

boundaries of parties, and fixed the main planks in their platforms. Now the problems which every intelligent voter is required to solve are more abstract. Instead of dividing upon the question of a gigantic national evil, as one party so considered, or a divine right of chattel property, authorized by Scripture, as considered by the other, voters and law-makers must now consider more perplexing questions: The best methods of educating, civilizing, and making respectable citizens of four millions of ignorant human beings, turned suddenly loose upon society; how to allay the race hatred existing in the south, and prevent internecine butchery; how to manage the great financial questions—whether "contraction," or "inflation" will best subserve the interests of the community, or whether either will involve the East or the West in commercial ruin. Besides these, great moral and educational issues are rising up before us through the rifted clouds of a near future. The practicability of "compulsory education" to lessen the crime, ignorance and wretchedness now prevailing to an appalling extent, must soon be decided. The conflict between Americanism and Papacy over the body of our free school system has already begun, but the coming generation must sustain the heat of the battle, and win the victory, for the victory must be won.

These are only a few of the questions which men and, we hope, women too will soon have to decide in the political arena. Is not the task imposing? Here, then, is the scholar's duty. Here is his mission. Let the student study for the political life as a noble profession. Let our institutions of learning, instead of casting a slur upon this calling, take special pains to show students the grandeur of the politician's work. But let not the scholar enter with the intention of catering to the will of demagogues. He must enter, firm in the resolve to renovate party, and maintain the great principles it professes to endorse, but which are too frequently forgotten in the strife for office and greed for personal gain. It will require a great deal of moral courage to resist the "sacred sanctity of the caucus," and violate the holy "prerogative of precedence." You must sometimes be found in the ranks of the despised "bolters." Let scholars be sent forth into the political field, and we may hope to see our country honored among nations in all the majesty of sound wisdom, liberty and prosperity. Let every student who steps from these halls remember that the hope of his country rests upon the prerogative of individual responsibility and thought. G. E. H.

CLASS AND CAMPUS.

Why is the campus so utterly deserted and lonely these days? For weeks scarcely a shout has disturbed its solitude. What has become of the ball-club that promised such great things at the beginning of the term? Has our physical energy been entirely exhausted in so short a time? The young men of our university, we verily believe, cannot be excelled anywhere, for the most apathetic, listless, unambitious set of human beings in regard to athletic sports, that were ever assembled together. And now we have realized the maximum of sloth and absolute laziness. The ball-club, although at one time giving promise of future prowess and glory on the diamond, has prematurely subsided into hibernical torpidity. The gymnasium

is deserted, the Indian clubs, boxing gloves, and foils have been laid on the shelf, and everything betokens a lack of life and vitality. Is there not enough ambition and animal life left in our breasts, to shake off this lethargy?

It is all very well for you, my dear enthusiast to grow eloquent over the grand triumph of mind over matter; to rhapsodize about the subtle, spiritual pleasures of unearthing Greek and Latin roots, and the internal satisfaction of devouring "unleavened, square-cornered science." These are all very well—excellent. But you cannot afford, even for these, to pass through your college days, without experiencing the grand delights, and heart-thrilling sensations of the sternly contested field. The physical training, and the blessing of health preserved, though rewards amply sufficient for the time expended, are not the only advantages which athletic sports afford. One has lost irrevocably the most potent formative influence to shape and develop his character, who has never experienced the various ardent emotions awakened by the heat of school-day contest. He has neither felt the exultation of victory, nor learned how to bear it nobly. He has not experienced the glow and joy of personal triumph, nor learned how to yield the palm gracefully to a successful rival. He knows not what it is to be a leader and possess the homage of his fellows for his nobility and daring. Will the cultivation of these propensities of human nature be of no value in the real strife of the future? These lessons are open, palpable, tangible, and appeal to the heart as well as the understanding. Life is made up of triumphs and failures, strife and commotion, leading and following, losing and winning. Hannibal learned in his youth to obey and to command. All these lessons cannot be learned and realized in the class room.

Please accept a word or two of gratuitous advice: Read "Tom Brown's School Days," written by one Thomas Hughes, and you will profit by the experience of of his hero. If he who bears off the honors and the crown, at the head of his class, on graduation day, be worthy of admiration, much more worthy of praise and emulation, frequently, is the "Old Brooke" or "Tom Brown," who has gained the love and reverence of his fellows for magnanimous deeds and gallant leadership on the field of sport. For, not unfrequently, he has done far more to develop true and manly principles in the hearts of his associates, than the "class prodigy," or even the learned professor in his chair.

Let us have an awakening. If baseball has become monotonous or out of season, let us have foot-ball, cricket or some other vigorous substitute.

Eccentricity is many a young person's bane. There are several kinds of eccentricity. One peculiar to many great minds of the Diogenes stamp, exemplified in modern times, in the "white hat" of the Philosopher of Chapauqua; another of the Byron type, which makes a man of giant intellect lapse into maudering ecstasies over an ape or a cat. Any such oddity or peculiarity is a pitiable weakness, a sad flaw in the beauty and grandeur of a noble character. Yet the world pets and caresses these abnormal traits and foibles, and thousands try to gain a cheap reputation for genius, by imitating them. But what may be easily excused in a giant be-

comes odious and disgusting in a pigmy. There is still another kind of eccentricity partaking of the nature of affectation, peculiar to minds in the "sap and the bud." (It is remarkable that many minds retain their *sappy* condition until chronologically mature.) Lend us an ear a moment, while we give the diagnosis of a case or two, from which you may be able to elicit a wholesome regimen for future observance.

