

All 'round de oyster bowl we wandered,
While she was true,
Den many happy hours we squandered,
Before she said adieu.
When I was winking at my maiden,
Happy was I;
Oh come to me with oysters laden,
Come, Oh come before I die.

CHO.—But de world will not be dreary,
Everywhere I roam,
And my heart will be more cheery,
If ever my girl comes home.

If dat girl of me is singing,
De one dat I love,
Still fondly to my memory clinging,
Den will I cease to rove.
When will I hear dat maiden humming,
Again to me;
When will de parson hear us coming,
Will dat ever, ever be?

CHO.—Yet all night upon the pillows,
When I cease to roam,
I dream, my hut among de willows,
Will be dis maiden's home.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The craze for journalism seems to be prevalent among graduates of the U. of N. Among the latest who have launched out in this line may be mentioned. A. H. Bigelow, who is at present editor of a paper in one of the western counties. We never expected to see Mr. Bigelow managing a country newspaper, but after recalling the famous saying that the highest success is attained by beginning at the bottom and working up we were not surprised when we learned of his venture. His success in this line is easily accounted for. He was an editor in chief of THE HESPERIAN, when he drank in his first draughts of journalism and laid a foundation for future greatness.

The Wesleyan University of this city, we are informed, will open early next fall in order to catch those who may be looking for a suitable place to secure an education. We are glad to see this new institution offering such grand inducements to new students, but are inclined to believe that such offers will be of no avail. The Wesleyan University with its present endowment cannot afford to support a full corps of competent instructors, neither can it afford to equip the building in suitable order. We venture the assertion that the average young man or woman when they set out for an education will seek those colleges that can offer the best inducements in the way of equipments, instructors, etc. This the Wesleyan University will not be able to do, notwithstanding the statements of Chancellor Creighton to the contrary.

One of the leading questions to be considered by politicians, for some time to come whether or not the state shall pay election expenses. Politics are becoming so corrupt that some kind of a change is deemed necessary, and that as quick as possible. This scheme of letting the state bear the expenses seems to be the best method of effecting a change, because it will do away with the assessment of candidates, and give worthy and honest men a chance to compete with skilled politicians for the lucrative offices. As it is at present, a candidate is assessed for campaign expenses, enough to eat up the major part of his salary, and he has to be contented with what honors he gets. Then, again, this will make it plain when large contributions are levied by any party, that they are simply for corrupt purposes, and will tend to do away with what is known as the "party machine,"

and place politics in honest hands. This is not a party question; it is infinitely broader and more comprehensive, extending alike to all parties and all classes that have the welfare of honest government at heart, and is bound to be a leading issue before the people until corruption in politics ceases.

The heavy losses experienced by ranchmen in the western part of this state during the present winter has opened the eyes of many disinterested parties, and will probably result in the adoption of measures compelling ranchmen to provide shelter for their stock in sections devoted to that interest. Stock raising is very profitable, where proper attention is given to it, but where large herds are compelled to take what shelter the bleak prairies afford, it becomes no longer a source of profit. Besides this the protection afforded results in about the same thing as cruelty to animals, and the ranchmen should be compelled to provide shelter or quit the business. The question too has another aspect which is of public interest. The turning of these vast unimproved ranches into cultivated farms should be encouraged. It would be much better for the whole state to have the great west filled up with actual settlers than by cattle kings. We believe this matter should be looked into by the next legislature, and some means devised to protect the range animals from the severities of the weather.

Another national election is approaching, and in every city and hamlet the two great parties are beginning to organize clubs which will help to set the machinery in motion when the proper time arrives. The fight will undoubtedly be made on the president's message alone. One party claiming that the principles therein advocated will defeat the party in power without much of a struggle, while the party in power is equally certain of success on the strength of the message. We are inclined to believe that both parties are anticipating an easy victory. If this be so, it will perhaps do away with much of the useless expenses of a hot campaign and leave the voters to prepare their ballots according to the dictates of their consciences and not according to the pocket book or the silvery dressed speeches of political bosses. We like to see parties accomplish what lies within their reach without forcing ignorant voters to rally under the party lash by offering inducements in the way of bribes. Every voter should have the welfare of his country at heart enough to vote his sentiments and not be forced to kneel at the feet of the party bosses.

The threatening attitude of Russia of late has resulted in bringing about an alliance between Germany and Austria, backed by Italy. The treaty provides that in case either country is attacked by Russia, it will be regarded as an attack on the other also. This practically unites the military strength of all powers opposed to Russia, and leaves her with France as her only sympathizer in Europe. The publication of this treaty seems to confront Russia pretty forcibly with the issue of war or peace and may cause her to choose immediately which she prefers. We are inclined to believe, as many others do, that everything depends more upon what Bismarck regards as best for Germany than upon anything else. If he wants peace, he is able to check any rash movements on the part of Russia, by emphasizing the enormous opposition that he could command against her; while on the other hand, if he wants war, he is an adept at provoking, and his powerful influence would be sufficient to goad Russia on to fighting. The only fact that can be regarded as a certainty is that the great European war that has been fore shadowed so long, can not be delayed much longer.