

has reached a remarkable degree of perfection. It is our opinion, that some of the worthy editors who visited the Normal on the occasion in question, and who had previously decried the same as "the Peru High School," etc., had a great incubus lifted from their minds, and perhaps felt some slight touches of shame, if editors ever experience that very worthy emotion. It would be a remarkably prolific village, of about seven hundred inhabitants, that could produce three hundred young men and women of nearly equal age. There is not a city this side of Chicago that could do it. The students, in fact, come from all parts of the State.

There is one feature of the exercises and instruction of the Normal, which we would like to see emulated in the University—music. Great attention is paid to vocal music. The Preparatory Department, Prof. NICHOLS, Principal, devotes half or three quarters of an hour each morning to this exercise.

The Normals are expecting to give the University a visit *en masse* soon; the students of the University will give them a hearty welcome. There is much that we would like to say of this school, but space forbids further mention.

CRITIQUES AND CRITICISMS.

When we commenced our editorial work we thought, "What a bore it will be to look over and read the exchanges. To have to endure Sophomoric flights of eloquence, Junior gushes, and the ponderous polemics of Seniors, each plainly sent out in the the expectation that it is to revolutionize the thought of the world." But we were disappointed. In the first place, we meet with but little of such writing, and for what we do find, a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind. And now it is one of our chief pleasures to greet each new comer on its monthly visit and mark the comments on daily events, the tenor of thought, the impressions of life, which each brings from its section of the educational world. We turn eagerly to the Exchange Column to see and profit by the friendly criticisms of one upon another, and feel that we have almost a personal acquaintance with many. This feeling of good-fellowship, fraternity and friendship, is really one of the best results of College Journalism, since it seems to bind in closer bonds, institutions which are working for the same end and purpose. The advantage resulting from this can scarcely be estimated. To some extent, each College or University is the exponent of particular ideas which circumstances have fostered and nourished. The College paper becomes, necessarily, tinctured with these sentiments that it imparts to others and in turn becomes modified and liberalized by the friendly criticism and suggestions of the organs of the living ideas embodied in other assemblies of thinkers. So let those who will, sneer at College Journals and the presumption of boys and girls we will do the best that lies in our power, knowing that it is necessary to pass through the stage, which has been likened so often to veal, before we can reach the stolid common sense and staid strength of the full grown ox.

The *Bates Student* comes with some good ideas on the "Scholar in Society," and what we have to fear from the influence of the German element. We think it has more vim than the *Crescent*, the other magazine from the Free Baptist Colleges.

The *Institute* is a lively little paper published in convenient pamphlet form, down in Missouri. The last number is unusually good. "Luna" evidently has talent as a story teller. The *Institute* is always a welcome visitor.

We stand corrected, Friend *Tyro*, and hereby make the *amende honorable*. The *Tyro* is the only paper published by the young ladies of Cook's Collegiate Institute. We found out our error but too late for correction. Forgive us, and we won't do so any more. Do you really dare "sauce" the august autocrats at Yale? We humble Westerners keep reverent silence. We fear the fate of Zelicu if we lift the awful veil.

Some one in the *Targum* writing on "College Materialism" deplors the prevalence of liberal views at Rutgers and calls upon the Faculty to give attention to the matter. Verily, the leaven is working everywhere.

The contributors to the Delaware College *Adeance* have all evidently been extensively studying Shakspeare and the Old Dramatists—and to some purpose. The article on "Shakspeare and Friends at the Walnut" is well conceived and well carried out. It is decidedly one of the best articles we have seen lately. "Sir Walter," "rare Ben Joason" and "Francis the royal," though they would give even the Devil his due, would be constrained to cry with Falstaff, "Lord, Lord, how is this world given to lying!" if they could revisit their old haunts at the Mermaid and learn of the efforts to rob "Gentle Will" of his laurels and place them on the haughty brow of Sir Francis Bacon. Imagine doughty Ben's indignation at the spoliation of the honors so long accorded to his sweet Swan of Avon, with his "excellent phantasy, brave notions, and gentle expressions," and all for the good of Lord Verulam, whose polished, clear-cut, icy thought never had the "honed sweetness" of Will Shakspeare's!

We ought, no doubt, to feel overwhelmed by the *Volante's* criticism. But we don't. The *Volante* is quite right, in one thing. We don't like the the Doctor's ideas on co-education,—nor his proceedings in regard to the matter, at the University of Chicago. Probably when the learned Doctor succeeds in his commendable little project of crowding the lady students out of the University entirely, he will point triumphantly to the achievement as an indubitable proof of the failure of the whole system of co-education. And what Chicago affirms is law for the small remainder of the world. We admire the perspicuity of the *Volante's* critic. But it wofully failed him this time. "She" wrote all the other criticisms, but "he" wrote that one. It was beyond her capacity. "She" will not "enter into an argument on co-education" either but "she" cannot forbear expressing her unbounded admiration for the "cute" way in which the *Volante* tries to praise itself. It wants to discover why it is that "no college paper with young ladies on the editorial staff has equaled in excellence papers published either entirely by men or entirely otherwise." When we remember that the *Volante* is published by young men entirely, and the HESPERIAN by both sexes, the modesty of the above is apparent.

