

# HESPERIAN STUDENT

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## MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

It is said that Oscar Wilde is composing a drama entitled, "The Duchess of Padua."

Land on Wall street, New York, is worth \$15,000,000 an acre; on Broadway, \$2,000,0000.

Steps have been taken by Austria, Germany and Italy to secure the simultaneous disarmament of the powers. This is one more advance toward the millennium.

The Emperor and Empress of Russia will be crowned at Moscow on the 27th of May. After the festival, which will continue to the 8th of June, they will set out for St. Petersburg where they will arrive on the 10th, *no Nihilist preventing*.

Huxley says "I fancy we are almost the only nation in the world which seems to think that literary composition comes by nature. The French attend to their own language, the Germans to their, but the Englishmen do not think it worth their while."

Charles Bradlaugh, the noted atheist, has at length been acquitted and will, perhaps, be allowed to take his seat in Parliament. It is unjust that a test of religion should be required of the candidate for any office; yet atheism was not the only charge brought against him. His immoral character, in the opinion of his opponents, was a sufficient reason for his exclusion.

Hast thou conceived, O Rehasher of criticisms, how great and inevitable the humiliation that awaits thee? Thinkest thou that thy plagiarisms *sic ignorabitur* (will be so disguised) that no one can tell whence they came? Dost thou presume to be the sole gleaner in the fields of Whipple and Hazlitt? If thou wouldst seek deliverance from awful doom, quote not; but let thy soul be an alembic whence base gleanings may flow in golden streams.

Blessed is the student who passes a life that tastes not of suspicion; for in whose possession a pony shall be discovered, to him naught of terror is wanting lurking through the fullness of his course. I see the disasters of the primitive pony-rider like malignant sea-traversing bloats alighting upon his successor's head; nor does anyone of the species ever graduate, but some one of the keenly-scented critics keeps galling him, nor does he have a moment's release! O Zeus! what cautious mortal can usurp the pony that neither the meek professors may ever suspicion, nor the unwearied eyes of "chums?" Though thy wasted time enthroned on thy check thou dwellest in the glittering blaze of popularity! For thee this law will suffice! "*Nothing comes to the life of pony-riders far removed at least from calamity.*"

A perfectly literal translation from a well known Greek Tragedy.

"Literature and Art are eminently catholic—not sectional or provincial. The history, manners, customs, usages, language, scenery and other incidental peculiarities of particular countries, races, and sections may furnish material for the exercise of high art, pictorial or literary; but that is a very different thing; the art itself must be formed upon catholic principles, upon those touches of nature that make the whole world kin."

—*New Orleans Times.*

This is true. No work that is pervaded by an exclusively local interest can attain to universal popularity. To those literary men whom we call immortal belongs neither space nor time, but having divested themselves of things transitory and local they rise to an atmosphere beaming with eternal truth.

If English could be written as pronounced, 720 hours in six years of primary instruction could be saved. Second, When children have been taught to read first on phonetic, and phonic principles, ordinary spelling and reading has been learned in a shorter time than is usually required to learn the latter alone. Third, The spelling of the Italian is said to be the most perfect of all European languages. In 995 hours an Italian will learn to read and spell in his language as well as an American will in 2,320 hours. Fourth, German children, who commence school life later than American, are at the age of fourteen at least two years in advance in ability to read and spell fluently and correctly their language. Fifth, By the adoption of a rational mode of spelling at least one fourth of the time occupied in obtaining a good English education would be saved. Is not such a reform desirable?

It is well that the rage for purely scientific education, Spencers hobby, has abated. It has at length been decided after many experiments that the sciences and mathematics in particular when pursued to excess, i. e. *exclusively* tend to dwarf the mind and that language and literature, especially poetry and the drama, rightly termed "humane studies," contribute most to the intellectual and moral growth of man. There is no necessity, however, that preference should be given to the so called "Classic," while the modern languages teem with deeper thoughts and fancies equally bright and luxuriant. The modern, taken collectively, is in no way inferior to the Greek world in the realm of mind. Plato abounds in sophisms. The orators of Greece and Rome are rivalled in both patriotism and eloquence by the Chathams, Burkes and Websters of modern times, and even Aeschilus famed for rugged grandeur and Sophocles king of the drama have yielded to the intellectual giants of the Elyzabethan age.