

sportsmen hunting throughout Irish fields. The introduction of this bill plainly foreshadowed the friendly policy probably to be pursued by the Gladstone government; but the measure was fought in the House of Commons by Parnell himself, because it did not include, at once, all that he claimed as reparation for his country's wrongs. Yet, by reason of the Liberal majority, the bill passed the Commons; but when it came before the Conservative House of Lords it was overwhelmingly defeated by the nobility, who made no secret of their bitter hostility to Ireland. By this time, at most, the Irish leaders should have been able to distinguish friends from foes, and to combine with the Liberal party in securing all possible modification of the existing land laws. Such a policy, though no accomplishing in a day or in a year all that Ireland might wish, would undoubtedly have placed her on a comparatively just and comfortable footing. Instead of this, however, while Gladstone is trying to extricate his nation from the many difficulties into which she had been led by Beaconsfield, he is suddenly confronted with this Irish problem, perplexing enough at any time, but doubly so at such a crisis, when all his attention and all his energies were needed elsewhere.

We would not for an instant claim that the present Irish agitation has not a just cause; but certain it is, that,—coming just at a time when it might receive a satisfactory and peaceable settlement—it only retards the benefits it strives to procure, and forces a naturally friendly government to use coercion in keeping down disorder and rebellion. Already forty thousand British troops have been sent into Ireland to keep the peace, that all the Empire may understand that even Gladstone is determined to protect the life and property of every subject to the realm. At the same time, however, he holds out to Ireland an olive branch of peace, which throws on her the responsibility of after consequences, should she reject it. He has framed a new bill for her relief, granting all that his party will allow, and now he will present it to the Commons.

Thus the matter stands, and the end can only be conjectured. Exactly what the new government bill contains, and whether or not Parnell and his followers will accept it, yet remains to be seen. Whatever be the circumstances, may the result not be the farther oppression of Ireland for another century.

ways an aristocracy. I believe that the bar is conservative in its tendency in this country, but not because it is our "aristocracy," for we have no aristocracy.

Perhaps it may seem presumption on my part to take this ground, since so excellent and distinguished a writer as De Tocqueville has maintained the contrary. I say has maintained, because I believe if De Tocqueville were living to-day his position in this regard would be different.

Doubtless, when De Tocqueville wrote, the bar as it then existed was inclined to be aristocratic since its representatives sprung from a like element in Europe. Forms of that aristocracy may have existed when De Tocqueville visited America. But whatever pretensions the bar may have had to an aristocracy, it was on the whole a poor aristocracy,—in fact none at all.

With a profession having many of the attributes of an old world aristocracy, it is not to be wondered at, that De Tocqueville, himself a foreigner, should call the bar in the States an aristocracy. It seems to me that De Tocqueville in a degree at least regarded aristocracy and conservatism as synonymous. Moreover his own reasoning proves very clearly that they are not synonymous.

But if the bar is not an aristocracy, is it yet a conservative element? Setting aside the idea of an aristocracy, De Tocqueville advances many arguments to prove that the bar is conservative—arguments which are conclusive. He truly says that "men who have made a special study of the law derive certain habits of order, a taste for formality, a kind of instinctive regard for the connection of ideas which naturally render them very hostile to the revolutionary spirit, and the unreflecting passions of the multitude."

We see the truth of this almost daily. No matter in what capacity a lawyer may be found, he carries with him the formalities of his profession. No one is affected more by change than the lawyer. Hence when he once becomes well grounded in any order of things, naturally he is hostile to revolution. Again DeTocquville says: "When the people are intoxicated by passion or carried away by the impetuosity of their ideas, they are checked and stopped by the almost invincible influence of their legal counsellors." This is evidently true. When the people are agitated by any question, they naturally fly to their legal advisers. Of course they are discouraged in any disorderly or illegal conduct. As counsellor of the law it would be very bad policy for them to exert their influence in any direction other than to uphold the law. If otherwise he would do an injury to his profession and to himself. If an attorney should advise his client to persist in any revolutionary tendency, and then it were to transpire that the case was defeated I doubt whether that attorney would be employed soon again.

Naturally all questions of the public resolve themselves into legal questions in one form or another. Hence as the bar not only from habit and education, but from policy oppose sweeping changes, it follows that it is essentially conservative. It cannot be otherwise.

The system of precedents is another powerful argument in favor of this view. It seems to me just so far as a precedent

has anything to do with the decision of a question of to-day, just so far is the bar a conservative element. A lawyer bases his opinions on the opinions of his predecessors. This being the case it is seldom that his influence will be otherwise than conservative.

