

A writer in the "Edinburgh Review" for January takes up the cudgels against Herbert Spencer and his philosophy, the occasion being that of a new edition of the "First Principles." It was to be hoped that the antiquated methods of criticism by misinterpretation and misquotation had become obsolete. Such reviews do no harm to those acquainted with the works reviewed but they do prevent many from investigating really meritorious theories. Mr. Spencer is the first man who attempted to formulate the exact meaning of the word "evolution" in its scientific sense and while he may not have succeeded perfectly he certainly did not fail entirely; he set an example of consistant and accurate thought which the reviewer would do well to imitate.

OUR Chancellor is finding work to do for the University more important than that done in the class room. His energetic efforts to render the educational system of the state a systematic whole are deserving of most abundant success. As he said at the State Teacher's Association "the University is suspended in the air, and the common school remains stuck in the mud;" while, as he might have added, the back-stairs plan of a preparatory department is sublimely inconvenient for all. It is hard work to get a whole state interested in any particular thing, and it is still more difficult to get it to move forward so that the advance is perceptible, but Chancellor Manatt and his able coadjutors seem to be making a decided impression. If they succeed, as they seem liable to do, Nebraska's educational system will all come out of the mud together, and before very long the people of Lincoln will wake up some fine morning to find that the University is of as much importance to the city as the capitol itself.

SOCIETY is still worshiping the hero known as the "good fellow." The "good fellow" is something of an anomaly and needs examination. Some perhaps would like to know what are the steps to arrive at such a pitch of greatness. As his character is somewhat complex, we shall have time only to name a few of the leading traits. In the first place earnestness and seriousness are undesirable. These destroy that careless, easy manner that is so captivating. Again too nice a conscience is in the way, for as it is his office to be popular, it is necessary that he should have some of the weaknesses of men, so that he can have something in common with them. He must be liberal to those who in turn will be liberal to him. He must be generous, that is in that kind of generosity that costs no self-sacrifice. He may be selfish, narrow, niggardly in his inward life, but he treats his friends lavishly, though of course he knows they will return the compliment. In fact this phe-

nomenon is a typification of selfishness and artificiality. Finally as the term "good fellow" is used apologetically, as if to palliate the offence of his not being better, so he is an excuse rather than a positive quantity.

Now that Queen Victoria approaches the age of three-score and ten and may be expected soon to pay the debt of nature and be gathered to her fathers, Americans begin to wonder whether the English people will continue to hold up a mediocre person to represent the government while the duties of his office are fulfilled by another and capable man. As the people now appreciate that public economy is very much the same thing as private economy, it will be strange if they continue to spend several millions of pounds each year to support in luxury one of the least useful persons in the kingdom. In the case of Queen Victoria her utility in the elevated position which she now occupies may be explained as that of a pattern or model for English housewives, and it must be confessed that many of them, under the benignant influence of her example have equalled and even exceeded their model; but if accounts are true Mr. Wettin, otherwise known as Prince Albert, does not possess the domestic virtues so long advertised as belonging to his mother. In fact it would be far from advantageous to England to have the rising generation make this exalted personage their hero. Now under these circumstances it would, perhaps, be advisable for Albert to turn his attention to literature; he may reasonably hope to inherit some of his mother's genius as a writer which, if we may judge from the sale her few works have met with, is very great. In fact we should be surprised if he could not write as well as the Queen herself without any practice. We think this matter worthy of the Prince's careful attention in case the people of England decide to do without an ornamental figure-head in future.

HORACE GREELEY speaks of the head adorning the American dollar and some other of our coins as "the unmeaning figure which (because of its cap) is now understood to image and body forth Liberty." This remark suggests a question whether some other utility than that of easy recognition might not be added to the images on our coins. Some European nations have already set us the example by making the dies to represent the man at the head of the government at the time of coinage, and there seems no reason why our coins of each year should not bear the features of the acting president. Aside from the appropriateness of stamping the head of the nation, so to speak, on its circulating medium, there is a real advantage in the custom as a historical record. Our age has