

# HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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## Miscellaneous Mention.

Not long since we were shown some examination papers of the Atchison High School scholars. They were models of neatness and methodical arrangement. The answers, too, were full and showed a good knowledge of the subjects studied. We doubt if many of our Preparatory students could answer the same questions half as well. No disparagement is meant to our own Preps. But there is an opinion, held by many, that the standing of admission here is altogether too low. It might be just as well to raise the standard and not admit everybody that applies.

Judge Tourgee's latest work is "John Eax." In this the social life of southern people is depicted. Political affairs are not discussed. The Judge's fame and place as a writer would have been just as secure if he had written no other book than "A Fool's errand." In fact, the universal favor with which this was received has tended to make him a penny-a-liner. The greed for wealth, as well as fame, has induced him to expand and draw out his opinions concerning southern men, southern beliefs, past and present, and southern scenery, until they comprise four or five books, when one was enough.

Robert G. Ingersoll made a speech in Washington, a few weeks since, over the grave of a little boy. The Fort Wayne (Ind.) *Gazette* charged him with plagiarism, stating that he had obtained his beautiful sentiments from an old poem. Ingersoll, however, asserts that since he made his remarks some one has written the poem, embodying in it his own thoughts. He further adds:

"I will give one thousand dollars for any paper containing this poem published prior to my address. I will give the same amount for any book containing it, or for any evidence that it was ever written or published anywhere in the wide world previous to January 8, 1882."

The STUDENT regards the closing of the Opera House on Sunday night, March 5th, by the Mayor and police of the city, as most eminently proper. Such, also, is the feeling among the best people of Lincoln.

The city is not exactly perfect, but morally it will compare favorably with any place of its size on the continent. Its reputation should be sustained, and the city officers have the matter to a considerable extent in their hands. The laws are stringent enough, but their enforcement does not seem to be insisted upon in many cases. Let the Mayor show the same spirit in other matters that he has in regard to Sunday theatres, and the law-abiding portion of the community will rejoice.

We clip the following from the *Badger*. Evidently there is truth in it.

Steele says: "I do not think anything could make a pleasanter entertainment than the history of the reigning favorites among women from time to time. In all my observation I never knew a man of good understanding a general favorite; some singularity in his behavior, some whim in his way of life, and what would have made him ridiculous among the men, has recommended him to the other sex." How will this apply to our imported æsthetic Oscar Wilde? The men have generally regarded him as a sort of simpleton, while he has been favored with the incense of veneration by the ladies of our so-called highest society ever since his arrival.

Heretofore we have not been a very decided advocate of spelling reform. But the late tragedy at Waverly has convinced us that for the peace of our streets and the security of life, those fanatical phonetic spellers must have their way. When it requires such forcible persuasion as leaden balls to uphold the present deranged system, we want no further proof of its evil tendency. Either we must spell words as they are pronounced or considerable latitude must be given to poor spellers. If one or the other be not done, it will hardly be safe for a University student to attend a spelling match. As a matter of fact, there are a great number of very poor spellers in both the preparatory and collegiate departments—more than would enjoy good health in the vicinity of Waverly.

Senator Saunders has become a convert to civil service reform. He has introduced a joint resolution in the Senate to the effect that the constitution be amended so that all post-masters, internal revenue

officers and district attorneys be elected by a direct vote of the people. This, of course, would take away no small part of the President's appointing power. The change he advocates may be a desirable one, but it will be a long time before some people can see it in that light. It has some advantages over the competitive system that is so frequently recommended. It makes the people themselves directly responsible. If those whom they elect do not as they wish the electors have a chance to put in others who will. Taking it all in all, it is one of the best things our senior Senator ever proposed in the Senate.

The students of Wisconsin University are, through their paper, complaining of the number of prescribed studies in the Senior year in the Scientific course. Of the Sophomore, directly or indirectly, five hours are required; of the Juniors four, but of the Seniors eight. This they hold to be, as it evidently is, in direct opposition to the principle of the elective system. There may be some reason why Freshmen should have most of their studies prescribed. Many of them are not of an age to judge competently as to what is best for them to take, while all just entering upon the new work of a University do not yet know what particular line they wish to follow. But as students begin to understand their own wants and aspirations, latitude in the choice of studies should be given. Such latitude we have in our University. No fault is found here with the elective system save that too much work is required of the students. This we hope to see righted before another year. Otherwise, in the judgment of the students, it has been a success. It has placed the University upon a broader basis; it has opened the way for special work. A student need no longer gain a smattering knowledge of this and that, but he may become proficient in some one department. Under the old regime he could not do this. Prescribed studies held him in his own course—no choice was allowed. Now that we have electives, the only wonder is that they were so long denied. The students trust that the time will never come when any of the privileges now granted to them by the elective system will be abridged.