

THE  
HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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Qui non Proficit, Deficit.  
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[For the STUDENT.]

INQUIRY.

Say friend! do you know where is aught of perfection

Mid the gardens of earth or her billowy strand?  
Pray tell, if there's aught that knows no defec-  
tion;

In vain have I sought it o'er sea and o'er land.

O Nature! is there, in thy beauty supreme  
Not one perfect flower; no rose without thorn,  
Whose beauty ne'er fades like the lines of a dream,  
Nor whose freshness departs with the dew of the  
morn?

O Sun! has never the light of thine eye,  
In its search throughout the vast concourse of  
worlds,

Found some perfect haven, where never a sigh  
Breathes a tale of regret—where pain ne'er dis-  
turbs?

E'en thy rays, as they dart through infinite space,  
Are not perfect, but broken by stray worlds  
found!

Though they kindle a smile in Dian's fair face,  
And with gold tint the clouds: they *shadow* the  
ground.

The roses may bloom, but their beauty must fade;  
And the proud forest king his leaves must let  
fall.

The zephyr one moment with sweetness is laden,  
But anon with the carrion's breath profanes all.

Then is there no spot where beauty ne'er fades,  
Where clouds never darken, and shadows ne'er  
come,

And life ne'er a wearisome burden is made?  
Pray tell! for there would I make me a home.

And where is the joy so perfect and pure  
That it brings not one moment of sadness?  
Or who has known sorrow so deep and endure  
That it left not some moment of gladness?

O searcher for happiness, lover of truth!  
Seek not for such goal in this life,  
For in thy soul's darkness, unbrightened by youth  
Thou shalt find thyself with thee at strife.

S. S.

OUR NATIONAL TENDENCIES.

[An oration delivered in the Opera House,  
June 26, 1877.]

Every American feels more secure when he reflects that one hundred years have passed away since we took a position among the independent nations. To Americans it is a just cause of congratulation that our example, as a self-governing people, is exerting a vast influence on the civilized world. The commons of all Europe are watching with intense interest our every movement. The critical eye of the world is upon us. We are as yet but an experiment. Centuries are but days in the life of a nation. Shall we succeed, is the one great question with every true American.

If, as centuries roll on, we continue true to the principles of our organization, if we preserve inviolate those rights we profess, then all Europe must follow in our wake. If on the other hand we fail, if we