

habits of thought that these ideas have been, one by one, expanded, and wrought out from their original elements.

Thus we might continue to bring illustrations from every branch of human thought and knowledge to show that progress is from the single, simple idea or germ to the most complicated forms which have yet been reached. Nor is it probable that man has yet attained anything like the degree of development which it is possible for him to gain in any line of work which he sees spread out before him, whether that work be in the realm of nature or of thought.

These ideas in regard to the method of advancement in law, in government, in morals are not mere idle fancies of the brain; for they have been verified by the most careful study of ancient customs and institutions; the most accurate observation upon the various steps in the passage from their early to their present forms. It seems to be a most impossible to doubt that this line of progress is governed by the same laws which naturalists claim govern the evolution of life and its various forms throughout all nature.

In the case of law and government these laws can be proved, for their development has taken place within historic time; but, if these laws can be proved true in some lines of human progress, in fact, in every line which we can follow back to its source. I say, if these laws are thus often true, may we not reasonably extend them to other cases in which there are some proofs to sustain them; and, finally, may we not include all progress, all advancement and development under the one law, the law of evolution; the law that the simple comes first, and from it is developed all the forms and conceptions which go to make up the complexity which surrounds us. In this law we do not pretend to account for the beginnings of life or thought; they are above and beyond. But when these are given, then the advancement seems to proceed through the law of evolution. But what of it? it is asked, if this true? How is man to be benefitted by it? How can it unlock the mysteries of nature which surround man, and unfold to him the means of understanding nature, himself and his Creator? In this way: he then knows the great law which governs all advancement, and thus he can proceed to examine its application to the world around him. As a knowledge of the law of gravitation gave a chance for the explanation of many phenomena in nature, so a knowledge of the general law of progress would let men see how to mold everything in nature and their life to accord to it, and thus send forward the tide of progress in such a way as can not be done unless everything conforms to its law.

Again, if the law is not known, it may not be obeyed; and, if not obeyed, ruin follows; but, if known and followed, where shall progress stop?

Where? Ours, with the perfect fulfillment of the law, and hence with perfection.

QUL.

THE HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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The Nebraska University is the only collegiate institution of our acquaintance where a gymnasium and athletic exercises are not encouraged. It is true an organization of this kind has been effected here but sad to say it is in such an embryotic condition and presages no progress. Let a few energetic students take the matter in charge and we doubt not but that their efforts will be crowned with success. A round with the gloves, a turn at the horizontal bar, or a bout with the foils, either of which is a good after dinner exercise, will greatly tend to develop muscle and activity on the part of the practitioner.

DISCIPLINE.

One of the most important corner-stones upon which is built success in any enterprise is discipline. Whatever the undertaking, discipline, in the use of those means by which the end shall be reached is the one thing most necessary. Cromwell taught to England how essential it is to the success of an army, and the battles of armed men, does not differ in the necessary requirements of success, from the struggles we are called upon to meet in every day life. Germany in war, in learning, and in art, has gained all by which she is entitled to the first rank among nations, by hard, laborious discipline. Her scholars like her soldiers are the most thoroughly trained, her paintings are noted for the studied minuteness of details; yet Germany's institutions of learning, and her galleries of fine art are the admiration of the world. Thorough discipline is no less necessary for readiness and endurance in mental and physical work. The thoroughly trained mind can accomplish double the work in the same length of time; then, when we consider the brevity of life, and how long and how difficult the road which others have travelled before us, and over which we must pass before we reach the point from which we may hope to rise, before we stand we beside the untouched marble out of which we may carve the monuments of our ambitions, how important the discipline and training by which we may, rapidly and easily overcome the difficulties that oppose us on every hand. A philosophic view of ones own situation at college would induce him to court, rather than complain of severe discipline, since that is the most needful preparation for future labors. There is no one thing which people have more reason to be thankful for than a cheerful disposition. Especially will the truth of this appear to those students whose lots have been cast with professors who were not blessed with genial dispositions. The mental vigor of a class is increased as much by genial the ardor of its professor as much as do the contents of a garden under the encouraging rays of the sun. We have all wandered at the power of Bergh over animals, yet the means he uses are simple enough; only kindness

Nor does a balky child or student differ materially from a balky horse. We may say it is even the duty of all to wear as cheerful a countenance as possible for there are few things more infectious than a bad humor and one gloomy countenance will cast a shade over a whole company. Be always cheerful and in the language of Hamlet to his mother I would say: "assume that virtue if you have it not."

