

What is his duty? Evidently to act the part of a candid, scholarly reviewer of the literary efforts of the society, pointing out errors, suggesting methods of improvement, and especially rendering due praise for the beauties and excellencies noticed.

Then, what sort of a person ought to fill so responsible a position? The careless blunderer, or the ablest and most cultured member of the society? The question might seem idle, did we not consider what the average critic really is.

#### WHAT HE REALLY IS.

He is frequently "filled in" to appease him for defeat in some so-called higher aspiration, without regard to qualification. He is not a model by any means. His diction is a string of slang phrases, provincialisms and false syntax. He is likely to be the most awkward lubber in the society. He takes his position each evening to mumble forth the same mess of stale jargon, about as gracefully as a lame stage horse from arises a straw pile. After getting on his feet, hitching up his trowsers, settling his vest, getting his refractory limbs into partial subjection, stammering and scratching his pate he tortures you with a stereotyped medley, delivered in alternate gutturals, aspirates and grunts. He says that such an one said, "Them is my sentiments," which, he is of the opinion, is wrong; that another "used *is* for *are*," which he solemnly assures "hadn't ought to be." Then he eloquently observes that "Ez I didn't notice any more *mistakes* I guess I'll take m—ah—scat," and subsides into his chair as gracefully as he arose. What an execrable burlesque! Such a critic—and he is our fair average—we pronounce an unadulterated nuisance, an unmitigated bore. Is there no higher duty for the critic than to mention, *verbatim et literatim*, the slips of tongue and blunders in speech of each performer in turn? Out with such a puerile conception of the mission of the most important officer in the society!

Why does the president forget, half the time, to call for the critics report? Because it is not worth calling for, and is not anticipated with pleasure. The critic is a sort of evil deity that must be worshipped to propitiate his goodwill. He is listened to with long faces and abject decorum. No one ventures to criticize, but each squirms under the punishment he inflicts. His nauseous doses are swallowed for the same reason that one takes ipecac, because he thinks it good for him. We have seen many a splendid exercise finished off and spoiled by some blundering critic. We say down with such nonsense! Out with such criticism, and let us have none, or else something that will improve us! But we can have something better. We will tell what we think the critic *might* be.

#### WHAT HE SHOULD BE.

He should be the best informed and most cultured man in the society. He need not be a fluent or elegant speaker, but he should be an accurate one. He should be able to give a short extempore critique on each exercise, in entertaining style.

He should deal in generalities, and spend but little time re-iterating and criticizing particulars. He should make a schedule of his term's work before entering upon his duties, in which should be indicated the particular subject of criticism, the general principle to be enforced for each of the nine or ten regular per-

formances of his term of office. The critic should make a careful preparation for each evening. His performance should be one of the most interesting and entertaining on the programme. In fact, the critique should be a literary production and not an incoherent jumble of words.

In conclusion, if we have trod on anyone's toes, for consolation we would inform him that we have exposed our own corns to the same danger.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

This issue of the *STUDENT* makes its appearance very late. The cause thereof is, that we have been unable to furnish editorial "copy," on account of ill health. We would individually shoulder the whole responsibility this time, and respectfully ask the patience and forbearance of our patrons, hoping to be promptly on time in future.

We are happy to congratulate Messrs. W. H. SNELL and JOHN McLEAN on their recent admission to practice at the Bar. Mr. SNELL is a graduate of the class of '73, and Mr. McLEAN was long a student of the University. They have been faithful and earnest students, both in school and in the learned profession. They leave immediately for Georgetown, Colorado, where they will enter into the practice of their profession as a firm. They leave with bright prospects, and we bespeak for them a brilliant and successful career. We, as students, with their many other friends, are sorry to lose them from our midst; but we feel assured that as they gain honors for themselves, they will pay due tribute to their *alma mater*.

The Adelpian Social held on Friday evening, October 23, was unquestionably the most satisfactory social entertainment ever given by the Society. The hall, which is elegantly and richly furnished, was admirably and tastefully arranged for the occasion—thanks to the counsel and superior taste of the young lady members or that society. The attendance was by far the largest ever known in the social gatherings of either society of the university. The music, instrumental and vocal, was charming, and enthusiastically applauded. Refreshments, consisting of cake and confectionery, were bountifully served. For beauty, grace, wit and *baking*, those girls of the Adelpian may safely challenge Christendom! The young gentlemen of said society are lucky fellows to have such providers, and they seem to appreciate their happy lot. All that we have said about the perfect sociability of the Palladian society may be emphasized for the Adelpian. They seemed determined not to be excelled in courtesy to their visitors, among whom were nearly the whole membership of the Palladian. Let not this entertainment be the last. We would, however, suggest that something, of a literary character, for instruction and amusement be added, hereafter.

