

the jury. The prisoner at the bar was black, not white. To review the case, the prisoner, shackled, was long ago shipped across the seas. The indictment brought against him was "Black, not human." The court instructed the jury to so find. They did so. Their sentence was "Hard labor without hope." A slave, he begins his sentence. As he toils on, sympathizers argue a new trial. Voices long silent awake and take up the cry of justice to the slave. Again the court meets. Abraham Lincoln is the judge. He reverses the former decision and pronounces the prisoner a *man*. A demurrer was filed, but overruled at Appomattox. He is a man and there can be no more controversy over that point. Freedom inflates his lungs and runs in his veins. He begins to work out his destiny. God go with him. Again he stands at your bar in silence, a criminal, charged with trying to be a man, with trying to do what the court granted him power to do. I ask the prisoner one question, "Do you waive the judgment gained by Lincoln and affirmed at Appomattox?" His answer comes most emphatically, "I do not." The negro believes that all men are created equal, and that this nation shall have a new birth. He wishes to maintain his equality. We have at the bar, the same slave who was there before. Men may change, but principles never. I lay my case before the young generation; you must render the verdict. The negro does not claim social equality with the white race. He never did. If the defendant is your inferior socially, why! Because he has always been a slave or subject to the lowest forms of society. We are to blame for his condition. The negro believes a nation derives its powers from the consent of the governed, he believes in equal pay for equal labor, a fair field and a fair chance. He asks for nothing more and will take nothing less for he is a man. It is for this jury to say whether justice will come as the whirlwind or earthquake, or in peace as a soothing benediction.

The judges were, on manuscript:—William R. Harper, Chicago, Illinois; David

S. Jordan, Palo Alto, California; John P. Mahan, Abilene, Kansas.

On delivery:—Fred S. Hassler, Pawnee City; Rev. O. H. Scott, Hastings; Summers, Lincoln.

First place was awarded to T. E. Wing, N. S. U.; second place to A. Turner, N. W. U.

A report from the secretary, since the contest, says a mistake was made and F. W. Dean, of Doane, won second.

Rah for N. S. U.!

#### Analytics of Literature.\*

How is it that the mere arrangement of certain arbitrary black symbols in groups upon the printed page becomes capable of producing in the human mind all the effects of intense joy, anger, or grief? Most people are content to accept the sensations without further inquiry. But those who attempt any investigation of the process involved find themselves baffled at every turn. The apparent cause is so entirely disproportionate to the effect. The elements that must be supplied beyond the visible cause are so subtle that they elude all analysis. The chain of connection to be established between the printed page and the emotional or intellectual experience seems so interminable. So many unknown quantities enter into and complicate the equation that its solution becomes a matter of no little difficulty. As well known a writer as Edmund Clarence Stedman, in his lectures, recently, on *The Nature and Elements of Poetry*, judiciously avoided the point at issue by the lucid statement that poetry was a mysterious force akin to the forces of nature.

The latest attempt to solve this mystery of poetry is the *Analytics of Literature* by Prof. Sherman of this University, to appear in a few days from the press of Ginn & Company. The *Analytics* finds in experience one of the ultimate sources of poetic power. From the biological point of view

\**Analytics of Literature. a Manual for the Objective Study of English Prose and Poetry*, by L. A. Sherman, Professor in the University of Nebraska. Boston: Ginn & Company, 1892.