

# HESPERIAN STUDENT.

VOL. I.

University of Nebraska.

NO. 2.

MARCH,

*Qui non Proficit, Deficit.*

1872.

### HEU ME MISERUM.

The following—picked up on the streets—is the wall of a poor Soph. of Stevens College:

I wish I was a Junior  
I'd with the Juniors go  
Over to the University,  
To hear the Athenians "blow."  
But we wicked Sophomores,  
Who never a lesson know  
Must stay at home and wail  
Till we like Juniors grow.

But I guess we are just as good as they are, and if the boys only knew,

Alas for Senior dignity!  
Oh shame on Junior pride!  
They even begged of us  
Our finery to divide.

### LETHE.

There is a river whose silent flow,  
In its gliding course to the realms below,  
Scarcely wavers the weeds on its bank that grow,  
Nodding, as if in a reverie.

Never the bright sun's yellow beam  
Bath seen the depths of that dismal stream,  
And the drowsy sound of its flowing seems  
Like a sleeper, breathing heavily.

To its twilight shore, as years go by,  
The souls come down of men who die;  
They have sinned, and some are afraid to try  
To have sins forgiven.

So they fall at last in the tempter's net,  
Like bubbles that break when waters fret;  
Drinking they sink in the stream, and forget,  
The others fly up to heaven.

—The Hartford Advocate.

### OUR "CORNELL."

Report of the Present Condition of the State University.

BY CHANCELLOR BENTON.

Hon. J. W. McKensie, Superintendent of Public Instruction:

In accordance with your request, I herewith submit a partial statement of the operations and condition of the State University, for one term and a half, the time from its organization until the present date.

The exercises inaugurating the work of the University, were held in the University Chapel the 6th of Sept. 1871, at which time addresses were delivered by the Chancellor and the Hon. J. Sterling Morton. On the 7th the students were enrolled, and during the first week ninety students were matriculated. This number has been steadily increased, so that at the present, one hundred and thirty names have been enrolled. The average attendance has been a little more than one hundred. In this connection it should be stated, that the University does not attempt to do the work of the common school, and receives none whose attainments place them in that grade. It has not departed from its plan of admitting only those who were competent to enter the Latin school and the classes of the University.

### CLASSES.

In the inception of our work, it was to be expected that much irregularity would be found, making an exact classification according to our scheme of study, impossible.

Owing to the want of systematic grading in the High Schools, and the irregular course of study pursued by others in Colleges from which they came, it was impracticable to organize our work with that completeness that we can attain in a short time.

All the classes of the two years course of the Latin School, are well represented, and most of the classes of the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior years. The number of these classes is a standing in these advanced classes, is fixed by the Faculty, that nothing

but an approximation to the number could now be given. It is worthy of remark, that a large number in the Latin School are intending to take the classical course, and half have entered, with the avowed intention of taking the regular classical course.

### APPARATUS.

The philosophical apparatus, which is from the manufactory of Mr. Ritchie, of Boston, is of the very best quality, and has been carefully selected, so that we are enabled to illustrate every important principle in physics. About fourteen hundred dollars has been expended for furnishing this department with apparatus. Nor is the supply of the chemical department in any respect inferior to the former in completeness and excellence.

The Laboratory is filled up in the most convenient and substantial manner, and ample facilities are afforded the student of chemistry for performing all experiments in chemical analysis. In view of the early organization of the Agricultural College—which will soon be a necessity, in order to retain the land grant made by Congress for this purpose—special care has been given to the arrangement of the Laboratory, so that it may be sufficient to meet all the wants of the University. For fitting up the room, and for the purchase of material belonging to this department, about eight hundred dollars have been expended. With regard to these expenditures as well as for library and cabinet, it should be borne in mind, that the material is durable, and will not need soon to be replaced. The best quality has been purchased, and will answer our purposes for years to come.

### LIBRARY.

A library and an adjoining reading room have been arranged for the use of the students of the University. About a thousand volumes have been selected with great care. These represent about every department of literature, history, biography, philology, science, poetry, and general literature. The expense has been, thus far, about \$1,900. The reading room is supplied from this amount with the most popular and valuable magazines published in this country. To this we also expect soon to add the best newspapers that can be obtained.

### CABINET.

We have a hall set apart and properly arranged with shelves for the cabinet. At present we have about a thousand mineral specimens, worth \$200. The University is now negotiating for a cabinet, containing about seven thousand specimens, to which yearly additions will be made. We are also expecting to secure a large collection of shells, which will constitute an important addition to the collections mentioned above. A little thoughtfulness on the part of the friends of education would enable us to multiply our specimens rapidly. Donations to the cabinet of the University will be thankfully received, and the name of the donor placed on the specimen to signify his interest in enriching the shelves of the University Cabinet.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS.

The building is very well adapted to the purposes for which it was designed. With the slight adjustments and arrangements which have been made, the accommodations are as convenient and satisfactory as are often found.

The building is capacious, well lighted, accessible in all its parts, and comfortable in all its appointments.

The campus, containing twelve acres, will be laid out in the spring, under the supervision of a competent person, and planted with suitable trees; so that in a few years, it is hoped, no spot will be more attractive than the grounds of the University.

