared with those who have not, are: 1. Better readers, excellent in pronunciation, and consequently read more understandingly. 2. They are better spellers, and define words with ease and accuracy. 3. They obtain practical knowledge of geography in about half the time it requires of others, as the newspapers have made them acquainted with the location of the important places of nations, their government and doings on the globe. 4. They are better grammarians, for, having become so familiar with every variety of style in the newspapers, from the commonplace advertisement to the finished and classical oration of the statesman, they more readily comprehend the meaning of the text, and constantly analyze its construction with accuracy. 5. They write better compositions, using better language, containing more thoughts more clearly and more correctly expressed. 6. Those young men who have for years been readers of newspapers are always taking the lead in debating societies, exhibiting a more extensive knowledge upon a greater variety of subjects, and expressing their views with greater fluency, clearness and correctness.

Some educators advocate, with considerable display of wisdom, the permanent employ of teachers in our common schools. The continual change of teachers certainly works more or less injury to a school. When a teacher is suitable in every respect, his position should be a lasting one. If permanency of occupation were insured to those teaching, and good salaries, many persons eminently fitted for the school room, both by inclination and talent, would be induced to devote their time to teaching.

We observe and deprecate the stand taken by some of the school districts in this State, in regard to wages of teachers. In some districts it is the aim and practice of the directors to hire teachers who will work for the least salary, regardless of experience and qualifications. The lamentable consequence is the employment, in too many instances, of men and women incapacitated, by lack of mental acquirements, to train the young. We believe, however, that this shortsightedness in on the decrease, and the experience, which those who have control of the education of our youth, have had with the "poor pay system" is fast prompting

them to broader views and sounder policy.—Hesperian Student.

A bill is now before the Legislature to abolish the office of County Superintendent of Public Instruction. The object is economy, and the result, if passed, will be the complete disorganization of nearly every school outside of the larger cities in the State. The Superintendent is the life of a school district, and it is false economy to cut him off for the sake of saving money. The leading educators of the State look with disfavor on the measure, and it will doubtless fail; at least we hope it will.

COLLEGE NEWS.

[Gleaned from our College Exchanges.]
Brown University has led off by abolishing the morning prayer and rescinding the rule that made attendance at the chapel compulsory.

Out of one hundred and seven ladies in the Michigan University, only four have taken to law. How many have taken to lawyers is not stated.

Capt. Ostrom, of the Cornell Crew, did not pass examination last term, and he will have to attend another year. It is hinted that many were interested in having him fail that he might remain at Cornell next summer and lead the crew. A thousand dollars has been subscribed by friends of this crew to send it to England next August.

The University of Michigan had last year 101 female students, distributed as follows: Medicine, 37; law, 2; homeopathy, 2; literature, 60. "The experience of the past year," writes the president of the university in his annual report, "confirms the opinion we had been led to form by experience of former years, that women who come here in good health are able to complete our collegiate or professional course of study without detriment to their health."

The National Amateur Rowing Association has decided to hold the next regatta at Detroit next August. This is a recognition of the importance of the Western rowing interests which could not longer be delayed. The championship virtually rests with the West, and it was scarcely the fair thing to expect that the Western clubs would continue to attend the Eastern regattas without a murmur. Detroit is centrally located, is a boating city, and will, we believe, take care of the regatta better than any other place in the country.

An exchange says: "We are in receipt of two poems, one on the 'Throbbing Brain,' the other on a 'Bleeding Heart.' We will wait until we receive one on the 'Stomach ache,' and publish the three together."—Harvard Advocate.

A young man applying for admission to Cornell University, spilled ink all over his examination papers, rubbed out the blots with his tongue, sucked his pen clean at the end of every sentence, spelled the name of the father of his country, "gorg washington," said that "gullus decius Brutus discovered America, and that it was at least 679 miles from the earth to the moon, and nearly twice as far to the sun;" but when it was ascertained that the applicant was Robinson, the Union Springs, N. Y. oarsman, his papers were marked 125 per cent., and he went into the Sophomore class.—Ex.

COASTING.

