

THE CLASSICS AGAIN.

It seems that we are not yet through with the old discussion as to whether or not the study of the Latin and Greek authors should be abolished in our schools. This question has been agitated for the past ten years by the greatest scholars, both in Europe and America, and after several radical reforms had been attempted, particularly in the German universities, they were found to have been impracticable, and have therefore been abandoned.

In a letter to the Century a very pleasant, yet shrewd, view of the case has been presented by Prof. William C. Wilkinson. The letter is written in that gentleman's usual graceful and easy style, and does not pretend to an exhaustive analysis of the question. He merely contents himself with first citing the arguments generally advanced by those who are desirous of doing away with the ancient classics, and then proceeds to present one or two general arguments in favor of them.

In his enumeration of the arguments made against the study of the classics the writer mentions two in particular,—first, that all of the productions of the best Latin and Greek writers have been translated into the English language, thus rendering unnecessary a study in the original for the purpose of acquiring the thought; secondly, that the German and French languages are a sufficient equivalent for the Latin and Greek. With this latter argument the letter has most to do. He claims that the modern languages cannot supply the mental training which the Latin and Greek, and particularly the latter, are capable of giving. Professor Wilkinson is a teacher of such wide and merited reputation that we should scarcely dare to take exception to his views. Besides, our knowledge of both classes of study is so exceedingly limited that a discussion of the subject on either one side or the other would scarcely result in much benefit to our readers or to ourselves. We cannot, however, refrain from saying, that judging of some of the marks captured last term in one of the French classes in our University, that language at least must possess considerable material for intellectual training.

However, much may be said on both sides of this interesting question; but as there seems to be no likelihood of any immediate change in the present course of study it would be wise, we think to let the subject drop, at least for a time.

EDS. HESPERIAN:

There has been some little discussion of the "Exhibiton Problem" in your columns and I would like to air my views a little on that subject. I am aware that the question has been discussed to some extent, perhaps enough, but it seems to me that more can be said. I do not believe that it is an attempt to hurt literary societies as one has said. The fact that eastern colleges do not have societies, and therefore society exhibitions, does not prove that these societies cannot exist without exhibitions. And another thing strikes me as rather amusing in one of the articles on the subject, viz: the evident contempt the writer has for eastern colleges and their spirit. Now I think a good deal of the west, this "great, glorious, boundless west," and think I have as much enthusiasm for the rolling prairies as the writer above mentioned; yet it occurs to me that we cannot expect or hope to do better than our eastern neighbors in the line of colleges; and I believe we would do better to add some of the eastern college customs, including field day, to our 'distinctive features.' I know that we boast a good deal of our "typical western independence and originality," but we should be careful not to let our feeling get away with our judgment. There are some

good things in the eastern states, some things even that we cannot hope to improve upon. But the same writer strikes the key note of the situation when he says "keep up all customs peculiar to the west as long as they are worthy of being kept up." He should have added, 'and substitute customs from the east, or Halifax, when they improve upon those we have.' It seems to me that we have outlived annual society exhibitions in June for many reasons. The principal one is that of crowding Commencement week. Even if the public is not obliged to go to all of the entertainments, the students are expected to do so; and it is hard on them. There is the Baccalaureate address, which we all should attend, the University Address—if we have one as we should, then Commencement proper and the Levee, to say nothing of the Alumni Reunion, parties, socials and one thing or another that the students have to take in during the last two weeks of the term. Add to these three society exhibitions, and the average student is nearly dead. There are many plans of combining the three into one, even without doing away with any of that society feeling so jealously guarded by the above mentioned. Some of these plans are cursed as being eastern, some are not, and I believe one could be selected which would give satisfaction to all parties who can be satisfied with anything. I learn that there has been an attempt made by the graduating class to get excused from speaking on Commencement day—to relieve the people, thus virtually giving up Commencement. It may be that this would be acceptable to some, as Commencement is 'eastern' but it seems to me that it would be very injurious to the University. As I said before, there are several schemes to do away with two out of three of the three exhibitions in June, and I think one of them should be adopted. '87.

HEARD IN THE HALLS.

Paired!

Legal?

We are adjourned!

Who turned the gas off?

Who paid your subscription?

Have you got the measles?

The HESPERIAN runs a bank account.

Messrs. L. E. and A. M. Troyer enjoyed a pleasant trip home last Saturday.

Messrs. Almy and Newcomer were compelled to go home, having taken a severe attack of measles, but both are now convalescent.

One of our quartets took a wild freak of serenading one night last week. Reports are not all in as yet, but of those on hand, all are blanks.

Clara Morris seemed to possess a great attraction to the students, judging from the number who forsook the usual society programmes to attend.

Some very heartless persons insist on telling us a story about Tutor Geisthardt, in which his weakness for caresses of the fair sex was made painfully prominent. Of course it wasn't so, but it is really unexplainable how such—stories become current.

Gentle "Annie" hath departed,
And great weeping it doth cause,
All the "club" are broken hearted—
She eloped with Santa Claus.

—Our Newest Poet.