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Miscellaneous Mention.

Is it a good plan to write translations and grammatical notes in text books? A majority of good scholars, among them Prof. McMillan, would say "No." It does not bring one the acquaintance with the language that we all want to acquire. It loses us confidence in ourselves; it enervates the memory. Can we afford to do it?

Uphantaena has been regarded by Professors Hall and Dawson as a plant. It occurs in the Devonian of New York, and consists of interlaced narrow branches, like the willow meshes in the bottom of a basket. Prof. Whitefield thinks it should be with the silicious framework of the Glass Sponge or Euplectella. Geology class please take notice.

The cadets at the Annapolis (Md.) Academy have taken upon themselves the task of instructing the ladies of Annapolis in the manual of arms. A cadet calls at the residence of his innamorata, and upon entering they stand facing each other. The command of "present arms" is given, followed by "forward march," and it is but a natural supposition that the order "remain at rest" follows in "double quick time."

The inauguration of the University of Lund, Sweden, was celebrated on September 28th with great splendor. After the coronation by the bishop of the diocese King Oscar delivered a highly poetical and powerful address. In the historical festive procession which followed, 480 students took part, half of them on horseback. The pageant, much of which represented the period of Gustavus Adolphus, was a great success, and was witnessed by thousands of spectators.

The noise of party organs and the voice of the champion orator will soon be hushed, while all will listen to the mandate of a higher power. After months and years of conflicting arguments and bitter controversy the great question of universal suffrage will be submitted to that supreme tribunal from which there is no appeal. This is evidently an important crisis in the history of the state as the decision reached at the polls next Tuesday will doubtless be a permanent one, at least so far as this generation is concerned.

De Tocqueville says in his work on America, vol. 1—P. 236, speaking of the influence and ubiquity of the press in the United States: "Nothing is easier than to set up a newspaper, as a small number of subscribers will suffice to defray the expenses." It is quite evident that Tocquey hasn't been through the experience of running a journal in America. He may analyze our institutions, dissect our morals and prophesy our future; but when he undertakes

to discourse on the financial management of a newspaper he simply discloses his frog-eating stupidity.

The country schools of Maine are not as a rule open more than three or four months in the year. Some of the districts are deficient in pupils. In one county there are districts where the average attendance at school was only five scholars. There is a district near Augusta where forty years ago the average attendance was fifty; now it is but ten. Guess they haven't any saloon licenses to support their schools as we have. How foolish they be.

It will be remembered what excitement was created last year by the shooting of a student at the University of Minnesota by one of the Faculty. We clip from the *Ariel* the following: The case of Professor Pike for assaulting Asa Paine with a dangerous weapon came up before the Grand Jury the first day of its session. Paine and several others, including two or three students, were summoned and testified, substantially as in the Municipal Court last June. On taking a vote the jury failed to find a bill by four or five votes, and he was accordingly acquitted but not exonerated. Thus falls the curtain upon the last act and the drama passes from the public stage.

How the school and University lands are to be disposed of, is a question now before the people of the state. Obviously there is much wisdom in the policy of leasing instead of selling them and investing the money in bonds. The bonds only bring an income of from three to six per cent while the lands can easily be leased so as to realize at least twice that amount. Besides there are other important reasons for not disposing of the school lands at the present time. The value of them is constantly increasing and in the near future will doubtless bring three times as much as it can be sold for now. Again so long as the land is kept it is absolutely safe and forms a permanent endowment, but if sold the entire fund may be lost through the dishonesty of corrupt officials.

Miscellaneous Mention would speak with the college press: Dear contemporaries, we know 'tisn't so easy to find paragraphs entirely unobjectionable and at the same time interesting for the miscellany and odd corners. How we have devastated our own once luxuriant poll in search of copy for this page let no one tell; our hearts have more of pity than condemnation for you. And yet *amici nostri*, doesn't it dawn upon you that it has been pretty thoroughly circulated that the first college paper in America was started at Dartmouth in 1796 and that D. Webster was a contributor? Wouldn't a notice to the effect that the assulant of Wm. Patterson was still at large or a pithy statement of the observation made by the chief executive of North Carolina to his colleague of South Carolina look a trifle more recent?