

CALHOUN LETTER.

Nebraska's State University an Interesting Subject.

A LIST OF ITS DEPARTMENTS.
Portrait and Sketch of Prof. Bessy, Now Performing the Duties of Chancellor. The Scope and Progress of the Institution. Fundamentals in Public Schools.

(Special Correspondence.)
LINCOLN, Nov. 11.—Owing to a somewhat singular series of misunderstandings that term being perhaps more strictly applicable than any other—more characteristic of the State university is vacant. The duties of the position are performed by Professor Charles E. Bessy, professor of botany and horticulture. Contrary to what might have been expected, the institution seems to be feeling a stimulus rather than a



PROFESSOR BESSY.

drawback from this temporary absence of a nominally official head.

Professor Bessy was born in Wayne county, Ohio, May 21, 1845. He was the son of a farmer and remained on the parental homestead until he had completed his 18th year. His educational facilities were simply those of the average farmer boy in an exclusively rural district, embracing, however, the New England academy system and college. He then went to Michigan and engaged in surveying in the pine regions. In 1866 he began attendance upon the Michigan Agricultural college at Lansing, completing a full scientific course. He was immediately appointed to fill the chair of botany and horticulture in the State Agricultural college of Iowa, where he remained for fifteen years. During that period he spent parts of two years in post graduate study at Harvard, and was at one time lecturer in the University of California. In 1884 he was chosen by the board of regents to the chair of botany and horticulture in the State university of Nebraska, which he accepted, and has since filled the position to the perfect satisfaction of the governing board, the public and his associates.

Professor Bessy is as nearly the master of the sciences to which his life is devoted as any man of his age. Besides being a most capable instructor, he is an author of national reputation. His first publication was a "Geography of Iowa," which was a popular and successful text book in the advanced schools. He subsequently published a "Botany for High Schools and Colleges," "The Essentials of Botany," and numerous pamphlets and bulletins of more or less importance. For the past nine years he has been and is still the editor of the "American Naturalist," a periodical of national circulation and high standing in learned circles of the world. It will be seen that Professor Bessy is an honor to the state that commands his services, as well as a man who will not be content as an instructor, but who is engaged in the most advanced and successful of scientific questions, of the most pleasing and profitable character. To this connection he has been so long and successfully engaged.

The University is in a more prosperous condition than ever before. The number in constant attendance has increased from 225 to 325 in regular university work. The remaining seventy-five are engaged in special courses in the art and other departments or annexes. The total for last year was 497, and when it is considered that that embraced three terms, and that is but the second month of the first term of the year '99-'00, it may be safely calculated that the coming catalogue will show at least 500 names. In the higher work there are now 225, as just stated, and the institution is growing steadily in strength, attendance, number and qualification of instructors, and in reputation. The mass of youth of the state is drawing closer to it, while the state system of public schools is directly connected with it. There are already quite a number of high schools whose graduates can pass directly into university classes without other examination than the presentation of their graduation certificates. Thus to every pupil in the schools the university is becoming a continuation of the course entered upon in the first grade. Both ends of the ladder are firmly bound into a strong and accessible whole, the educational system of the state is perfectly continuous and connected, and this connection exercises a healthy stimulus upon the high schools of the state, as it is the laudable ambition of each and every one to connect itself with the great central institution, and to do this it must elevate its standards of instruction. To this connection is directly traced the entrance to the university of a large percentage of its matriculates. But the most beneficial feature of the situation is that it populates the university with students who are something more than the ordinary youth of the state, but are the best of the best of the state, and it is to be expected, too, that the number of self-sustaining students has increased at an even a more rapid rate than the general attendance. By this is meant young men who perform some kind of labor while in attendance that pays or helps to pay their board and other expenses. The following is a list of the departments.

Modern Languages and Sanscrit—Professor A. H. Edgerton; instructor, Lawrence D. H. Hicks; instructor, Bohannan. Geology and Allied Sciences—Professor L. E. Hicks; instructor, Bohannan. History—Professor George E. Howard; associate professor, H. W. Caldwell. Chemistry—Professor H. E. Nicholson; Professor Rachel Lloyd; instructor, Elton Palmer. This department is just now crowded to its full capacity analyzing samples of sugar beets raised in this state, of which there are several acres. Agriculture and Biology—Professor J. S. Kingsley. In this department embryology is made a specialty. Physics—Professor D. B. Brace; instructor, H. N. Allen. Civil Engineering—Professor Charles N. Little. Law and Oratory—Professor E. W. Hunt. Political and Economic Science—Professor A. G. Warner. Mathematics—Professor H. K. Wolfe. Military—Lieut. T. W. Griffith, of the regular army. Preparatory School—Principal, James T. Lee. Painting and Drawing—Sarah Wool Moore; teacher of music, Minnie D. Cochran. Registrar and Librarian—Elen Smith. As is evident

from this statement the university maintains all the departments necessary to make it rank with the foremost western institutions of the kind and in the opinion of men competent to judge, the conduct of the institution in every branch is of a character in full keeping with the needs and ambitions of a strong young state. This is a very brief allusion to the great center of the education and elevation of the youth of the state, and it will be now and then supplemented by treatment more in detail. It should, however, be said, that a large majority of the principal and associate professors and instructors are young men, fresh from the best institutions of the east, fully imbued with modern ideas, acquainted with the best methods and very greatly attached to the institution of which they are parts.

