

ery department of science taught in the University. It is that all the students interested in scientific subjects may get the benefit of these investigations, that the club was organized. But this work does not include all that the club expects to accomplish. Any scientific subject of general interest may be the theme of a discussion or of a paper. The discussions are informal and open and the members not only get many new ideas, but many an old idea, perhaps nearly forgotten, is brought up in review. One important feature of the club is that all the papers read are to be preserved as the property of the club.

The aim is not literary, but it will have a strong tendency to develop, in a certain way, the literary talents of its members. The fact that the results of the investigations are to be given to the club will lead the student to study with the idea of telling what he learns. To enumerate all the benefits that the members hope to derive from its meetings would perhaps be unprofitable. But with the opportunities which the University offers for independent research in scientific fields, much, it is hoped, will be accomplished.

THERE is no doubt a very noticeable difference between the students of our western colleges and those of the east. Some who come here from the east are in the habit of making comparisons much to the disadvantage of the western student. Although we believe, as stated elsewhere in these columns, that eastern institutions get on an average many more matured minds and send out on the whole more scholarly graduates, yet we are convinced that western students are not at all inferior, either to begin with, or at the end of a college course, in subtlety and breadth of reasoning powers. Such is not only our opinion, but is also that of those who have had an opportunity to know, men who were educated at Harvard and Yale, who have taught both in the east and in the west. Western students, as a class, rather excel in the qualities of mind just mentioned. But on the other hand many generations of easy circumstances and culture have given to the eastern student not only an inherited taste and ability for scholarly attainments, but have also provided for his early development by the accumulation of good libraries to which he has easy access. Thus a general literary taste and knowledge is early acquired. The western boy, on the contrary, has his own circumstances to determine, and is in consequence early brought into contact with the excited throng of wealth and place seekers. If he would hold his own he must have his wits about him, must be quick to conceive a plan, and not less ready and able to carry it out in every particular. Nothing short of a clear mind and a broad but close reasoner

can possibly keep pace with the wild throng, every man of which is striving with all his might to outstrip every other in the vast multitude. The different situations develop classes of men equipped for a very different life-work; the one a scholarly man of easy circumstances, the other an unpolished but penetrating thinker fitted for the work of a practical age. From the one class we may expect our leaders in literature and our masters in the fine arts; from the other, our statesmen and our original investigators in the sciences.

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#### MISCELLANY.

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The verses of Margaret Fuller, like those of George Eliot, are not poetry, perhaps, of the highest order, but they have a certain value as the expression of a unique mentality. It was hardly possible for either of these women to put a thought in any form without revealing to a high degree the personality behind it. Mr. Higginson, who has given us the best biography of Margaret Fuller, says of her verses: "No one could think so ill of them as she did herself." When Margaret Fuller's brother collected her various writings together, he found he had no easy task. They were virtually scattered to the four winds. "It is possible" says he "that among the poems one or more written by her friends may have crept in." One brief poem in every way authentic, has been found which was omitted from the collection made by her brother. It bears date of "June, 1844" and is entitled "During a summer shower." Miss Fuller's name, as some may not know, was formerly written, Sarah Margaret Fuller, but for forty years now the first name has been entirely disused.

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It is not often profitable for us to refer to our exchanges for material to review in a literary column. Most college boards of editors are, we apprehend, situated like ourselves, having duties which must be performed before editorial or any other work can receive attention. Occasionally, however, there is an exception as in the case of the *Vanderbilt Observer*, one of our southern exchanges, a short time since. Its article on "The new South in Literature" contains sentiments exceedingly gratifying to those who hail the day when sectional strife shall cease, and sentiments too all the more expressive coming from such a source. For example: "We have now recovered from the great struggle which once divided our people, and we, at least the wisest among us have come to the conclusion that it is both nobler and more profitable to 'bury the hatchet' forever. This feeling is widespread in the south and to this is due the amount of influence southern literature has now."

And again: " \* \* \* The state of affairs before the war was not such as would foster an exalted and lasting literature. The shadow of slavery was over everything, and in such an atmosphere the plant that grew was weak and sickly." The whole article has more of political than of literary value and is a harbinger of better times for the section of which it writes. Its closing sentences are especially significant. "Evidently a new era has begun and literary activity is its chief sign. May it go on, until New England can no longer boast of being the literary centre of America and the New South can divide the glory with her." This latter sentiment shows the right kind of feeling, a commendable sectional pride, not a senseless, selfish and narrow sectional prejudice.