We were honored with an invitation to attend the social entertainment recently given by the Palladian Society. We improved the opportunity and went. The commodious hall was tastefully decorated and well arranged for the occasion. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present, among them a delegation from the Adelpian Society, which, in response to a hearty invitation, adjourned for the occasion. A pleasanter, and more sociable gathering we had never enjoyed the pleasure of attending. The

members of the Palladian seemed to emulate one another in making their visitors "feel at home," by every polite attention and courtesy. Excellent instrumental and vocal music was provided; also a splendid and bountiful collation of fruit was spread for all. The Palladians have the honor, we hope, of introducing a new order of things in our social relations as students. We have long felt the lack of true sociability and friendship in the University. New students, especially those from other institutions, have invariably remarked the freezing, rigid social atmosphere of our school. Let the students become better acquainted and learn to sympathize in one another's struggles, hopes, and aspirations. We sincerely hope that the spirit of brotherly and sisterly friendship which seems to be springing up among all the students this term will not grow less, but form a bond of unity, binding them harmoniously together in all those interests which ought to receive their common, fraternal support.

The meeting for the organization of a "Students' Gymnastic Association" was on the afternoon of the 20th inst. It was well attended, and much enthusiasm manifested. Active measures had already been taken in procuring appurtenances and apparatus for fitting up the gymnasium. The students present, after electing temporary officers, immediately proceeded to the election of permanent officers for the year. The choices were wisely made, as the gentlemen elected were among the ablest and very best qualified men in the University. What with our able officers, the energy and zeal displayed in the new enterprise on the part of the students and the excellent supervision of Prof. Bailey, a most accomplished gymnast and fencer, we feel assured that the Gymnasium will be a grand success. Prof. Bailey gave the young gentlemen instruction as to the proper manner of conducting the gymnasium, and relative to its true objects. He said that all partisan lines and animosities, arising from whatever outside cause, should be utterly ignored, and exhorted them to let the organization be a *students' association* in spirit as well as name. We were sorry to see marked evidences of the old party strife and bitterness which has long existed in the two literary societies, cropping out in the actions of students present. For shame, gentlemen, be men and abandon this boyish bickering! What matter if all the offices are filled by men from the same literary society? We ought to recognize no literary society outside of *themselves*. Down with this contemptible spirit. Frown and hiss down the men who would instigate factions in the new organization. Let them know that your intelligence will no longer tolerate such puerile scheming and strife-hatching.

#### The Darwinian Theory.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF STRAUS.

Nothing is easier than to make sport of the *Darwinian Doctrine*; nothing is cheaper than that sneering observation about the *descent of man from monkeys*, in which even some of the better class of newspapers and periodicals are wont to indulge. But a theory whose peculiarity consists directly in this, that it unites in a constant line of development those things which are apparently widely separated from each other, and this, by the interpolation

of middle terms or members, and makes perceptible the lever (*Hebel*) by means of which nature brings about the ascending movement in this line of development,—such a theory no sensible man will think that he has overthrown when he has directly contrasted two so different examples as the men and the baboons of our day, disregarding the partly proven and partly presupposed intermediate steps and connecting orders.

The dislike of Darwin's theory on the part of the ecclesiastics, of the men of the old faith, of the revelation and miracle-mongers, is easily understood; they know what they are doing and have every reason and every right to struggle for life and death against a principle so uncompromisingly hostile to themselves. \* \* \*

Darwin was not the originator of the doctrine which is now for the most part known by his name; its inception dates back to the last century. At the beginning of the present, it was put forth as a settled theory by the great Frenchman Lamarch. There was wanting to it yet to make it a living reality in the scientific world important connecting links. Lamarch conducted the investigation only so far as to show that *species* in nature are not impassably separated, but have developed, one from another, especially the higher from the lower, by means of successive transformations; yet to the categorical question: "How did this happen?" he indeed sought for, but could find no sufficient answer. Just here is the point where Darwin rendered essential aid to the theory and elevated it from the scientific paradox which it had been down to his time into an influential and consistent system.

The theory is without doubt still very incomplete. It leaves unexplained very much not merely of incidental but of essential and cardinal points. It looks rather to a future possible solution than claims to have already furnished it. Be this as it may, there is surely something in it that irresistibly draws to itself all generous souls thirsting for truth and freedom. In its present state, it may be compared to a railway when first projected: what abysses are to be filled or bridged; what mountains to be tunneled; how many years must pass away, before the well-filled train shall pass over it with ease and rapidity. But we even now see the *direction* it must take. The rega train must and will go where the little flag is joyfully fluttering in the wind. Yes, joyfully, and in the sense of the purest, most elevated spirit of joy.

We philosophers and theological critics must beware how we relegate miracles among the things of the past; our would-be decisive sentence is of no avail because we know not how to render miracle indispensable; can not show that nature has no power which can replace it in those circumstances in which hitherto it has been held for the most part indispensable. It is Darwin's great merit that he has shown that nature has this power. Thus has he opened the door out of which our descendants, if we do not, shall throw miracle never again to return. For this incalculable service, every one who knows what depends on miracle will praise him as one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. \*

Advertisers will find it to their advantage to advertise in the *STUDENT* as our circulation is continually increasing.