

practice. They must be capable of grasping and dealing with the great problems of the state and nation. For this great work the foundation must be laid in the law school. In after life they will look back with either pride or regret to the training here obtained. Lord Bolingbroke, in one of his lectures, after describing the profession of the law, as, in its nature, the noblest and most beneficial to mankind, in its abuse the most sordid and pernicious, rose to a high impulse of enthusiasm and exclaimed, "There have been lawyers that were orators, philosophers, historians; there have been Bacons and Clarendons, my lord; there shall be none such any more, 'till in some better age men learn to prefer fame to pelf, and climb to the vantage ground of general science." May it be the aim of this university to point the way to that high standard of excellence, so strongly put by Bolingbroke.

I feel that I am safe in saying to you, and to the state at large that in the department of law, as well as in all other departments, this university will secure and maintain that high standard which shall make it and keep it the pride and delight of our young, generous and prosperous state.

CURRENT COMMENT.

It may not be entirely within the province of THE HESPERIAN to discuss Lincoln politics and Lincoln municipal affairs but there is an odd spectacle of late appearance that is worthy of remark. In these extremely hard times, people, hereabouts at least, have not been desirous of getting rid of or of giving away their money. Hence it is a strange spectacle to people to observe the anger of certain parties in this city because they cannot give their money away, and anger, moreover, vented on those who will not take this money when offered to them. Such is the case with the gamblers of this city. They were arrested while at their trade and their instruments of play confiscated. At their trial in the police court they were convicted and fined. They paid their fines and were released. Thus far their course was an easy one; for they were used to this sort of proceeding. Former city administrations have been in the habit of arresting the gamblers once in a while, confiscating their instruments, but later surrendering the tools upon a writ of replevin. Thus the gamblers got off with a light fine and were soon in full blast again. Their tools they obtained from the court, as the city authorities usually dismissed the case regarding the writ of replevin. This time, however, our reform administration refused to deliver up the gambling implements on the writ of replevin. The mayor claimed that the court had no right to issue a writ of replevin for goods already in the hands of officers of the law, and if it did by mistake issue such writ it should at once recall it. In other words, the mayor and chief of police were only technically disobeying the court since its writ was illegal. Judge Morris, of Crete, and other good lawyers have told Mayor Weir that his action in the matter was in accordance with good law.

Thus, for the first time in many years the gamblers of this city have been brought to their wits' ends to find a way of continuing in their nefarious business. For weeks previous to the recent open contest, they have been trying to tamper with the city officials. It is an open secret that the mayor has been offered \$1000 a month if he would wink at their acts and let them pay nominal monthly fines. It is also well known that the chief of police has been offered \$1500 in hard cash to overlook or, in some way, to connive at their iniquities. The efforts have been futile and that is just what has raised the row. The gamblers couldn't pay their hush money to the city officers because it would not be accepted. A strange fact in these hard times!

The best class of citizens are sustaining and will sustain the mayor in what he does. They believe that honesty, though

able to mistake, is yet honest and the best policy. It is to be hoped that the mayor and his subordinates will continue their good work of driving the gamblers from their business. THE HESPERIAN believes that public sentiment would also sustain the officers if they were to arrest any of the gambling fraternity who might chance to be in attendance at the university and yet plying their trade. Rumor was last year that there were such. If there be such now or at any time during the year, let the offenders be ferreted out and punished. No one would deprecate the action.

The radical wing of the liberal party of England is demanding some of its desired reforms with redoubled energy. The course of events points to a victory for liberal principles sometime in the near future. The affairs of Ireland, while not commanding so complete attention as they did one year ago, are yet of sufficient importance, so long as they remain unsettled, to command large attention. The people of England are also becoming strongly imbued with socialistic and republican principles. Especially among the working and the thinking classes, the institutions of monarchy and aristocracy are coming to be more odious and distasteful every year. On account of this growing discontent of the people, the radical wing of the liberal party deems this, the probable eve of political changes, a proper time to bring prominently to the fore their distinctive ideas of reform in the social world. Just now they vehemently demand the liberals to put in their program the abolition of the house of lords. Probably they will not be successful this time. The agitation, however, cannot but be useful to the desired end whenever that is to be. To Americans, not aware of the profound conservatism of the English middle classes, it seems strange that so desirable a reform should be so long in coming. But the English house of lords has not always been so useless as at present. Moreover it is an institution of great age, hence its roots extend deep and wide. It is not easily uprooted, but when the trunk becomes dead the roots will rot. Then the radicals will be successful in their efforts but by that time they will no longer be radicals. Radicals will then go much farther yet.

Competition is one of the prominent features of modern civilization and of modern progress. In business there is the greatest competition. Yet competition often appears in even philosophy and religion. In educational matters there is competition. Between nations there is competition as well as between individuals. The different crafts compete; the various schools of science compete. But this is all as nothing. Competition has entered the heavens! Perhaps it might better be said that there is rivalry between those that claim to control the clouds. It is now rain-maker Melbourne *versus* Dyrenfurth. Although engaged in the rain-making business, in it, at least, it has no monopoly. As much success is claimed for one rain-maker as for the other. It is all strange, mysterious. Yet so accustomed has the minds of people of these times become to strange and wonderful happiness and achievements that it is doubtful, if things continue as they have, whether one hundred years hence the announcement that some one was going to effect communications with the inhabitants of some of the stars would cause any more astonishment than is usually conveyed in the phrase, "Well, what next?" If it be true that wonders will never cease, then is it unreasonable to ask whether, if the wonders increase, as they have, they will not reach quite to the stars within a century. If any reader feels doubtful of this let him wait until 1900 and then review the century then gone. Doubt is fatal to scientific achievement; in science faith and works are indispensable.