

us in our language the lessons of their lives. Still even here we find the characters drawn almost wholly from the rich, the cultivated, the intelligent. Still no tidings to the poor, no hints of how to break the chains of ignorance and poverty.

Whence shall this literary Messiah of the common American people come from? Will he be some American Gautama drawn from his home of wealth and culture by the cry from the street without? Or will he not, like nearly all great reformers, rise from the mass of which he is to be the leader, and by the aid of a genius kindled to that which kindred the pen of Dickens, record the thoughts and actions of his fellows, reproducing them in characters which must live in their simple truth when the dress coated and kid gloved "Howells' and James' young man" shall have lain him down to the oblivion which is the usual fate of the characters of a 'society' novel and the literary Mr. Isaacs is silent and forgotten, smothered in the glittering exuberance of his oriental garb.

D. S. M.

THE GROWLER.

Mr. EDITOR:

I don't know as you have a Growler's column now, but I think I have seen such a thing at some time in the past history of the HESPERIAN. Now it is a well known fact that every person who takes a paper has a right to express himself as to its management, so I propose to criticise the HESPERIAN,—not in a general, sweeping criticism, which shall expose all the faults of the paper, as that might take more time and space than I have to spare, but a criticism of one peculiar feature that has lately been introduced into the local page. I always make it a matter of principle to remain in ignorance of the manner in which our board of editors divide up their work, so I hope the local editor will not think I mean anything personal, especially if he happens to be a bigger man than I am,—but to proceed. The first time this term when I received my HESPERIAN, and turned with my usual avidity to the local page, my eye fell upon a verse of poetry. It is not necessary for me to repeat it; you are all familiar with it. I thought it was pretty good. When, after waiting the customary three or four weeks, another copy of our great and glorious paper was distributed and I glanced at the local page again, I saw at the head of the column something that had an interesting look. With eager expectation I read it. It had a strangely familiar sound. The third time I came across that verse a feeling of weakness came over me, as if I had just gone through with an examination in French pronunciation. The fourth time I thought, to use an expression made classic by Mark Twain, that it was "getting monotonous." The next time—but I must stop or I will mention more times than there have been papers issued, and my reputation for veracity will suffer. Therefore I wish to say to the local editor, to use another classic expression, "give us a rest." Don't keep those two lines standing at the head of your column like a patent medicine advertisement. If you can't get locals enough to fill your share of the paper, draw on your imagination and record a few things that might have happened. But if you can't fill the space up, leave it blank and save us the time and trouble of reading this verse over every time we get a new HESPERIAN.

E. D. H.

"ENTRE NOUS."

Among the limited number of the acts of President Cleveland that we individually approve is that one of refusing the honorary degree of LL. D., which it is said Harvard College

recently conferred upon him. His action, at least, was more fitting than that of the college. This practice of conferring degrees upon prominent men for personal or political reasons, or for the notoriety the institution may receive therefrom, that should be properly extended only to distinguished men in the educational world, is becoming altogether too common.

Congress is now in session, and matters of national importance are now passing in review. But how many of our students can find time to keep posted on these questions of the day, questions vital to our own government. We venture the statement that less than one third of the students find opportunity to read one daily paper. Our reading room is fairly well supplied; the opportunity is given; the time only is lacking. It has been said of our students, that they were as truly alive, and as well informed on political questions as were the students of other colleges; indeed, with smaller opportunity to formulate opinions, they were yet the most liberal in opinions and as able to defend themselves in their opinions as the majority of students whether east or west. This may be putting the case too strongly in our favor, but it is a duty we owe to our fellow-students to give them the encouragement which they deserve, and which we have heard bestowed. And now the question which we wish to ask is this: would we read more did our work in college require less time? This is a question often asked by our professors of literature, rhetoric and elocution, and is of no small consequence for those interested in our general literary knowledge and training. We venture another statement, viz; if the work required of us was less, we would graduate a class of better and wider informed students. Indeed we believe it almost necessary to lessen the required work in order that literature especially may receive proper attention among our students.

From the "Chancellor's Biennial Report" we take pride and pleasure in clipping the following paragraphs which set forth our progress in the two years now closed, and our needs for the two years upon which we are now entering:

"Where two years ago our own Latin School was the sole recognized and accredited preparatory school of the University, it is now supported by sixteen public high schools which formally undertake the whole or part of our preparatory work while as many more all over the state are moving in the same direction. These schools send up this year as their first contingent nearly one-third of our Freshman class, not to mention their contribution to the advanced class of the Latin School.

The accessions to the permanent Faculty have not only justified themselves, but have added largely to the strength of the institution. The Department of Geology and Allied Sciences, although without provision for anything beyond necessary instruction, has not only successfully carried on that work, but also conducted field work in the state whose results have commanded attention at home and abroad; the Department of Botany, and Horticulture, practically created within the past two years, is already taking rank as one of the best in the country; the Department of Civil Engineering, also formally established, within this period, although not yet properly equipped, is attracting an excellent class of students and doing good work; and the Department of Modern Languages has been revived and made one of the strongest in the University, reaching with at least two years of continuous work every student in each of the five college courses. In addition to these four leading departments which, as now constituted, are to be credited almost wholly to the growth of this biennium, the old Department of Chemistry and Phy-