

If fixed at York or any other point the new university would undoubtedly have encountered greater difficulties than at Lincoln; but it must be admitted that under the most favorable conditions the proposed institution will have much to struggle against. It will not be enough to gather a competent faculty and to furnish apparatus. Students must also be had to make the school, and these of sufficient attainment to make the institution something more than an ordinary high school or college.

The establishment of such a university as proposed under present conditions will, it seems to us, be apt to weaken the colleges designed to be tributary unless, indeed, it be held strictly to a high standard of work. This will be difficult to do, but if it is not done the proposed university will cut off the sources of its own support, and will weaken, not strengthen the Methodist educational interests in Nebraska. Therefore we shall regard it as something of a calamity should the force of circumstances tempt those in charge to place the new institution on a par with those already established.

Those who have acquainted themselves with the matter and policy of this paper will scarcely have experienced a feeling of surprise that we published the "resolutions" of the farm boys. Neither will any of our readers demand of us a restatement of our views on college papers and their province; nor yet, an excuse for receiving and publishing what on the face of it seemed a harsh criticism. Other and more severe criticisms of the management of the farm have been sent us, seeking publication. We have refused to publish them because it would be taking an undue and unjustifiable advantage, even though nothing but the truth were stated in those contributions. Matters purely personal are too often, however, the only motives for such criticisms. There is some cause for complaint somewhere perhaps, else why this stir? We had, not long since, a sufficient demonstration of the existence of such a cause to warrant us in making a change in the management of the farm. A proper length of time has not yet elapsed either to prove or to disprove the ability of those who were called to that place. We are ready to pronounce a part of the new management an eminent success. Time only can pronounce the final judgment.

But there comes up to us hints of another fight (over the college farm) now preparing for the legislature which will soon meet. We are now looking forward to that body for the privilege and means to erect new buildings, over and above our regular appropriation. The mismanagement of the farm has before caused us no little trouble in securing any appropriation whatever. Our legislators seeing the one

department mismanaged deemed the whole unworthy of support, and dealt out the necessary funds very sparingly indeed. We cannot afford again to allow them the least cause to stint us. The management of the farm should now have attained to such perfection that there could be no just cause for complaint. If there is yet blame we should bestir ourselves in order to determine, if possible, where it attaches, and how far it is within our power to remedy matters before it is taken up by less friendly investigators. If there is no sufficient reason for a fight over this department let us prove to those who would attempt to bring it on, in the wrong; and establish the fact of a real improvement at the college farm beyond the chance of doubt or fault finding.

MISCELLANY.

The December *Harper* opens in quite an unconventional way with an illustrated story by Gen. Lew Wallace, entitled *The Boyhood of Christ*. We do not remember any similar attempt to produce a Christmas novelette except in the December number of *Putnam's Magazine* with which the publication was revived. This was, if we do not mistake, in 1869, and the story in question, which was called *The Carpenter*, was one of the remarkable productions of the year. In it no effort was made to reconstruct the past; but into a household upon which adversity and disgrace had settled, a stranger makes his way on Christmas Eve, and mysteriously sets right all the troubles of the family; this stranger proving none other than the "Carpenter's Son." The author of the *Harper* story wisely avoids the broad road offiction which he has used elsewhere, but the article seems in some vague way to have been cut down editorially from a more pretentious original.

Both the story and its author remind us of the extraordinary sale of *Ben Hur*, of which the 132nd edition has just been issued. Nothing like this in so short a time, we suppose, has ever been known since the days of *Waverly*. It is a still further proof how scanty are the sources from which the supplies for sentimental writing must be drawn. For the book, though not irreverent, in its bold and almost vulgar presumption falls below all proper standards of art, sets both scholarship and the probabilities at naught, and turns out a conventional love story after all. Something phenomenal indeed is this unshrinking appropriation of sacred subjects for secular treatment. As evincing a better spirit we would instance George Croly's *Salathiel*, in which the author sedulously restrains his fancy from all such Crusading to recover sacred secrets. But the book does not deal directly with the sentiments, and hence its comparative failure.

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Before this paper is issued reviews and examinations will be over, but at the present writing they are in full progress, with all the miseries which are supposed to be attached to them. Students are apt to regard this season as the most unimportant portion of the term, as well as the most disagreeable. They are apt to look upon examinations as very irksome tasks, without much utility, unless to enable the instructor to figure out the standing of the student. But a little reflection will show that this disagreeable consumption of the term's work has a value not generally recognized. A subject studied in class is necessarily taken up by piecemeal. Its