

sulting to the University itself would be manifold and important. More mature material would enter the Freshman class, and thus more thorough and thoughtful work would be done, at the very outset of the University course. The Faculty would not be overburdened with work as they are now, and more time could be given the students in all the remaining classes. There is no question that better work and a higher reputation would result, and the institution would really be better patronized. This should no longer be a semi-academy for children, but a University for the young men and women of the state. In our judgment, this is the one great progressive step that should next be taken. We know that there is some difference of opinion on this question and we will gladly give reasonable space in our columns for a general discussion of the matter among the students.

### *The Student's Scrap-book.*

#### LAVA BEDS OF IDAHO.

Wonderful things are always a long way from home. Thus a locality thirteen hundred miles distant is more extraordinary than one but two. But in these perverse later times a tendency arises to doubt and question, to find things otherwise than as represented and even sometimes less wonderful than what has been left behind at home.

It is an almost universal complaint of tourists and prospectors, that they become so enthusiastic when ever visiting a place of interest, that their descriptions leads one to imagine it a perfect paradise. This sketch is not a description of a paradise, but a feeble effort towards conveying the idea to my friends and student companions how the great lava beds of America appear.

From present indications one can come to no other conclusion, but that this portion of the country was a seething mass of molten matter, long after Nebraska's surface was covered with grass and fragrant flowers. But time changes every thing, and as this molten mass cooled, and became solidified, it formed into rocks that are now so hard, that only the best tempered steel will cut them.

Volcanic eruptions were very frequent, as the surface of the country shows. The rocks have been broken and are bulged up so that the strata in some places stand perpendicular and great cracks and crevices open so deep that the bottom is not visible. Some of the craters still retain their former appearance and around their openings may be seen large sheets of crimped or undulated rocks formed by the craters in their last feeble efforts to belch forth the heated mass which bubbled and died away. Numerous caves have been formed by the shrinking of the load while cooling, and these caves now furnish homes for the wolf, lynx and mountain lion. Occasionally a mountain stream of pure crystal water comes rushing along through a narrow channel, with here and there a waterfall, then entirely disappearing through an underground channel, coming to the surface again a mile or two farther on. Some have said that when the Almighty was mapping out the world he overlooked this portion of the country, and there was no record made of it. At first one is almost led to believe it, but after a better knowledge

of the country is obtained, that idea is banished and it is found that notwithstanding its uninviting appearance, there lie scattered among the rocks, minerals of untold richness. Some very rich mines have been found in the Saw Tooth Range and along the Wood River Valley. There is plenty of game here, such as deer, jack-rabbits and rattle snakes. Hoping that as much interest is being manifested in University work as ever, I will close by wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

J. H. CONRAD.

Little Wood River, Idaho.

#### A MANLY POLITICIAN.

The Puritans were in earnest; they acknowledged no binding law but the sense of duty; their strong point was backbone, we can not afford to laugh at them who live in what has been called the era of "vertebrateless skulls." Reared according to the strictest sense of duty, imbibing from his surroundings the idea that the words "ought" and "must" were synonymous, John Quincy Adams can hardly be said to have had any childhood. His letters written at 9 and 10 years of age are as fearfully pious and submissive as though copied entire from an old fashioned Sunday-school book. In them he addresses his father as "Honored sir" and asks for written directions as to economy of time, that his "fickle thoughts" may not wander off to his play, but may be confined to the 3rd vol. of Smollett which he is reading. This so called "mature youngster" early accompanied his father to Europe. In courts where more than one of the older Americans lost his moral balance, young Adams fitted himself for college, studied diplomacy, talked with statesmen and kept a voluminous diary. When the proper time came he returned to submit himself to the then innumerable and annoying regulations of Harvard from which he graduated in 1787. He was admitted to the bar, elected to the state legislature and the United States Senate. Here his independent spirit soon got him into trouble with his party and finding that he no longer had the support of his state he resigned.

He and Henry Clay were two of the American envoys who spent four months at Ghent wrangling with three Englishmen about the treaty that closed the war of 1812. These Englishmen thought that they were to have smooth sailing. They were simply to state terms to a power whose armies they had in the main defeated and whose capital they had sacked. Walter Scott had declared in a song written for a public occasion that the

"Yankee loon  
Should learn full soon  
Brittania, queen for a' that."

The English terms were, first that there should be a large strip of neutral territory between the U. S. and Canada to be inhabited only by Indian tribes; 2nd, no American ship of war was to be allowed on the great lakes; 3rd, we were to cede a large slice of Maine to give the British a road from Halifax to Quebec; 4th, we were to give up our rights in the northern fisheries; 5th, the Mississippi was to be open to English war ships. Truly John Bull was the same yesterday that he is to day and that he probably will be forever. Adams, it has been said, knew better than any other American how to negotiate with John Bull. He resented all diplomatic slights and proposed to his colleagues that, in reply, they should ask England to cede Canada to the United States. The drift