

recreation, are necessary there the contest is not a laudable thing.

WE have just passed a very pleasant epoch in the history of our University, that of the formal dedication of our first building since our establishment. It is not only a mark of past progress, but the character of the new building indicates that it is only a part of a plan which promises for the future a most wonderful progress in every department. We have now able instructors and many students and the sole remaining requisite for a first class University, is the providing of those buildings and equipments which are necessary for the best utilization of the powers and energies of instructors and students alike. Do not misunderstand us, we need buildings and equipments but that is not what we ask of our legislature. It is true The HESPERIAN has discussed the matter of buildings; what ones we are in the most pressing need of, but that is a matter which in our humble opinion should be left to those who understand our wants the best, the Regents and the Faculty. We only ask that what belongs to us should be given over into our hands; what we shall do with it if we get it, is a question which ought only to be determined by our University authorities. Our legislature does not attempt to dictate to our State Superintendent of public instruction as to what shall be done with every dollar, but the funds are, as a matter of course, turned over to the common schools of Nebraska. It seems to us, to be a mere matter of justice that the University should have the use of its own funds and the real question should be, not whether they shall have such use, but what shall they use it for, and that to be determined by those who are elected by the people of Nebraska to so decide.—the regents. It is true that our legislature and the people of Nebraska have a right to know whether or not the money is rightly and economically used, but their confidence in the regents certainly must be great enough to trust to them the rights and duties which they have elected them to discharge. So with all due deference to our legislators we would ask that we might have the use of that which Congress and the people of our state have given us.

MARGINALIA.

The attempt to produce the famous passion plays will not be soon forgotten. How it shocked the public moral sentiment! The indignation was not confined to the ungodly, but was evinced as well by churchmen. The mayors hastened to prevent such a shock to the religious sensibilities of the public. In their care to protect the religious sensibilities of the public, why do not our mayors interpose to prevent some of the shocking violations of good taste and religious sensibilities by some of the sensational and theatrical preachers of

the land? Why not interdict the fanatical practices of the so-called Salvation Army which parades our every street? These endeavour to picture by words, gestures, descriptive scenes and imaginative appeals, to the eye and ear, what the old passion plays exhibited more directly and impressively to the spectator.

Herodotus made the first steps from pure provincialism, from a petty and isolated account of a particular city or tribe, to a cosmopolitan narrative, in which an epic wholeness was attempted. By him the fortunes of different cities and various nations were brought together and shown to have a mutual dependence and a common relation. The first to represent the present as having its roots in the past, and the Greece of his day as vitally connected with other countries. In fact, his history is a prose, historical epopee. It has unity of design, in that it concentrates the events of the past, of all the known civilized parts of the world into one final result, the invasion and triumph of Greece. It is the first germ of universal history, the first recognition of the unfolding of national events as a part of the great world drama in which each civilized people constitutes a scene or an act in the one play. The great stream has its affluents and the topography of its valley includes also these tributaries.

The peculiarities of Tennyson's descriptions of nature and natural scenery is that every part is transmuted by his own sentiment, so as to be a new creation. He does not give us an exaggerated copy of the commonplace effects of nature upon the mind, but portrays the scene in such colors that it becomes the only fitting framework for his picture, and suits the mood that belongs to the character or sentiment he wishes to unfold. He does not seek for interpretations of nature but lets nature interpret herself in the way that shall best harmonize with and unfold his thought. He gives us no literal copy of any special place, nor does he portray scenery which will answer for aught else than the background of his pictures. The necessity of an harmonious grouping and coloring seems to guide his pen and steep the whole landscape in its minutest parts in the dye of his sentiment so that each feature is individualized and yet there is an all-pervading lie and unity of impression. Where on earth can be the country of the "Lotus Eaters?" Evidently nowhere; and yet we have that feeling of reality, as we read, which comes from a perfect keeping of all the parts, though the whole fabric is built in cloudland, and the place is nowhere to be found on land or sea.

If the mere holding of public office could make a career interesting the life of James Monroe should be a most fascinating one. When at the age of sixty six James Monroe retired from public life, though not wholly from public service, there were few offices in the gift of the American people which he had not held. Surely such a career, beginning in obscurity, and culminating with honor in the loftiest station attainable by the citizen of a free republic, must always possess a rare charm. But we fear that the many who have known Mr. Monroe only as one of the 'fathers,' the friend of Washington and Madison and Jefferson, the last president of the golden age of the republic, will rather wonder how one who was neither a great orator, nor a great debater, nor a great statesman, nor a great thinker, who was unskillful with his pen and ungraceful in his bearing, who was neither learned nor witty nor affable, could have held his own in such grand company; and in spite of Jefferson's testimony to his moral purity and Madison's to his intellectual acumen, and Dr. Gil-