ONE of two things, says the Norristown Herald, must be done right away. Men must stop discussing the political situation on the street corners, or boys must quit coasting on the sidewalks. Two men were standing on the corner of Main and D-Kalb streets this morning, engaged in a warm controversy, and just as one brought his fist down in his open palm and somewhat excitedly observed, "I tell you this country is rapidly drifting into a military despotism—" a boy on a sled rapidly drifted into his legs and the man rapidly drifted into a gutter, with the "m" of "despotism" on his lips and a look of horror in his eyes. When he got up and assured himself that the back of his head, like the star spangled banner, "was still there," he turned to the other gentleman to inform him that the country might go to Halifax, for all he cared, when he saw that person drifting rapidly down the street. It is a pleasure to add that the boy's sled was not damaged by the shock.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 20th.
[From our Washington Correspondent.]
In sending a communication from this city for the delectation of the HIGH SCHOOL readers I presume nothing would be more inappropriate than to talk about the affairs of Government. Just what to write about was becoming a serious question with me, after I had consented to act as your Washington correspondent, when the happy thought struck me that your large number of lady subscribers and patrons might be interested in society news.

Balls, receptions, and dinner parties are now the order of the day, the affairs being mostly gotten up for the entertainment of senators and members of Congress. Of course everybody understands why a Senator is dined and wined at Washington, and there is more truth than poetry in the assertion of Mark Twain, that a "man never realizes just how important he is until he becomes a Senator in charge of a bill."

Unquestionably the social event of the season, thus far, was the German given during the holidays by Mrs. Ross Ray. Never before have such beautiful and expensive favors been seen in our city, and never before have so many hours been consumed in the figures, many of which were entirely new. The number of invited guests was limited to thirty-two couples, and the German was led by Randolph, of the army. In fact, everything was carried by the military, who were present in goodly numbers, and were the lions of the evening, civilians and naval officers who have been with us some time receiving little attention, and not till six o'clock in the morning did the merry ones reach their homes. Those bearing away some of the choicest favors were "Gunnie" Bingham, a set of frosted gold studs; Perrin Busbee, U. S. N., handsome seal ring; Miss Anna Barnes, ring of square setting with six pearls; Miss Carrie Luce, handsome pair of sleeve buttons; Miss Coffin, a beautiful gold pencil; kid gloves, three buttons for the ladies and two for the gentlemen. Among those present were Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, in a superb pearl colored brocade satin court train and white satin petticoat; Miss Waite, daughter of the Chief Justice, in white silk; pretty Miss Minnie Pelouze, in purple and white; Miss Emily Chubb, white silk and blue trimmings; Miss Hallie Pattison, exquisite pink silk; Miss Leila Ray, silvery gauze over blue silk; Miss Miller, daughter of Justice Miller, in white silk; while Miss Porter, Miss Wainwright, Miss Slack, Miss Emory, Miss Dodge, Miss Poor, Miss Woodhull, Miss Ella Ray, Miss Bradford, Miss Nannie Smith, Miss Dennison, Miss West, Miss Heap and Mrs. Long Edes were in very becoming toilettes.

Mrs. Sartoris is spending the winter at the White House, as is also Col. Fred Grant and his wife. Mrs. Ex-Secretary Belknap still maintains her old position as one of the leaders of Washington society, and Belknap himself still rears high his head, despite the little unpleasantness of last summer. We often see Gen. A. S. Paddock, senator from your State. He is engaged with business, and is always found in his seat attending to business during the session days.

Among the Omaha representatives now in Washington are Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sutphen, Miss Hattie and Master Ed., who will hereafter make this their home.

We noticed in the papers the other day the arrival in town of Hon. J. M. Woolworth, and Mr. Chas. P. Woolworth of your city.

LUCRETIA.

RECOLLECTIONS OF DON QUIXOTE.

Here are a few extracts from Don Quixote:
"Keep your mouth shut and your eyes open."
Squires and knights errant are subject to much hunger and ill-luck.
All women, let them be ever so homely, are pleased to hear themselves celebrated for their beauty.
Virtue is always more persecuted by the wicked than beloved by the righteous.
Every one is the son of his own works.
No padlock, bolts or bars can secure a maiden so well as her own reserve.

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OMAHA, NEB., FEB. 1877.

FASHIONS OF MODESTY.

Modesty is in itself an abstract sentiment. The practical observation of what are locally considered the requirements of modesty is purely a relative question, depending upon the tastes, customs, and susceptibilities of the population of a place. External influences and comforts may have much to do in laying down a local code of what are considered the requirements of modesty.

