

The November issue of the *New Princeton Review* is unusually full of matter both interesting and valuable for reference. "The Modern Novel" is discussed by Thomas Sergeant Perry; "Realism" by President James McCosh, of Princeton. "The Resurrection of Buried Languages" by Francis Brown shows the triumphs and achievements of modern archaeology. In an article on "Railroad Abuses at Home and Abroad" Arthur T. Hadley, the political economist of Yale, presents a conservative view of a much discussed problem. He compares our own railway system with that of foreign countries, and it is noticeable that on the subject of government ownership he takes a position directly opposed to that of Prof. Ely of Johns Hopkins. Among other articles are "The Enlistment of Lafayette" and "Sham Legislation," the latter treating chiefly of methods in the N. Y. Legislature.

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The publishers of the *Century* have embarked in a great and commendable enterprise in presenting to the public a new life of President Lincoln, the first installment of which appears in the current number. The work is edited jointly by John Hay and John G. Nicolay, both of whom were intimately associated with Lincoln, and it is intended that this biography shall be the most complete in detail and the most authentic in information of any yet written on the same subject. It is of the utmost importance that the real facts regarding the life of the "martyred president" should be secured while those who possess them are still living. Future generations will demand an authentic history of one who will doubtless appear to them as the statesmen of the Revolutionary epoch do to us—as one of the central figures in a most critical period of our history. The publication of such a work is moreover a matter of national pride for Lincoln's career was a typical American one, and illustrates most clearly the vast possibilities of American citizenship.

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Some time since, an article appeared in the *North American Review*, with the somewhat peculiar title of "The Newspaper Habit." Its sentiments were immediately taken up and confirmed by an editorial in the *Nation* and the two taken together will be of much value in solving a problem which usually arises in the mind of every thoughtful student. He is ambitious to be abreast of the times—to keep posted on current events, but with a full course of study besides society work and other duties not less important, the question is, how much time if any, can be profitably devoted to periodical literature of any sort.

The article mentioned above takes a very unfavorable view of the average newspaper. Quoting the late Dr. Rush of Philadelphia as declaring that newspapers were "teachers of disjointed thinking" it seeks to show that this judgment, harsh as it may seem, is in the main correct. True to his text, he declares that indiscriminate newspaper reading is an injurious habit, and that like others of its kind it consumes valuable time, unfits its devotees for more substantial work, and that the strongest inducement which it offers is not self-improvement, but the gratification of an inordinate thirst for scandal, because the average newspaper is only the lineal descendant of the town crier. Taking up the two classes of journalistic literature, the editorial and the reportorial, the author seeks to show that the former is not a safe guide in forming one's opinions upon the questions which it discusses. Members of the ordinary editorial staff, he insists, do not seek to reach the truth regarding a certain object, but to persuade their readers into a line of thinking in harmony with the interests of the political party, or more probably the fi-

nancial syndicate, which they represent. This is well illustrated by the case of those editors who, while professing one political faith, hire themselves to the opposite party to present its views. The same fault is found with the reporters, viz: that they persistently distort and pervert the truth to make it fit the views of their employers, and their statements are, therefore, not to be relied upon. The author attacks most especially the popular conception that the newspaper is "a history of the world for one day." The reporter is above all things, he declares, a writer of sensational literature; he collects all that is abnormal in the life of mankind, crimes, disorders and monstrosities, and he presents anything but a faithful picture of society.

It must be admitted that this wholesale indictment of newspapers contains much that is true. But it will be well to note in this connection the views of some who are more favorable. Mr. George W. Childs gives as his opinion that newspapers are "purer, less sensational, more independent, better informed, less blindly and unjustly partizan than ever before." And although he is himself a journalist and is perhaps on this account somewhat prejudiced, yet his experience must certainly count for something.

Philip Gilbert Hammerton discusses the subject of newspapers in one of the chapters of that admirable work, "Intellectual Life." He recognizes the many deficiencies of the popular journals, notes the time that is wasted upon them, and alludes especially to the immense importance which they attach to novelty, ignoring all else in their efforts to publish something new and striking. Yet he does not advise an habitual disuse of newspapers on the part of educated men. He believes that without them the scholar would sever his connection with the outside world, and that though they contain much that is objectionable, they nevertheless afford the best if not the only means. As long as editorials are one-sided, and the work of the reporter sensational and untrustworthy, one need not take these as unerring guides in forming opinions, but may simply accept them for what they are worth. There are other parts of a newspaper to be considered as well as these. The foreign dispatches, for example, consist of matter which is not generally controversial, and which is, therefore, less often subject to misrepresentation. The average newspaper may have all the defects which the above named article claims for it, and yet have some uses even to students.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

'Tis said that Bartlett University is flourishing.

A fine site of fifty acres has been purchased for Lincoln's new University. The location is in the section south of the college farm, between it and the line of the Missouri Pacific. Good taste was certainly shown in the selection.

The facilities of Creighton college for the study of astronomy are perhaps unequalled in the state, with a fine observatory, a powerful instrument and an able instructor in Father Lambert. Would that other departments were as strong.

Did you ever think over the fact that girls predominate in graduating classes from high schools? Notice the proportion. In the class of 1882 at Omaha, out of a class of nine there were eight girls; of 1883, in a class of seven, the rougher sex was not represented; of 1884, two of a class of ten were boys; of 1885, seventeen out of twentyfive wore ribbons. Why, this? Do the boys, quitting high schools, go east to college? No; fully as many girls attend college or seminaries as there are boys who drop out of the high school for that purpose. Busi-