Within a few weeks past there have been

set apart two sections of State lands for the uses of the Agricultural College. Of this, one half section has been located adjoining the corporate limits of the city of Lincoln, in a place near the University, and hence well situated for the purposes of a University farm. Prof. S. R. Thompson has been elected as a professor in the Agricultural College; to enter on his labor when the Board determine to organize the College of Agriculture.

### LITERARY SOCIETY, ETC.

There is now in successful operation a literary society—the Palladian—which holds weekly sessions. This is regarded as a valuable auxiliary to the work of the University, and affords that exercise in public speaking which is indispensable to the public man. The number of its members is about forty-five.

Under the auspices of this society a monthly paper—the *Hesperian Student*—was established, but was afterwards transferred to an association of students, by whom it is now published. It is believed that it compares favorably with similar papers, published at other colleges.

Also a course of popular lectures has been organized and conducted successfully thus far, by an association of students; thus giving to the students of the University an opportunity to hear some of the most distinguished lecturers, free of cost.

The spring term of the University will begin April 4, and continue twelve weeks.

A. R. BENTON, Chancellor of University.

Lincoln, March 4, 1872.

### The Influence of the Bible on Language.

If any one will study the history of the Bible he will find evidence to convince him that it has left its impress on the language of men, more than any other production of the world's literature. Coming as a revelation from God to man, and affecting not only his present condition but his future destiny as well, its revelations, if received, change his moral nature; and with this change of thought and feeling will come a change of its mode of expression. The nature of its teachings is such that as a people receives them, its habits of thought will be so modified that a change of language will be a good intimation of the influence it has received. Colloquial English is more like the style of the English Bible than colloquial German is like the German Bible—the reason is that one people is more thoroughly Protestantized than the other.

Portions of the Hebrew Testament are cotemporary with the various developments of the philosophy of India, yet the language of the Vedas was only known to a privileged class, while that of the Old Testament was the common heritage of every Jew, and the common dialect of the people was the same as that in which their poets and prophets wrote and spoke. The style of Moses and David is familiar to Christians of all succeeding time, while the writings of Menu have been scarcely known save by the learned men of India. The poems of Homer have been more widely read than any other uninspired books, but they have left no perceptible influence on the colloquial forms of any modern tongue, and we are told that the Koran, though the text-book for millions of the human race, has not produced the change we might expect in the language of the infant Christian church.

When the Jewish nationality was lost, an ever-watchful Providence took care that a good medium should be provided, by which he could transmit his word to men, and which should be the language of the infant Christian church.

For several centuries before the Christian era the whole civilized world had been going to school to Athens, and had been studying Greek language, and literature and law. The conquest of Alexander also contributed its

share in scattering a knowledge and use of this language around the Mediterranean, then the center of the world's civilization and population, so that when the apostles were sent forth to preach, their vernacular tongue was a medium to learned and unlearned, for their gospel wherever they might go. At an early period in the Christian era the Roman Empire became Christianized, and editions of the Scriptures in Latin became very numerous. From an early period to the sixteenth century the Roman church monopolized the use of the Scriptures; so that the Latin became the language of the sanctuary; but it would be interesting to trace the influence of the original Greek on the Latin, and its influence though more remote on all the modern languages of which the Latin is the mother tongue.

When Luther began to preach he felt the necessity of having a medium by which both high and low German might have access to the authority on which he predicated his faith, and he translated the Bible into his own native tongue, using the dialect familiar to the greater portion of his countrymen. This translation soon obtained a wide circulation among both high and low Germans, and for three centuries has been the medium of religious truth in Germany, and wherever that language is spoken.

In 1611 the common version of the English Bible was made. This was not a new translation, but simply a revision of the versions of Wycliffe, Tyndale and others. This version of the Bible has had a greater effect on our language than Luther's had on the German, from the fact that England became more thoroughly Protestant than Germany, and because our language in its growth at the time our translation was made, had reached about such a degree of development as the Greek in its decay had reached at the Christian era.

The Bible is the great Book of the Anglo-Saxon race, and its language and diction have become a part of their very consciousness and wherever we find a man speaking the English language we find him though unconsciously using a language that has been moulded and fashioned by the version of our Bible. For three centuries our language has been kept in its purity through the influence of this book more than any other, and if we except the works of Milton and Shakespeare more than all others. Thus we see when a people receives the Bible as a standard of faith, its reception involves a change in its life and language; and when it shall have made the conquest of the world, it will produce a peculiar similarity in the languages of the different nations coinciding with the oneness of sentiment it will have implanted in men's hearts.

### "Laugh and Grow Fat."

For the benefit of those good honest souls who enjoy a hearty laugh, I wish through your columns to rescue from oblivion a little incident, which, though occurring at home, I consider too good to be lost:

A few weeks ago as the Moral Philosophy class was engaged in considering the moral faculty of man, a Senior—of great promise, but small parts, enquired of Prof. —, "Do animals feel sorrow?" The Professor replied, "They do not, as they have no moral faculty."

Senior, with an important air—"Well, sir, years ago, I was driving father's cows rapidly down a hill, when she kicked up and knocked me flat. I lay still, and she came back and stood by me as much as ten minutes until I got up. I would like to know how you would explain that?"

Senior No. 2, very irreverently—"She was probably deceived by your appearance, and took you for a calf!"

Class in confusion—Senior No. 1 asks to be excused.

Query—Who owns the calf?—*University Reporter*.