The late Whittaker outrage perpetrated at West Point Military Academy is now engrossing the attention of the papers and the country at large, and certainly deserves special notice from the students of every institution. A board of investigation has been diligently at work revising and completing testimony for several days in order to determine whether the deed was committed by Whittaker himself, by students, or persons outside the college. When found, his hands were bound, his head and body bruised and his ears gashed. Even supposing a man would commit such a cruel act on his person in this instance we opine such a supposition absurd, from the manner in which the deed was done, and our only conclusion is that it is a repetition of what has occurred in that school many times in the past. If West Point, an institution supported by the general government, is to harbor such a remnant of barbarism as is hazing, it is high time the public were saved the expense incurred and the doors of the Academy closed. This impish conduct on the part of students has been a sore affliction long enough. Although the severity and frequency of hazing has been checked of late, yet the spirit, latent and despicable, is still to be found in most eastern colleges and only awaits an opportunity to burst forth in all its danger. If West Point cannot be made an institution worthy the support of a civilized government, let it be abolished and instead make a more efficient military training a part of every college curriculum. By an act of Congress the Nebraska University and other seats of learning of like organization are provided for in this respect, a military officer, a graduate of West Point being detailed as instructor. As to this University the plan works admirably and it is our pleasure to say that our military department was never in such a flourishing condition. The drill is no longer repulsive. All its disagreeable features have been removed, and why? Simply because the commandant, understanding human nature, treating the cadets as thinking sentient beings and not as automitons, has awakened a spirit of interest which has swelled the ranks to sixty. Next Commencement we expect the cadets to make such a commendable exhibit on public parade as to give for themselves the perpetual favor and good will of the Regents and people at large. If the success is consummated that we anticipate it will not be long until the graduate of our military department will stand on equal ground with the no better trained student of many exclusively military schools.

It affords several members of the Moral Philosophy Class much satisfaction and amusement to hear the chancellor dilate upon the power of majorities.

It was expected that we would publish a marriage notice in this issue. Accordingly ye local had written up a beautiful eulogy on "married bliss" closing up with a poetic lay, when all this toil was made as nought by his hearing that the marriage had not come off. We propose to save this great effort for the benefit of the first young lady of the University who marries. Now, ladies, don't all take the hint at once for the same send off for all of you would grow monotonous.

In a late issue of *Literary Notes*, Regent Fifield offers as "a reward of valor" his paper for one year to the graduate or graduates of the State Normal, Doan College and University, who would deliver a Commencement Oration not exceeding ten minutes in length. This hint comes not only from one representing the people who usually attend such exercises but is an expression of a man, educated, cultured and highly authoritative. The Senior who selects his theme early and labors incessantly to make it a credit both to himself and his Alma Mater is not obliged to amplify his wisdom into a half hour discourse. In a large class twelve minutes at the most is sufficient time to be allotted to any one and we should not object if the Faculty would make such a requirement. But the greatest objection to orations and essays "long drawn out" and not "sweetness" either, is with society exercises. These to be most interesting should be spicy and of varied character.

Too often has an audience become dull and torpid because of some member's thoughtlessness in the length of his production and we are only surprised that the societies support their present flourishing condition under a require that allow eight or nine members from ten to twenty minutes each for an Oration and essay. A reform in this respect is greatly needed in the societies and we hope the proper authorities will see to its fulfillment.

The HESPERIAN STUDENT is born again and we hope it a long and successful future. The present issue assumes a form entirely different from that of preceding issues. The magazine form was neat, attractive and well represented College papers but it was not economical. When we discovered that the monthly expenses greatly exceeded the monthly receipts on subscriptions, advertisements, &c our better judgment prompted us to curtail and reform. Even with the large amount of outside assistance received we eked out an existence. Now no business would recommend such a course as this and we do not propose to pursue it longer, taking sylvace from the adage "Rome was not built in a day." The board have determined to commence anew the battle of life with a four page, sixteen column paper, to be issued semi-monthly, and as soon as the state of finances will warrant to enlarge it to an eight page, then sixteen page &c. The *Student* is in a more precarious condition at present than it was two weeks after its first issue in 1871, but by careful supervision and wise management we expect to see it speed along the highway of prosperity, a credit to the board and the University. To the citizens and business men we extend our heartfelt thanks. There has never been set on foot a college enterprise that has not received their most grateful support. It is our hope that the *Student* may always meet their esteem and assistance. This issue closes our career as editor. May our successors