When you see a fellow—male or female—making himself conspicuous for effusive nicety and painful accuracy, when he prances up to you with a profusion of gyrations and lisps, uses first-class "grammar," (we hate "first-class grammar," when a fellow continually obtrudes it in your face) and hesitates and corrects himself, and emphasizes and underscores his "proper" syntactical constructions, until you feel as though you were treading a precipice, and dare not stir for fear of tumbling into some etymological vortex, nor open your lips, lest you should violate Webster, while spectral Kirkhams and Pinneos dance fantastically before your horrified vision—when you observe a chap, in his store clothes, thus trying to make you think him the *creme de la creme* of "tony" *par excellence*, spot him, he has the complaint bad. Ten chances to one the "upper class man," before whom he has been showing himself off, will wink, when his back is turned, and classify him for a "new arrival," from this true induction.

When you see a susceptible youth—none but susceptible youths do it—continually forcing himself into the presence of the young ladies, and incessantly emitting melting and tender glances—he never takes his eyes off them for a single moment—and agreeing with them in everything, and refusing to lay claim to his own identity, without their permission, who never uses a square-cornered or manly expression, but affects admiring "gentility" on all occasions, in short, who perpetrates every act of attention and politeness in a sentimental and elaborate style peculiar to himself put, him down, he has the disease. (As far as our rigid aceticism has allowed us to observe, a truly refined lady likes a little manly "roughness" and independence occasionally.) When you notice a young lady who abhors "Americanisms" and never indulges in anything natural and unrestrained, and is in continual dread lest she, or you, or somebody else, will violate etiquette, (which she is sure to make you feel, and of course you feel pleasant) and who lives in continual strife between allegiance to the cramped, puritanical notions of the proprieties inculcated by narrow parental bias, and an excessive exuberance of ingenuous spirits bestowed by nature, pity her, for she has the symptoms. These examples will, perhaps, suffice to illustrate our idea. If you would shun every phase of this fatal complaint, be careful not to overleap yourself. A lack of polish or agreeableness, diffidence, is a negative fault, but an excess of politeness, affectation, is positive, and is not easily forgotten nor forgiven.

NOTES ON EXCHANGES.

We approach the pleasant feature of editorial work—the perusal and review of exchanges. Scarcely one that does not offer some choice morsel of news, wit, or pleasantry, besides abundance of matter more solid and instructive. Our exchange

es introduce us intimately into the college life of the sixty or seventy schools they represent. One feels almost as if he had a personal interest in each of them.

With the *Olio*, however, we would denounce the uncourteous and splenetic style of criticism adopted by many of the exchange reviewers. Don't imitate fourth rate political papers in this respect. It will be noticed, that those who resort to this unmanly expedient, are those who can attract notice in no other way, or are capable of no higher type of wit. A criticism may be pungent, even acrid, without being abusive, or exhaling the foul breath of the bar-room jester.

Did you ever hear a bumpkin attempt his first speech on debate? You noticed that he invariably pleaded his own want of "sand," on the ground that his opponent had produced nothing worth his attention.

Now here comes the *University Bulletin* as the first example of this pitiable class. Hear it:—"Reviewing exchanges is, at best, dry work, and it seems to have become so thoroughly a part of college journalism that it would be almost impossible to rid ourselves of it; but when we have nothing to review, then indeed it is doubly dry and irksome." Poor thing! you should not have donned the *toga virilis* of a full fledged college journal so soon. Return to your maternal pap, for a brief respite, we entreat you. Your digestive apparatus is not yet strong enough for the substantial of "dry" college journalism.

In the *Union Col. Mag.*, we have come very near realizing our model of a college magazine. The June issue is specially good. It offers the *STUDENT* a compliment, which comes in guise so enigmatical, that we have been sorely puzzled to construe it satisfactorily. It runs thus:—"We agree with the *Targum* in awarding the *HESPERIAN STUDENT* praise for variety and holiness." On the whole, pard, we thank you for the compliment. Though never having professed the blessing of "Perfect Love," still, to be candid, we do flutter ourselves for something of a compendium of the moralities and Christian beatitudes.

We would mildly suggest to the *High School* the propriety of changing the caption of its news column. "Educational News" is decidedly a misnomer, in the ordinary use of the term. If, however, the editor means to designate by this term the *novel and fictitious* character of his fevered flights of imagination, it is not so bad. Here is a specimen of its style:

The Nebraska State University opened for the winter term on the 6th of September. The attendance was very light.

The Omaha public schools opened on the 6th inst., and at the next succeeding meeting of the Board a request was handed in by the superintendent asking more seats and more room for the increased number of scholars.

What a startling antithesis between the fat and plethoric condition of the Omaha high school, and the emaciated corpus of the University! The antithesis between this "news" and the truth, however, is still more apparent. The University opened on the *ninth* of September, with more students in attendance than were ever registered for an entire year since its organization. One hundred and fifty are now in attendance, and others entering every day. This shows an increase in regular attendance of fifty per cent. over that of any previous term. We are not very much surprised, however,