

HESPERIAN STUDENT

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

Vol. XI.

LINCOLN, NEB., JUNE 1, 1883.

No. XV.

MISCELLANEOUS MENTION.

Another tragedian, Col. J. L. Burleigh is coming into prominence. His presence and bearing are noble, his voice is rich and of great compass and flexibility and his action strong, graceful and subdued.

The Santa Fe Tertio-Millennial Celebration is destined to be one of the grandest events of present year; the press throughout the United States have received special invitations and no doubt they will be well represented at the festivities.

David Swing says "Man is a river which goes on for ever, but you and I are creatures of a day and are crowded aside by the new inflowing crowd. Individual souls are only the leaves with which the living forest clothes itself for only one summer time."

The authorities of Harvard are deliberating as to whether they will confer the degree of L. L. D. as usual upon the governor of the state. A degree should be an indication of scholarship, but Butler possesses neither learning nor marked ability and has no sympathy for that institution. The degree should by no means be granted.

In the June number of the *North American Review* is an excellent article on the Modern drama. The ground is taken that there is necessarily no conflict between the stage and the church. The object of the drama is to show the nature of man as it is and that of the church to correct it. The duty of the church therefore begins where the drama ends, both working harmoniously to accomplish the one great end.

The beauties of earth and sky, of the changing seasons, and of day and night, cannot be monopolized by one building in a street, or by one street in a city; they cannot be closed against those who have not a golden passport for admission; but they are free and open to whomsoever may have an eye and an imagination that have been first taught to enjoy them. A taste for the beauties of nature should be cultivated by all. In these there is nothing corrupting or meretricious.

The noble poet has found another biographer in a certain Mr. Jefferson who claims to have presented in a volume of six hundred pages a portrait of the "real" Lord Byron. His ancestors according to this author, consisted of masculine cranks and feminine termagants, of which crankism and termagantism Byron was the pure essence. He has composed this whole work in a truly misanthropic spirit and deserves congratulation on his successful effort at cynic criticism. We hope that for the sake of humanity that he will write no more and trust that in this instance his obscurity may prevent him from tarnishing the brightness of a noble man.

Science is not sectarian. It does not confine itself to any segment of the circle of philosophy, but seeks to embrace the entire circumference. At the present day a bigot in science cannot live. Its pure empiricism either exorcises the demon of bigotry out of him or sends him and it after the swine of the Garleans to be choked in a sea of oblivion.

It has been asserted in a scientific essay that since three fourths of the human body consists of water and since the moon influences the waters of the globe, it must therefore, exert a powerful influence upon the body. This is especially noticeable in lunatics and college students. Careful observations and experiments upon the latter have established this scientific fact, that a full moon has a tendency to increase nocturnal preambulations, yet the subject is most disposed to deeds of daring during the "new moon;" but many phenomena have not yet been sufficiently accounted for and many careful observations must be made before such cases can be treated scientifically.

The study of Latin and Greek is antagonistic to the judgement of thousands in this utilitarian age. Unless a young man is to become a minister, it cannot be seen how it will be of much advantage to him to be a classical scholar. He may be obliged to talk German in his business, but he never will need to talk Latin or Greek. An excellent classical scholar cannot, on account of being such, raise more corn to the acre or succeed in a commercial venture. Politicians look down upon him with scorn and the vulgar population ridicule his culture. On account of this feeling many young men are driven away from classical colleges of well-known thoroughness to "commercial" schools of equally well-known superficiality, where mental training is not esteemed and the "practical" receives divine worship. Here they learn to perform what they have not the intelligence to create. They become educated tools, always dependent, never self-asserting, always slaves, never masters. A purely technical education, one that trains the eye or hand for special work, is necessarily one-sided. It may make great artisans, copyists and automatons, but never great thinkers.

What is needed is a course of study that will awaken thought in the student and lead him to original investigation. This need is not supplied by the sciences since it only after years of patient toil that original work begins; nor by mathematics where all that is required of the student is that he be able to follow the reasoning of the author and a memory capable of retaining it; but by the classics in which alone original thought and investigation begins with the first lesson and continues through the course.