

"cipher." As each succeeding generation undertakes the task of learning that which it needs, or desires to know, every step on the way of learning will be marked by the passive form of some one who can go no farther. So, somewhere between the knowledge of the fact that "A" is "A," and a scholarship like Mill's or Gladstone's, each one of us will find the place where he must stop. If some find this place in the Higher Algebra or the History of the Middle Ages, it is simply our duty to go as far as possible and then try with all our might to go farther. By such efforts has mankind progressed, and it is our duty to see that progress does not stop because of our laziness, since nature's odd arrangement is, that each man shall pay to posterity the debt that he owes to his ancestors.

THE critic in our literary societies occupies no sinecure office. He is expected to know how every thing should be said and done; to please both the criticised and the audience, and to have at all times a supply of advice on hand for gratuitous distribution. Although faultfinding is a critic's prerogative, he should not exercise it without regard to the age, sex, or previous condition of servitude of his subject, but should remember that he has several classes of students to deal with, and should feather his shafts accordingly. There are some people who never seem to believe themselves capable of any thing. This excessive self depreciation will not allow them to undertake what otherwise would be entirely within their power. A severe criticism to such as these would instead of benefiting only discourage them and throw back into inactivity germs of talents that only need a degree of self confidence to become great. Many students understand themselves thoroughly, and have full reliance on their ability to perform what they undertake, but yet are affected with a nervousness when on the stage that only long and persistent practice will overcome.

The class of students that we wish especially to commend to the tender mercies of the critic is composed of those in whom the bump of self-esteem is abnormally developed, whose chief aim in life seems to be to impress others with an exalted opinion of self. There are no characteristics at once so disagreeable and transparent as vanity and affectation, and none more frequently accompany a low degree of knowledge and power. In King David's time wise men sometimes feigned themselves fools, but in modern times fools try to feign themselves wise, and if one of these Sir Oracles favors us with an oration on ambition he describes every ambitious man that ever lived since Cain wanted to exchange places with his brother Abel, he finishes his peroration with all the pretty things in Burns, Byron and Shakespeare, about

"Auld lang syne" or "The dim vistas of the future."

If we are favored with a review the subject will be nothing less than the works of "St. Augustine," Webster's Unabridged, or the Encyclopedia Britannica, and he discusses the whole work, line upon line, precept upon precept, not forgetting to inform us of the exact volume, page and line quoted. Of course both societies are proud to have members who can deliver essays or orations an hour and sixty five minutes long, but it is rather hard to be compelled to swallow the whole at one dose, therefore it has been suggested that those long articles be delivered by installments, and interspersed with music.

We doubt very much if the severest criticism can do those persons any good, who have such an overwhelming self-esteem. It is impossible to convince them of any fault, and no one who is not conscious of his own defects can improve. Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him.

At the last meeting of the Board of Regents Prof. Aughey, on account of his failing health, resigned his position as professor of Natural Sciences in the University of Nebraska. Prof. Aughey joined his fortunes with the University at the very beginning, and we cannot but regret that the position he so long and so ably filled now becomes vacant.

Any person with ordinary talent and the genius of labor may become distinguished as a specialist, but it requires great genius as well as indefatigable labor and patience to become distinguished in many fields of labor at the same time, and those who succeed in doing this are few and far between. Prof. Aughey and his achievements in whatever he has undertaken will acknowledge that he is one of these few. As a Botanist, Chemist and Naturalist, he takes rank with the best in the land, and is well and favorably known among scientific men at home and abroad. His many publications connected with the Geology, Geography and Natural History of Nebraska have done much toward clearing away the mistaken opinions held about our state, and have been highly spoken of every where. His attainments as a linguist are second only to his attainments as a scientist. He has at different times taught Latin, Greek, German and French with a success that many a specialist in these departments might envy.

To the prestige of his name the University owes a great share of its success and popularity, and to his indefatigable labor and zeal we mainly owe the museum of which we may well be proud. As a teacher he had marked success. He knew how to impart his own enthusiasm to the student, and he always had the good will and esteem of the members of his classes without which no teacher can be successful.