

college editor? We reply in the negative, because "getting mashed" has been a practical factor in the education, or rather the non-education of many persons, not only in co-educational establishments but in others. A "mash" has fallen like a blight upon more than one acute intellect, and we claim that the condition of being "mashed" is a fit subject for discussion by college journals, and in discussing it we shall use the term that describes it most accurately and most concisely. But in regard to slang in general we would repeat the quotation which says, that when used to excess it is "the mental small change of a bankrupt intellect."

THE present officers of the Hesperian Student Association were all elected by acclamation,—the first instance of the kind in the history of the paper. The members of the board, of course, attribute this result to their transcendent ability, which necessarily silenced all opposition to their election. To be sure there are other explanations of such an anomalous fact as this same peaceful election, but we have neither the time nor the inclination to give them. On entering upon our duties we find the paper doing well financially, its condition in this and in other respects giving unimpeachable evidence of energetic and effective work on the part of the board of managers that preceded us. As to ourselves we would only say that it is the professors' business to see that we get our lessons, and it is our business to see that THE HESPERIAN STUDENT is a good paper. Whenever this paper shall have occasion to criticise persons or things its motto shall be—"Malice towards most, justice towards none," and if it comes no nearer living according to its motto than some papers that we have seen, it will never give any just cause for complaint.

It is a truism that the world is passing through a transition period. Old orders of things and old customs are breaking up and a new order of things is slowly forming. This is not unattended by convulsions, and as a result of these disturbances society will probably pass into a stage of development heretofore unprecedented before it is peacefully reconstructed. We have not yet reached the highest ideal of human life. The characteristic feature of this age is that of enterprise, of activity—the "do or die" spirit. This is an improvement upon previous states of society, but there is still a higher, a nobler standard to attain to, when work will not be considered the all in all, but the means simply for a more refined and perfect development.

This prevailing activity is unfavorable to deliberate investigations, and thus facilitates the subtle advance of error and commingles it almost imperceptibly with truth. The influence of the daily newspaper, not-

withstanding the good it has done, is telling upon our thoughtfulness. It is making book-study rarer than before. While many writers of to-day are as distinguished in all the different branches of learning, and are as pre-eminently gifted as those of any former age, still the multitudes think and decide by substitute. They want leisure and they trust to others, accepting the results of their thinking instead of taking the trouble to think independently. Because sustained study is felt in many instances to be difficult and distasteful, the necessary energy is not exercised for individual thought.

Man reads cursorily and decides rapidly. Indeed, we seem to be approaching the fulfillment of that time which Lamertine predicted: "Before this century shall have run out journalism will be the whole press, the whole of human thought. Thought will not have time to ripen—to accommodate itself to the form of a book. The book will arrive too late. The only book possible soon will be the newspaper."

One consequence of this process is, we are likely to confuse error with truth. For as the colors of the spectrum, when swiftly rotated, produce pure white light, so this physical feature of rapid locomotion makes the change from one fact or inference to another so easy that truth and error appear much alike, and few are able to separate them. True, there are accurate records of passing history, of the results of scientific investigations, of the triumphs of art and philosophy, wafted to every reader's door by the serial press, but this same messenger no less sedulously exhibits error, corruption, and false theories. In the long run the energetic mind is also effected by this continual diffusion of right and wrong influence, and makes the acceptance of erroneous conclusions more probable.

It may be said, however, that unceasing activity is a good sign; but every thing depends upon the right direction of these influences. Rightly directed they may strengthen character, and cultivate an appreciation of the just and the true, at the same time that the mental power is being developed. To the voyager, the winds and the tides are a benefit when rightly used, hastening him into harbor; but if unheeded they may strand him upon some strange and rock-bound shore. In like manner these acute social forces and undercurrents of thought may, from indolence or lack of consideration, by disregarding the almost imperceptible divergences from truth, eventually destroy happiness and make an utter shipwreck of character, while if rightly used, they may build up a character pure and noble, and lead to a satisfying intellectual and moral repose.

Three papers are edited by the students of the University of California.