

# HESPERIAN STUDENT.

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## Editorial Notes.

It is rumored that the leaders of the "shot-gun" policy of the south are negotiating to move the "Democrat" down among them. If this prophecy a brilliant success for that paper. It has not any of those objectionable qualities, such as sense, decency and brains, but possesses all the requisites that delight the heart of the "bull-dozer."

FINAL examinations are now upon us. In many respects it seems unnecessary to drag the student through such an ordeal. His knowledge of the subject, one would suppose, might be determined from his daily recitations and from the review. Final examinations, too, are often unfair, only a small portion of the subject can be covered by them, and the student often is not able to do himself justice in this.

LINCOLN has had the pleasure of hearing Chevalier De Kontski, the court pianist to the Emperor of Germany. It was a musical treat. The beauty of the Chevalier's playing is that in running from the loudest to the most delicate tones, he never fails to bring out distinctly the theme. It shows that he is in perfect harmony with the conception of his pieces. Music to the unculivated ear, may sound like a confused mass of sounds, but the higher order of music has a theme, a story so to speak, as much as a poem, although lacking so accurate a method of conveyance.

THE present system of gradation by marking in colleges has many serious defects. It tends to make the student superficial in his aim and methods. He is apt to seize on the easiest and quickest way to pass the highest, regardless of whether it is the most thorough and comprehensive. Many who have a good memory, commit the whole subject by "cramming" just before final examination. This enables them to pass well, but the benefit they receive from such a method of study is worth little or nothing. It seems as though there ought to be a better system.

As the voice of the examiner is heard in the land the STUDENT wishes to enter its growl at the methods of the University. Under the present system many of the students are compelled, after working steadily from two to four hours with the mind on a strain, to hurry back in the afternoon with both body and mind exhausted and dispose of another study. Aside from the injury to health by the unaccustomed fatigue it is unjust to grade the term work in any degree on the work of a mind already tired out, and even more so when compared with others who may not be equally unfortunate. If we must have examinations which are practically abridged copies of half a dozen books let us at most have but one each day and that in the morning. If this requires two weeks instead of one, we think no one will object to lengthening daily lessons to an extent which will make up the deficiency.

THE STUDENT has always looked upon the "Democrat" with a kind of easy forbearance—saying, as each month saw a new and more ridiculous attack on the University, that it is ignorant and perhaps just a little stupid but after all means well. But lately its violence has become suspicious; we are afraid it has fallen from the paths of sobriety. We appreciate the very evident fact that, since its policy in the beginning was to decry the University, consistency requires that it should always oppose everything done there without inquiring into what it is. Self-preservation is one of the first laws of nature and of course any raising of the standard of education in the state decreases by so much the "Democrats'" subscription list. But we throw out the hint for its edification that while all things really and vitally connected with University must as a matter of course be thoroughly bad, viewed from its standpoint, things only temporarily or accidentally connected and without perhaps knowing the character of the institution, may yet have merit—even considerable merit. For example we fear that the eminent gentleman who does the critical business for our esteemed contemporary listened to Miss Thursby's singing with the ear that is us-