A savage in tropical climate, does not blush if accommodated with garments to the extent of a waist-cloth. An Esquimaux, compelled by climate to wear substantial clothing at all times, would, apart from the physical suffering of semi-nudity, feel mortally shocked if compelled to undergo it. A Mahomedan woman veils her face and covers her neck and bosom, but displays coquettish trousers and trim ankles. A European dame may expose all of her face and three parts of her bust, but must not, says the *lex non scripta* of her local society, show her ankles, still less parade in trousers as a normal and ordinary state of costume; but, while she would shudder if launched into a drawing room in a pair of serge inexpressibles and a tunic, with bare feet and ankles, even though the male occupants of the room may be among her most intimate friends, she does not consider that she violates propriety if she exhibits herself in bathing attire, regulated according to the manners and customs of the watering-place where she takes her bath.

In England, *e. g.*, while ladies do not parade themselves on the sands in dripping attire that, close clinging, but sets off the contour of the frame which it is supposed to veil; the male population (ill lately everywhere, and still in some less fashionable resorts) could disport themselves in utter nudity among the breakers not a hundred yards from the throng of morning loungers on a beach, and, from force of custom, no scandal was supposed to exist at the exhibition. On the Continent and in America the ladies are less reserved, the gentlemen more so, in their ideas of propriety in bathing. The former will parade and gossip with male acquaintances, robed in the scanty wardrobe of the bath; the latter adopt clothing as complete in its way as that of their fair companions, before they exhibit themselves to the curious eyes of spectators. An actress, let us say of unimpeachable fame, will play her part without flinching in male attire in burlesque or opera, and exhibit her well-turned limbs in silk tights and hose, *a la Henry VIII.*, to the admiration and criticism of even the Whitechapel "gods" in the gallery; yet, if asked to join a supper party, non professional, an hour later, wearing the same costume, instead of her ordinary multi, would feel herself grossly insulted. If a gentleman came to an evening or dinner party with a shirt as *decollete* as that of an ordinary blue jacket, showing all the contour of his neck and collar, he would be considered to violate proper prudery, and the ladies would affect to blush and turn away their heads. Yet they, at the same moment, would show a far larger expanse of neck and bosom without *arriere pensee*.

In the United States, especially before the days of abolition, the same curiously relative ideas of the refinements of decency were prominent. For a slave to be seen scantily attired, or for a child of color to parade in utter nudity, was a matter of no moment even among an assembly of educated whites. The sight was so customary that it produced no more effect than the natural nudity of one of the brute creation; but a similar *expose* on the part of a white individual would have evoked a general exclamation of scandal. It needs but a glance at Leech's sketches of life and character fifteen or twenty years ago, to recall the extreme length at which those "inexpressible" garments were then worn by ladies. The least elevation of skirt in stepping over a puddle displayed the edge of a pantaloons almost as low as the ankle. For a lady not to show the lower end of this sort of raiment might have been construed to imply that she was neglectful of wearing them at all. Fashion has turned, and not only grown ladies, but even small, short-skirted children, now carefully avoid showing the least trace of these mysterious undergarments. To wear them in these days so long that they could be perceived on ordinary occasions, would be interpreted as an unnecessary reminder of the existence of raiment which is now sought to be cut short from sight and from disquisition. The low-necked costume of full evening dress for ladies found its way first into European society in days when courts set a public example of licentiousness; it has unconsciously

held its own to these days of comparative chastity at courts. But had it never gained a footing in times when ladies were prodigal of their charms, we much doubt if it would have been capable of introduction in these times. As a matter of conventionality, when analyzed, it cannot but strike any one as curious that a lady, while so prudish about even her ankle joints, should be so lavish of her bust.

To the pure, all things may be pure, and we do not imply that the present fashion of toleration of a more than half-naked female bust in the evening, has any material effect in sapping the innate modesty of young girls. We rather look at the matter from an opposite point of view, and argue that, if conventionality enables us to tolerate this style of dress without any feeling of indelicacy, it must be conventional, and not any real necessity of propriety, that prevents a lady from abandoning the side saddle, wearing boots and breeches in the hunting-field, or from adopting Bloomer costume at rinks or at lawn tennis. We have no wish to urge upon any lady that she should make herself conspicuous by such mode of procedure. Conspicuousness in dress, even if the dress itself fulfills all requirements of decency, is in itself a first step toward a disregard of the claims of modesty. We are content to point to current fashions in this and in less civilized countries, and to compare one with another, as a proof that the fashions of modesty are based upon relative rather than upon positive principles.—*Saturday Evening Herald.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

A sequel to the "Song of a Shirt"—the "Tale of a Coat."—[N. Y. Com. Adv.]

