

THE HESPERIAN.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

Vol. XIV.

LINCOLN, NEB., OCTOBER 10, 1885.

No. I.

Scientists claim that cigarette smoking leads to idiocy. We do not know that this is true, but do know that idiocy leads to idiocy.

The first volume of General Grant's book is in type. The manuscript of the second is all written and completed as originally intended and will in due course of time be published as prepared by General Grant himself.

The yacht-race for the commodore's cup was won on the 18th inst. by the *Genesta* and she easily secured the prize in her class. Her actual time ahead of the *Gracie* at the finish was 29 min. and 38 seconds. The cup won is valued at \$1000.

It is said to be utterly impossible to walk two miles in Canada now without stumbling over a dozen bank cashiers and dry goods merchants. Canada is becoming a great resort for this class of citizens as it was for rebels and sympathizers during the rebellion.

"Why don't you rock the baby?" said a proud mother to her young hopeful, "You'd let it squeal its life out". "Would if I could." Why Johnnie! Want your little brother to die?" "Well wouldn't it be a good deal better for him to be up in Heaven flyin' around than to be lyin' a squealin' in that ere cradle?"

The decrying of grammar in connection with the study of language at present so common, is certainly foolish and excessive and sure to bring reaction before long. For a mind matured or approaching maturity, the natural method of studying a language is not by parrot-like imitation, but by looking into the why and wherefore of things, forming some idea of the philosophy which lies at the bottom, reaching a clear comprehension of the rational.

James Russell Lowell has had the high honor of sleeping in the spare room at Windsor Castle. No doubt he found the pillows soft, the bed charming and all the adornments of his room in the highest aesthetic taste. Sleep in such an historic room, must have been a luxury indeed, but, we venture the opinion, not any more luxurious or restful than the one enjoyed by the returned minister in the comfortable Massachusetts farm house of his daughter, Mrs. Burnett.

It would seem to the casual observer that the Civil Service rule is being worked for all it is worth. The "offensive partisanship" cry smacks a little too much with an attempt to either evade the law or deceive the people. Certainly there are other causes of inefficiency besides being an offensive partisan. And in making his appointment the President would do well to look a little more carefully after the character of his appointees.

President Porter of Yale College is engaged in supervising a revision of Webster's Dictionary. The work is conducted in his New Haven residence, and has been in progress for some time, although the fact is not generally known. President Porter is assisted by several gentlemen, among them being Professor Ralph Williams and Frederick Allen, class of '83.

Several months will be required for the completion of the work and there will be many more additions than in the last revision.

The following was received by Mr. Evarts from his little grandchild:

Dear Grandpa:—
The little donkey which you sent us is very gentle, but he makes a big noise at night. He is very lonesome. I guess he misses you. I hope you will come up soon and then he won't be so lonesome."

Much is said nowadays about the "natural method of learning languages." And the phrase is explained as method by which a child learns. Is the method natural to the child, necessarily natural to the man or woman or indeed, to the youth of fairly developed mind? It is natural for a child to creep hence according to the "natural method" man must give up the use of only two legs and take to locomotion on all fours. It is natural for a child to learn intuitively at its mother's knee. The man must therefore follow the same way, clinging close to the same famous educational appliance. It is an absurdity in education, and every where else to say that methods natural in the nursery are also natural in adults.

England seems to resemble, politically, a boiling caldron. The people have half a dozen questions to consider any one of which will call together an audience of many thousand excited men.

Mr. Parnell has hurled his thunder bolt of secession, and the air is still crackling with electricity. No Englishman can think of the Irish question without losing his temper and shaking his fists. The liberals are astonished. The Tories are astounded and everybody is in a quandry and mad at himself for being there. Mr. Chamberlain speaks with one foot on a kind of socialism and the other on law and order. Sometimes he bears his weight on patriotism and again shifts his weight and pleads for general breaking up of the political establishment and rebuilding from the foundation.

Surely the government of England is rapidly passing into the hands of the people and Mr. Chamberlain's demand for free, elementary education comes none too soon.

The present year marks an era in the history of Cornell. The resignation of President White and the election of Professor Charles Adams a like successor, are two significant facts in the history of the institution. Mr. White in retiring from the presidency could not have found a more fit or favorable time for dropping his executive cloak and allowing it to fall upon the shoulders of another. At the bat, on the water and in the field, Cornell more than excelled herself, defeating her sister colleges in every sport, and making a record that is without a parallel in the history of the University and this success is largely due to twenty-two years of faithful work, through "good report and evil report" of Andrew D. White. To him will future generations look to as the founder of the institution. One of the last acts of President White was the virtual establishment of a course in Journalism. He recognizes the great opportunities to students thoroughly to think closely upon political, social, and literary questions, to present his thoughts vigorously and cogently and endeavored to make Cornell one of the first if not the *first* place where just such a training could be secured.