

## CURRENT COMMENT.

"This country," remarks Matthew Arnold, "has no ruins, and is therefore not a pleasant place for the traveler to spend his idle moments." Now we do not claim for this country ruins equal to many ancient countries; but if the gentleman could only make an extended tour shortly after an election takes place he, perhaps, might satisfy his longing desire by gazing upon the countenances of defeated candidates. Should this amusement prove as wholesome and enjoyable to the traveller as visiting abroad this country may yet become an asylum for sight seers and pleasure lovers. If perchance such may be the case, some day Matthew may come among us.

One of the most important of the problems that are worrying the Senior class is the fact that within the next three months, the citizens of this state will have a free and unrestrained opportunity to declare whether in their opinion the worthy Seniors are any bigger than anybody else. Of course everybody now has to admit, in order to be courteous and dignified, and in order to allay the wrath of the great Seniors, that they are the peers of any citizen in the state. It is but proper under circumstances like these to go to the record of facts and take a careful and reliable survey. It is true that the Seniors have donned prince Albert Coats and are now agitating the question of silk hats and gold headed walking sticks in order that they may travel with a seven leagued stride toward the goal of their ambitions, while the Juniors are compelled to follow after with a slower gait; yet everybody has faith that the Juniors will prevail even in such an unequal race. This is an age of vast and colossal cheek, which is free to crop out with more numerous and effective contrivances than the octopus, Victor Hugo's devil fish of the sea; in this age of giant intellects which clasp with a vice-like grip all supposed weaklings and try to rule all intermediate space in their own favor, with utter disregard of the rights of others, it is no wonder the Senior class can assume a brazen dignity, and let fall upon the minds of the people of Nebraska, as a token of relief, that they are as big as anybody, and are ready to accept public duty, and perform it with hands with never erring destiny, as did Napoleon in the years that are gone. We can only say that if they can create an impression so strong among those with whom they may be pleased to cast their lots, as to merit public favor they will, by their commanding talents, lofty patriotism, and colossal cheek have illuminated and adorned one page, at least, in American history.

Does farming pay? This question has been freely discussed throughout the state during the last few months by many leading farmers, as well as by the newspapers of the state.

The arguments thus far produced seem to balance fairly well. Whenever one side has succeeded in scoring a point over their opponents, an immediate reply is made by the other side. We are of the opinion, having been schooled on a farm for ten hours a day for the last twenty years, that farming is a mistaken calling, if the object of the farmer is to sell his grain as soon as produced, and not feed it to stock. Experience has proved to many a farmer in Nebraska that this kind of farming does not pay, and the ordinary farmer freely admits it. But when a man is so situated as to be able to feed out his crops to cattle and hogs, there is considerable to be made farming, and we are willing, under such conditions, to retract our statement that farming is a mistake. As a rule the farmer, in the long run, succeeds far better than

the laboring man without capital. Thousands of farmers can be pointed out in this state who commenced a few years ago with little more than their bare hands to wrestle with a homestead. To be sure they early found out that it was necessary to drop the idea of getting their pay Saturday nights. Sometimes they were obliged to wait for it years before it came. But in the end good profits have generally been realized. Again, we believe that the farmer who judiciously feeds his corn to cattle and hogs, and markets them instead of the corn, will realize from the aforesaid corn fifty cents a bushel. If this amount can be realized, all admit that farming is a success. At any rate, whatever the arguments may be, it is plainly noticeable that the successful farmers are the feeders, and that where dependence is placed on the bare crop alone for support, the farmer soon goes to the wall, and would be in better circumstances in the long run if he were a striking engineer.

We may be regarded as somewhat cranky on the subject of strikes, but so long as they continue to occupy so prominent a place in our country affairs, as they do at present, we feel justified in expressing our views.

The question of strikes is becoming a serious one, and must sooner or later be the uppermost question in the minds of our leading statesmen. Something will soon have to be done to prevent the needless waste of time caused by strikes, and above all to put an end to the business interruptions that constantly appear to perplex and damage the masses, who are compelled to suffer against their will whenever a crew of laboring men deem it proper to quit work. No matter how insignificant the strike, it effects everybody, in a small degree to be sure, and perhaps a few would never be felt if no more were likely to occur. But such is not to be the case, for they are constantly occurring. No sooner is one labor trouble past than another springs into existence, making an uninterrupted series of strikes, boycotts and labor disturbances from one year's end to another. Strike follows strike. This is the song of the age, and is being sung louder and louder every year, and will not cease until some means of checking this wanton waste of labor and capital, as well as misery and poverty, is devised. The sooner political leaders turn their attention to matters of this kind, relegating party quibbles to oblivion, the better it will be for the prosperity of the laboring men, for the prosperity of the manufacturer and corporator, and for the prosperity of the nation at large.

We, as Americans, have a profound feeling for all labor organizations, and would like to see them come out of any trouble they may experience with undiminished prestige; yet we recognize the fact that the party most interested is the public and ought to have a right to demand that a stop be put to wanton and ill-considered strikes. We are free to assert that railroad men, although they see the corporations they are working for making money, have no right to demand a share of the spoils so long as they receive good and just wages for their work. If the railroads could be made to divide their profits it would be an appreciated blessing, but the division should be made so that the people from whom the large earnings were extorted, would receive the benefit and not the railroad employes who have no more right to it than the company. Let the railroad companies restore them a share of this profit which has been unduly and unconditionally extorted from the men who furnish the traffic for the roads, then the employes would perhaps be more contented if their employers did not accumulate such large fortunes. It is this rapid growth and magnificent profits that the roads make which turns the heads of laboring men and