Spilkens always insists on spelling needle—needle. He says every needle should have an eye in it. Sew!

The following is good grammar: "That that 'that' that that man uttered is not that 'that' that that other gentleman referred to."

One is easily led to doubt the assumed claims of a person to the title of a gentleman who so far forgets the proprieties as to rush or skate across the floor at a private club party in order that he may secure the first seat at the supper table. Such persons should remember the Bible injunction.

The excuse a base ball nine put in last autumn was that "the pitcher was full."

A Philadelphia shoe merchant wrote to his wife that he had become a convert to cremation, and she said: "Go ahead; have your ashes returned C. O. D. to me."

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul, and the heart of man knoweth none more fragrant. While its opponent, ingratitude, is a deadly weed, not only poisonous in itself, but impregnating the very atmosphere in which it grows with fetid vapors. The deadly stab that Caesar got from Brutus hurt him not half so much as that pang which thrilled him on seeing the ingratitude of his life-long boon companion.

Bow low the head, Boy.

In speaking of an old man, some one has beautifully and touchingly said: "Bow low the head, boy; do reverence to the old man as he passes slowly along. Once like you, the vicissitudes of life have silvered the hair and changed the round face to the worn visage before you. Once that heart beat with aspirations co-equal to any you have felt; aspirations crushed by disappointment, as yours are perhaps destined to be. Once that form stalked proudly through the gay scenes of pleasure the beau ideal of grace; now the hand of time that withers the flower of yesterday, has warped that figure and destroyed that noble carriage. Once, at your age, he had the thousand thoughts that pass through your brain—now, wishing to accomplish something worthy of a nook in fame, anon imagining life a dream that the sooner he woke from the better. But he has lived the dream very near through. The time to awaken is very near at hand, yet his eye ever kindles at old deeds of daring and his hand takes a firm grasp of the staff. Bow low the head, boy, as you would in your old age be revered."

"Let him who neglects to raise the fallen, fear, least when he falls, no one will stretch out his hand to lift him up."—*Eddin Sadi.*

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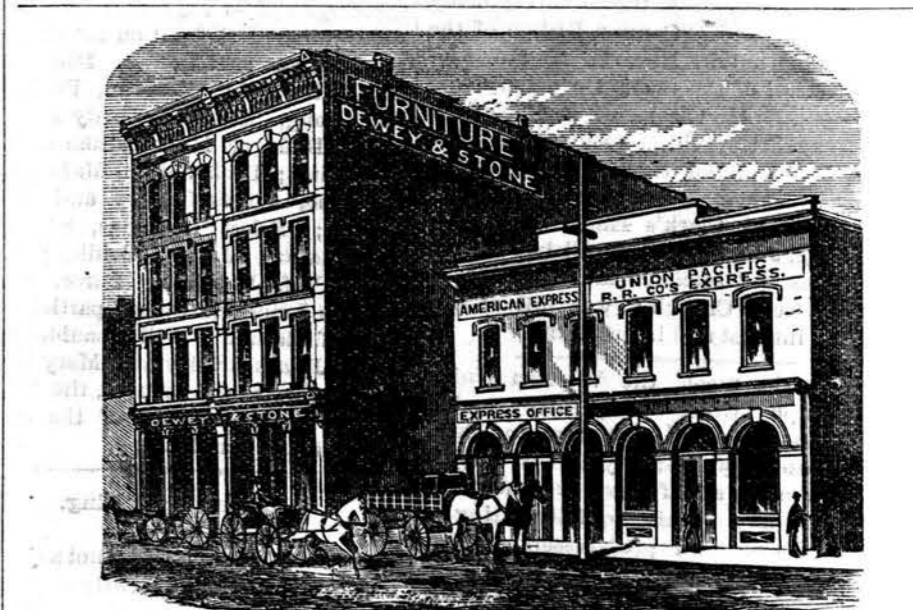
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