Archbishop Whately tells us that it is not so much the business of a lawyer to know what the law ought to be, as to know what it is. And when we stop and think a moment we see that such is the case. No one asks a lawyer what the law ought to be, but "what is the law in this case in which I am interested." And it is his business to tell him. BROADBROOK.

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT

Published semi-monthly by the students of the Nebraska State University.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 1881.

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

1 copy per college year . . . . . \$1.00.  
1 " six months . . . . . .50  
Single copy . . . . . .05.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

1 column one insertion . . . . . \$2.50.  
2 square " " . . . . . .50.  
1 " " " . . . . . .25.

All articles for publication should be addressed—Editor HESPERIAN STUDENT, State University, Lincoln, Nebraska. All subscriptions and business communications, with the address, should be sent to B. F. MARSHALL. Subscriptions collected invariably in advance. Advertisements collected monthly.

Editorial.

Owing to circumstances well known to the students of the University, this issue of the STUDENT has been delayed. Now, as all is adjusted, we will, to the best of our abilities, discharge the various duties of our position. The new year has brought with it many changes,—changes beneficial and essential to the prosperity of our paper. Money, under the new constitution, has found its way into the treasury. The students have taken a lively interest in the welfare of their paper, and the future of the same, even though clouded with uncertainty, seems not as dark as we hope to see it bright. The next issue the STUDENT will appear in a new dress, and thus enlarged, by careful discharge of duty and that support which is due the college paper from the students, its success is rendered certain.

To the members of both societies we appeal, not for charity, but for help,—help in making the paper the exponent of the culture of the students of the University. Can not there be short, pointed articles of general interest, rather than the usual essay or oration? Fellow students remember this is for you to say as well as for the editors. With you rests a responsibility, one that you ought not to shirk. If more life, more earnestness can be displayed in our work, all will be better, a burden will be lifted from the shoulders

of the few and placed upon those of the many. To what extent we will succeed with no previous experience, we cannot say. Our motto is, "we shall try," and in the spirit of this determination, we ask you students, to bear with us, and aid us all you can.

COLLEGE POLITICS.

We are sorry to see such a state of affairs exist in the University as is exhibited by "college politics." Whether it is the influence of the Legislature or of the ward caucuses upon the students, or the effect of various causes at any rate a majority of the students allow society feeling and spite to outweigh all considerations of right and fairness. In the various elections that are held from time to time in the University the amount of trading, wire pulling, misrepresentation, and deceit that takes place speaks poorly for the honor and high-mindedness of the students as a class. This is wrong; fellows that are trying to attain the benefits of culture and a higher education should try and lay aside petty strifes and personal animosities; should be able to support a man for his ability and fitness without regard to the stand he has taken in some previous "fight."

ELECTIVES.

It is reported that a system of elective studies is to be introduced in the University. This will be of great benefit to the students, who, we feel sure, will not be slow to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by an elective course. It will, perhaps, occasion a larger amount of work for the professors, but this work will be chosen by themselves in their own particular departments and will therefore not be exceedingly onerous. Students will be able to pursue more special lines of study and accommodate their work to their tastes, and thus accomplish more in the same time than under the present plan with but three electives in the course.

THE CATALOGUE.

The ninth annual catalogue of the University was issued a short time before the closing of last term. It makes a good showing for the institution during the last year; yet we think it hardly fair that the students of the "Conservatory of Music" should be indiscriminately enumerated as students of the University, when the greater part of them have never entered the University at all. We think it is a good thing that but sixteen recitations a week are required in the Junior and Senior years, but are surprised that no mention is made of the HESPERIAN STUDENT in enumerating the advantages of the institution. Another oversight is the omission of Class day from the University Calendar. This day was set aside by the Faculty and will probably become a fixture, and should have been published in the catalogue.

A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

There has lately been considerable discussion in regard to establishing a college of medicine in connection with the University. There are a good many valid objections to this, and the matter should

IS THE BAR A CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT.

**X**N discussing this question it will be necessary to dwell a good deal on the bar as an "aristocracy," since writers have linked the two questions pretty closely together, namely, whether the bar is an aristocracy, and whether it is a conservative element.

De Tocqueville in his "Democracy in America" argues that the profession of law does form an aristocracy, and therefore is a conservative element. Of course if the bar is an "aristocracy" it follows that it is conservative. But granting that an aristocracy is always conservative it does not follow that conservatism is al-