

# HESPERIAN STUDENT

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## MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

It is hinted that Hendricks of Indiana will be a candidate for the presidency in '84, and has already begun the canvass.

Large portions of the lower Mississippi valley have been inundated. The levees have been broken in several places, but the damage is not so great as was at first anticipated. There is, however, considerable suffering among the poor, no effort having yet been made to relieve the destitute.

It is estimated that \$10,000,000. will be spent this year for base ball paraphernalia, that 5,000,000. balls will be sold at one dollar each and that as much will be expended for court plaster, surgeon's bills etc., are anticipated but the exact account dare not be stated through fear of deterring the youthful aspirant from engaging in that invigorating exercise.

In the United States an exactly opposite operation has been taking place to that by which the Greek were states built up. There centralization has prevailed there individualization. But since the civil war the central power has become weaker, the coup d'etat of the Republican Triumvirate failed and the Union is entering upon a new era. What the result will be is difficult to determine.

The length of the college year at Oxford and Cambridge is somewhat less than seven months. Two years and eight months of continuous residence are sufficient for graduation. Comparatively few subjects are studied. The Sciences are taught at the preparatory schools and to none but specialists at the University. Latin and Greek are still the nucleus, or rather the substance of the college course.

During the last session of the legislature several state officers were made happy by an increase of salary. This is a real economy, for Shak speare or some other writer says—

"To prevent men from stealing we surfeit with gold.  
A plethoric dog will not steal a man's dinner."

And again—

"Great men cannot think mighty thoughts without pay,  
Nor indite learned messages at fifty percent."

A petition signed by 1,400 prominent men and women has lately been presented to the trustees of Columbia College asking for the coeducation of the sex in that institution, but was rejected on the ground that woman's sphere is different from that of man and hence that a distinction should be made in education. An "Annex," however, like that of Harvard, is to be established. As long as it is desirable that women should be inferior to man in intellectual attainments, so long will it be customary to close

against her the doors of our greatest institutions of learning.

Hawthorne, it is said, was so wretched a scribe that it required an expert to decipher his writing. A comparison of his earlier with his later manuscripts shows, however, a gradual improvement. He wrote with a fine hand with rapidity, but the numerous erasures and interlineations, which render his manuscript utterly illegible to the inexperienced, show by what persistent toil his great fame was established. No author of the age as been more diligent and painstaking and none have met with a more permanent success. A recent number of the Atlantic Monthly contains many curious facts in regard to his manuscripts and will be of interest to all the admirers of America's most noted writer.

In the March number of the North American Review is a series of papers on "Educational Needs," in which loud complaint is made of our work in our common and high-schools. This is doubtless owing to the system of routine, text-book teaching which surfeits the mind without stimulating it. The remedy for this is not the gymnasium for it has been proved inadequate; but the introduction of work-shops in which both mind and body will be invigorated by actual labor. Such a system can be introduced only into city schools, but it is here, in the crowded rooms and unwholesome air that it is especially needed. Another cause of overwork is the adoption of some injurious hobby like the Geography mania of the Lincoln schools, in consequence of which, several parents were obliged to withdraw their children from the public schools.

Among the novelties of the season is an "Essay on Oratory" in which the author clearly demonstrates to his own satisfaction that any one with *sufficient* training may become an orator. "Your *sufficient*," observes a student of calculus, is a variable quantity and under certain conditions approaches infinity." Hearst thou not, O thou learned author of an "Essay on Oratory," the great Samuel Johnson rosciferating "You can't make guineas if you havent the gold," and thinkst thou with all thy roar and smoke to teach men by precept and example that six months training in monkeyism and elocution will fill an empty head? Alas! to soon for thy great success have all men discovered that there is a perceptible difference between a giant and a pigmy on stilts. When thou diest, O skillful defender of monkeyism vis. brains, let me write thy epitaph—

"When terrestrial all in chaos shall exhibit effervescence,  
Then celestial virtues in their full, efulgent, brilliant essence,  
Shall with beaming, beauteous radiance through ebulliti on shine  
Transcending to glorious regions beautiful, devize:  
Then human powers absorbed, insufficient to delineate such transcendental sparks.  
Will be transported into the presence of great and mighty monarchs."