There are nearly fifty thousand books accessible to the public, free in this city. First in the matter of size is the state library at the Capitol. It contains about thirty thousand volumes, mostly of legal and historical character, and is perhaps as large, complete and general as any in the north. It is well stocked in the printing of statistics, reports, supreme court decisions, etc., a sufficient number of extra copies are made to permit a continual system of exchange with other states and territories, as well as with other public libraries and possibly private collectors. It is a matter of time and growth when the Nebraska state library will be equal to the older and more renowned collections of eastern states.

The university library contains something over 10,000 volumes and is divided into one general and three special departments. The management has always been liberal in this direction and that excellent policy will doubtless be continued. The general reading room, with 10,000 books and all the standard periodicals, is open for six hours daily.

The free city library contains about 7,000 standard works and is open to the public day and evening. It is one of the best and most useful in the state and to those the state historical collection is large and is open to the seeker after information in its special line. The common school libraries may also be included in this paragraph, although they are only used by the pupils, they are omitted from the list of books in the high school is worthy of note for its size and quality. It needs no additional statement to show that Lincoln has the best and most complete library in the state.

The late Campaign has been especially characterized for its inert and passive character. There was a good deal of seething and bubbling in the early stages, but it soon subsided, and a state "making" was held, and after the accidental choosing of a congressman in the Second district and here and there a fierce fight in some of the counties over the spoils, one would hardly have known that the annual election was taking place. It is obvious, however, that the contests over the county treasuries are becoming more and more spirited year by year. This is a bad sign morally, but not so bad financially. It means that the custody of the public moneys is being regularly entrusted to constitute in itself a not inconsiderable addition to the legal safeguards against population and embezzlement. It is perhaps, again, not good that the biennial fight over public funds should be making the regular employment between—lines in ordinary business channels—contrary to the spirit of the law.

Corporal Punishment. A good deal of excitement has characterized a recent event in the city which will be a matter of corporate punishment. A teacher in the central school, a young lady who is one of the most efficient on the list, found her room becoming turbulent and disorderly. One of the ringleaders, a boy of 13 or 14, especially troublesome, and the teacher punished him quite severely in the presence of the school. The implement employed was a bit of light rubber hose, about eighteen inches long. The suitable portion of the boy's anatomy exhibited some marks of the blow next day. After the punishment was inflicted the other pupils dismissed a dozen or so of the larger boys hooded the teacher all the way to her home in true hoodlum fashion.

The matter got into the papers and an investigation was loudly demanded by members of the Hyman society. The teacher was arrested, tried and acquitted. The sequel was as proper as the arrest had been a matter of doubtful propriety. None of the critics of the teacher have been heard to comment on the fact that a mob of half-grown boys mobbed a respectable lady in the streets in broad daylight without an arrest being made. This world is getting to be a very bad deal too velvet for the rising generation.

J. D. CALHOUN.

THE BOSTON, ONE-PRICE CLOTHING HOUSE.

Is now Ready for Business.

At the beginning of the fall season, an entirely new and elegant stock of Fall Clothing for Men, Youth, Boys, and Children, Not a dollar's worth of old clothing can be found on my tables, everything is fresh, stylish and bought of the largest manufactories.

LIGHT and HEAVY WEIGHT OVERCOATS.

The evenings growing chilly, you all feel the need of one of this class of coats. My stock is complete. I shall be pleased to fill your wants in this line. I will offer you bargains in suits. I scarcely know which one of the many beautiful styles to mention. I will offer you a NICE STYLE SUIT FOR \$5.00, you can't get elsewhere for less than \$8.00. My \$9.00 suits, worth \$12.50, at \$2.50; \$20.00 suits as cheap as \$27.50. A nice, fancy plaid or stripe sack or frock for \$12.50 is worth \$18.00; the nicest dress suits for \$17.50, cheap at many others to mention.

MY CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT IS COMPLETE. Now is your time to buy children's suits, age 5 to 12 for \$2.00, cheap at \$3.25, age 5 to 12 for \$3.00, cheap at \$4.50 and too many others to mention.

A BIG LINE OF BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S OVERCOATS. Parents now is your time to purchase. I also carry a LARGE LINE OF BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S HATS AND CAPS that will be sold at the very lowest prices.

TALKING ABOUT GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, you can find any style for less money than was ever offered to you before. You can buy a good undershirt for 50 cents, cheap at 75 cents; a full line of GENTS' AND BOYS' OVERSHIRTS in flannel and all styles. I have too large an assortment to mention prices in this line.

A COMPLETE LINE OF MEN'S AND BOYS' BOOTS AND SHOES, at the very lowest prices, and everything is warranted or money will be cheerfully refunded. I intend to make things move. My prices are bound to bring you to me, and if you value your money and if you want to save it, call at THE BOSTON, ONE-PRICE CLOTHING HOUSE.

MY MOTTO IS: QUICK SALES AND SMALL PROFITS.

In addition to my business here I take measures for men's suits for the LARGEST HOUSE IN CHICAGO and guarantee perfect fit or no pay.

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