

college politician nor by the student. There is something better than success in college politics; there is something more deserving of effort than an entrance into a ring of college politicians. Students whose chief object is political scheming, are not safe leaders. Yet too often are such schemers found to be the all controlling power in college. There are students whose greatest efforts are directed toward becoming such a political power, whose chief object is to become artful college politicians; but it is safe to say that such students in after life do not reflect the most credit upon their alma mater. Colleges are not training schools for future ward politicians. Let no student descend to such a level while in college. We do not say that such a low level has been reached but we do say that there is a dangerous tendency in that direction which should be avoided by every student.

IN another column of THE HESPERIAN an article is published in which a contributor gives reasons why a certain department should be formed for the benefit of one class of students. It is not without due consideration that a majority of the board of editors has expressed an opinion. The best reason for their opinion is the fact that there has been but little dissatisfaction in regard to the previous policy of THE HESPERIAN. In the University, as well as in other colleges, the war between "barbs" and "frats" is going on. From this struggle THE HESPERIAN desires to keep aloof. It has been an unwritten law among the students that nothing tending to aid one side or the other, should find a place in THE HESPERIAN; also that the "frat" and "barb" question should never enter into a HESPERIAN election. At present no distinction is made between "frat" and "barb" news. It all finds a place in the same department. Whatever is news, is printed, whether it comes from "frat" or "barb" sources. The request of the contributor amounts to this: all fraternity news must be classified and placed in a separate column. The result is that THE HESPERIAN is compelled to make a distinction between "frats" and "barbs;" between fraternity and barbarian news. The opinion of the board of editors is that it is unwise to take any step that shall give undue prominence to either faction, or to advertise any student as a "barb" or as a "frat." The best policy will be to prevent any action that shall draw THE HESPERIAN into the "frat" and "barb" struggle, no matter how unimportant the first step may seem. Matters of interest in regard to the students will find a place in the local columns the same as heretofore. Fraternity or barbarian news, in so far as it does not tend to influence the action of any student, will be printed. The position of THE HESPERIAN is simply that of a spectator. It does

not desire to print any thing that can be pointed out as an inducement or an argument why a student should become a "frat" or remain a "barb." The greater distance kept from the "frat" and "barb" question the better for THE HESPERIAN.

LITERARY.

To some readers of THE HESPERIAN it may seem presumptuous for this department to mention the papers of George Kennan's in the *Century* on "Siberia and the Exile System." It is not to be supposed that many, and particularly students, have neglected to read these articles. Still there are some, and many more than there should be. Whether one has a taste for the wonderful, the marvelous or the strange, one will greatly enjoy the reading of Kennan's work. The custom of the eastern peoples among whom Kennan's route lay, the scenery of those regions, the sufferings of the political exiles, and the narrow-minded policy of the government; the story of all these is more intensely interesting than all the novels. There are many who plead a lack of time as an excuse for not reading these papers. (I say excuse, because questions like those discussed by Kennan ought to be familiar to all.) Some say they have no desire to read the articles because the pictures there drawn are not such as give one pleasant thoughts. How valid such a reason is will always remain a question. While a knowledge of evil is a bad thing, and by no means desirable, yet it is a doubtful morality that will shut itself up from all thoughts of sorrow and misery, of which the papers by Kennan furnish so many instances. What the scenes and adventures must have seemed to Kennan, who saw them in all their depth of horror, we can only guess. At least their influence was strong enough to change Kennan from a champion of the Russian government to the warmest of nihilist sympathizers. The effect of the descriptions on the reader, are much the same as that of the scenes themselves on the writer. Still, heartrending as some of the incidents are, one can find no more fascinating reading or a style more easy and intelligible than Kennan's.

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The last three numbers of the *Century* have contained stories by a writer known as George H. Jessop. Whether he is an author of much renown THE HESPERIAN is not in a position to say. But be that as it may the fact remains that these three short stories are very interesting, and in their way, instructive.

One of these, in the December issue, is called "The Rise and Fall of the *Irish Aigle*," and is the story of five Irishmen in San Francisco, who decided to found an "anti Saxon Opprissor" journal, in order to promote the growth of liberty in Ireland, and to strike a blow at England and her institutions. Blood and liberty was what they wanted, and they were prepared to obtain their aim by the most rabid and senseless of publications. The enterprise was inaugurated in McKeon's saloon, with five members who were to form a "Thryumvirate" to own and govern the proposed paper. The first issue of the *Aigle* was prepared by the five "Thryumvirs" jointly, each airing his particular kind of fanaticism. The result was a paper worthy a place among the strange things of journalism, but a paper that struck a sort of a dazed awe into the hearts of its editors. But still, satisfactory as the outcome was to them, the stockholders decided to adopt a new plan. Each was to edit and control the paper for a week at a time. So it came about that the *Aigle*