We did think we would get off something about the "Protean changes" of the *Ireing Union*, but have thought better of

it, and will content ourselves with expressing our satisfaction without airing our classical knowledge obtained from Ant. Class. Dict. It (the *Union*, not the Dict.) is a handsome paper and contains some good articles. The one on the "Freshman at Work" is really amusing, and the editorial on Debating describes the "process" so vividly we question whether he did not have our own Societies in his "mind's eye."

The *College Message* visits us regularly from St. Vincents. Our Catholic friends know how to keep up their papers well.

From way down in Alabama, the Alabama University *Monthly* comes to us with its Steam-Electro-Literary machine whose "theological peg" sometimes gets loose to the horror of the editors. We hope the *Monthly* will continue to visit us.

Dr. Holland receives a little less reverence from the *Sibyls* of Elmira than he usually does from his feminine admirers. All of which is a sign of commendable advancement. There is a class of people, mostly women, to whom Dr. Holland is a sort of demi-god, and his books unerring oracles of wisdom. The *Sibyl* who criticises his Mistress of the Manse is evidently beyond that stage. "The Tendency of the Age" contains some good "ideas," expounded with a good degree of "readiness."

A certain gentleman (he would n't like to be called old) who claims us as his eldest hope, is very severe (though we know perfectly well, at heart, he is n't so severe as he pretends) on boys and girls who think they can carry on a paper and who express themselves freely about their betters. However we notice he looks very carefully over all the exchanges that pass through our hands. But what we wanted to say was that he thinks "There really is something in that *Berkeleyan* now," for "it goes out of the beaten track," and "strikes out for itself." We confess we agree with him and have a hearty and honest admiration for the *Berkeleyan*—an admiration which extends generally from the first page to the last. The March number is especially good. We would venture to suggest that it do not make criticism too much of a hobby, and thus run in danger of becoming uninteresting from sameness. If we do not hear from the author of "Turgenieff's 'Liza'," in the future, we shall be sadly disappointed. We have no doubt he will make his mark in critical literature at least. And that is what we need. We have few good critics though we are flooded with the productions of men and women who have not the faintest conception of the functions of true criticism or the attributes of a true critic. The same author, in the editorial columns, differs from some strictures of the *Vassar Mis. on Middlemarch*. It has become the fashion lately to deplore the injurious effects of Geo. Eliot's writings and to warn young readers, especially, against their gloomy tendency. This fashion has become prevalent among that class of people who, as the author says, "would have a novelist paint life as a constant victory of good people over bad people, of good influences over bad," forgetting that it is the novelist's highest duty to be faithful to fact and to realize that the more he makes truth the foundation of his Art, (as of all others), the greater, the more blessed he is. Personally, we have always entered a mute, inward pro-

test against this outcry but could never fitly express it in words. We are glad, therefore, to have met with so admirable a critique.

We beg to whisper in the ear of the *Williams Athenaeum* that the "cinnamon-colored (we blush) &c." was all a mistake on the part of the printer and one which we have rectified in this number. We think we look better. Do we not? Now, dear *Athenaeum* don't you suppose we poor editors have enough to bear without shouldering all that our contributors may choose to say? Do you judge us by yourselves? Do the editors have to fill all your pages themselves?

The *Trinity Tablet* comments at some length on its exchanges and manages to crowd notices of a good many in a small space. Whether the best plan or not is a question of taste. We felt slighted that, among so many, the HESPERIAN was left out in the cold, but consoled ourselves with the knowledge that we were in the good company of *Union College Mag.*, *Packer Quarterly*, *Volante*, and others, who only received mention as "other exchanges."

We have received a new exchange in the *Eurhctorian Argosy*, a name, by the way, which we hope we will not be compelled to write very often. It is too utterly unmanageable. The *Argosy* is from New Brunswick and is at swords' points with the *Dalhousie Gazette*. It appears to consider itself able to hold its own however, with an air that reminds us forcibly of the little *Archangel*.

ECHOES FROM NORMAL HALL.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

It has been some time since your correspondent has attempted to act the part of news-gatherer and reporter; not for any lack of news, but rather for lack of time.

And just here let me say that this seems to be a characteristic of the students of the Normal School, and in some sense a fault. The disposition of the majority of the students is to let their regular studies occupy all their time, leaving none for outside, practical work. But this is a fault which perhaps might be termed a good one.

I presume to say that nowhere in the United States can there be found a school in which a majority of the students are more in love with their work, more completely devoted to study, and whose work is more faithfully and cheerfully performed. There are, undoubtedly, sufficient reasons for all this. Some of which I conceive to be the following: first, the absence of those places of amusement, and that excitement, which, were they present, would attract the attention of the students, and consequently detract from their studies; second, the peculiar circumstances under which most of the students are placed, impel them to accomplish the greatest amount of work in the least possible amount of time; third, we have a faculty whose whole soul is in their work, who are thoroughly in sympathy with the students, and endeavor, by all the means in their power, to encourage and assist the students in their labors.

I started out to write some news but flew the track at the end of the first rail, yet, through the exercise of considerable will power, I again find myself prepared to start.

Feb. 22nd, as a school, we dispensed