

Germany a little higher in grade, the effect of which on the growth of commerce and industry has been amazing. These are technical schools, dealing, for example, with industrial chemistry, textile manufacturing, metallurgy, etc. They are for the most part free, and they have supplied Germany with an army of able and skillful operatives, who oftentimes rise to the very top of the ladder. These schools have been of priceless value to the industry of the country. They could be easily and advantageously copied in America.

The French poet, Beranger, wailed that our century is a brutal thinker. In the same sense all history is a brutal thinker. The collective is always pitiless to the individual. Out of this grows the hackneyed truth that corporations have no souls.

Most men, and even women, have a flavor of the stage player in them in this, that they prefer even to have things said about them a little malicious than to be absolutely unnoticed.

The highest form of esteem a woman can give a man is to ask his friendship, the most significant proof of her indifference is to offer her own.

As an example of the perfection to which some manufacturers are made to imitate others artificial silk may be cited. A writer in *La Nature* says that experts themselves are sometimes deceived in a first glance. The artificial product made of wood fiber fully equals the other in texture and brilliancy and is simply less strong. It is made especially to obviate this as a facing on a warp of inferior natural silk, also on a cotton warp. The result is a lustrous and showy effect at less than half the cost of genuine silk, and the product is available for a great variety of dress goods and fancy materials. The new material takes the most rich and delicate dyes by the use of special processes. It promises to supersede natural silk for many uses, as much as wood pulp has rags in paper making.

The erstwhile Mary Victoria Leiter of Chicago is now Countess Curzon of Kedleston, and the daughter of the man who once sold tape and ribbons will shortly be the vice queen at whose feet will bow 250,000,000 of subjects in whose history the most picturesque traditions of 3,000 years of Asiatic history are still a warning force.

Without pains there would be no pleasures. The soldiers who have got home again realize what the condensed delight of a "good square meal" is, many of them for the first time.

Big men often cease to be big when people rise from their knees before them.

College Athletics.

The pursuit of athleticism as a tacit feature of the college curriculum has often been charged against the American universities. There is a shadow of truth in this. The authorities of learned institutions are very human and are compelled sometimes to regard things from the business standpoint. The prosperity of a university depends in some degree on the success with which it caters to public interest. With the prevailing passion for athletic games and exercises which the last quarter century has developed in the United States to such a degree, it is not unnatural that the youth of the land should be strongly attracted toward those universities which have achieved the greatest honors in this direction. It is also quite intelligible that the concession to this taste on the part of governing faculties should sometimes lead them to stretch a point in attracting and retaining the leading exponents of athletic skill who come up from the preparatory schools. The great universities, like Yale, Harvard, Columbia, the University of Chicago, Cornell university, the University of California, etc., do not feel the need of looking after their intellectual reputations. "Good wine needs no bush." The larger danger to the country is that the smaller colleges will be injured by being drawn in the same train. The latter suffer in greater degree by their zeal in following their models. What the one class of institutions can stand without serious deterioration from their main object is likely to affect seriously the other class. It is therefore a profitable sign when we perceive a great university disposed to draw the line sharply. Yale has recently dropped two of its most famous athletes on account of deficiency in their studies, unwillingly perhaps, but in obedience to a correct theory. If other institutions will follow the example, it will go far to correct the evil of excessive athleticism. "The healthy mind in the healthy body" is a nobler rule, but not the healthy body at the expense of the healthy mind.

A Southern Humorist.

The recent death of Richard Malcolm Johnston, the southern novelist, is a loss to American literature, though most readers do not perhaps fully recognize his unique and delightful genius. In his creation of types of character not less faithful to local color and characteristic than they are vitalized with vivid flesh and blood, no American fictionist is his superior. The richness of Mr. Johnston's humor seems to exude from every page, and even his tragedy suggests it none the less forcibly perhaps from the fact that true humor and pathos lie close to the same sources. Yet his tragedy is sometimes of the grimmest type, too, though it never fails to have that genuine quality which comes from the collision of character and passion as in human actuality. It

never falls to the melodramatic type of sensational incident, a clever manipulation of which is the trick of so many successful caterers to the fiction taste. But it is as a humorist that his fame will resolve itself into a permanent fact. No southern and but few northern writers have equaled him in the virile and striking types which crowd the picture gallery of his novels. Individual, even outlandish as these may be, they never impress the imagination as grotesque or abnormal. The saliency and vigor of human nature in them and in their atmosphere make us realize the living touch as in a Dickens creation. The author's "Dukesborough Tales," "Old Man Layston," "The Two Gay Tourists" and "Mr. Absalom Billingsha and Other Georgia Folks," with certain similar masterpieces of work, will survive as long as anything in American literature. His reputation will probably grow more rapidly after death than it did before, as is so often the case with men of the rarest intellectual gift.

That was a beautiful and touching incident which recently occurred in Westminster abbey, London. A young lady who avowed herself a descendant of Benedict Arnold laid a fragrant tribute of roses on the tomb of Major Andre in the great minster. On a card was inscribed her detestation of the traitor whose name she bore. Another descendant of Benedict Arnold living in a western city not many years ago wrote a ponderous volume to prove that General Arnold was a very decent sort of a patriot, and that his act was prompted by the ingratitude of America for his unparalleled services.

The equipment of the freight cars of the country with the automatic airbrake is proceeding rapidly. It was through the interstate commerce commission that congress passed the bill enforcing this on the railway corporations. The soulless indifference of railroads to this life saving reform in car equipment has for many years made the life of a freight brakeman as dangerous as that of a soldier in war. Running over the tops of icy cars in the blackness of a winter night to apply hand brakes has slain and maimed its thousands. No practical measure was ever more needed.

It has been said that in most men there is a dead poet whom the man survives. Apropos of some of our modern bards, there are dead poets in them whom the men survive. They are so wrapped up in purely technical conceit that they have lost all grip on the human heart of things.

In the complicated legal machinery of today, so ponderous that it often threatens to break by its own weight, many laws are so framed that to interpret them is to corrupt them.