

CURRENT COMMENT.

One by one the presidential candidates are pulling out of the race, the latest being Roswell P. Flower, of New York, who says he "would not take the presidency" under any circumstances. This appears to us to be a wise decision on his part, and we venture the assertion that if he holds firmly to it himself nobody else will want to force it upon him. His political stock has been falling rapidly of late on account of so much presidential timber in his state and a panic seems to be approaching. It would be better for him to unload at any price than try to carry on a hopeless boom.

It has been well said that national selfishness is not an American fault. When we have a good thing we like to share it with others. The present indications are that several American ball clubs are going over to England this season and show the native Briton how to play a genuine game of ball. Englishmen who have been in this country express themselves as highly pleased with base ball, and think that in time it will supersede their great game of "cricket." Already Canada and Mexico have adopted our national game, and if the popularity of the sport continues to grow, the word national can no longer with truth be applied to it and must be eventually replaced by a more comprehensive term.

If there is any time during the college year when students should have a holiday, it is on John Green's birthday. We do not know when this event occurs, but are confident that a little persuasion would induce him to reveal to us the secret, notwithstanding the flat refusals he has made of late. There has been no man since John's advent among us who has done so much for the students as he. By his untiring efforts to furnish steam for the society halls, and his noble and manly efforts to shield THE HESPERIAN from the abuse and malignity of its enemies he has won the applause of all university students in general and THE HESPERIAN board in particular. There is one fault which detracts somewhat from the many qualities which ennoble and distinguish the man and that is his promptness in having the lights extinguished Friday nights. Aside from this fault which has considerable weight with us, we are willing to recommend that a day be set apart to celebrate his nativity. Surely no one will object to this, even though we have to sacrifice the pleasures of some other holiday to secure this end.

The Grand Army encampment in the city this week has been a decided success, as are all their gatherings throughout the state. There is nothing more enjoyable to those who faced the "shot and shell" together a quarter of a century ago than to get together and talk over old times. One by one the brave boys who turned out to preserve the union and drive from our land the greatest curse that ever blighted humanity, are passing away, and it will not be long until the last remaining survivor will be called to his long home. Let us then give due credit to these meetings which are so enjoyable to the men who sacrificed so much to maintain our nation as the revolutionary patriots intended it should be maintained, one and undivided, and heed not the unscrupulous cranks who try to discourage such gatherings by calling them political "boosters." The Grand Army was not organized for political purposes and has never allowed itself to meddle in politics. True, there are some who are foolish enough to belittle not the organization but themselves by slurring the president and all other government officers. We are glad to note the stand taken by the army boys in this state in trying to discourage all such acts on the part of mem-

bers of the organization here. Surely the respect shown the president at Philadelphia not long ago, clearly shows that the organization is not in politics notwithstanding the efforts of a great statesman who attempted to cover himself with glory by his eloquent invectives against the administration.

The repeal of the revenue tax on tobacco is just now agitating the people in the tobacco growing sections of the country. Thus far no congressman has appeared to champion the rights of the people. If one such should appear, he would earn the lasting gratitude of many people in this country, for he would be striking a blow at a dangerous monopoly. The amount collected is not too much, we do not mean to say, but the iron clad regulations that are drawn around the business are so stringent that a small farmer cannot produce tobacco at a profit. The bonds required are so large and penalties for violation so severe, that both production and manufacturing have been driven into few hands and the lucky men who have grown rich are now fighting for the law that exists at present in order to maintain their monopoly. This revenue not only falls hard upon the small farmer but restricts the growth to certain localities, and the men who would be able to make a fair living if allowed to produce what tobacco they wished would not be starving to day. It may be said that tobacco is a luxury, but it must be a delightful luxury to pile up millions of dollars through the advantages of a close monopoly, while those that have a right, and ought to share in the advantages, are almost starving in other parts of the country. This argument will apply to many other monopolies of the same kind that exist in the United States today.

We are informed that the term for which Dr. F. S. Billings was engaged by the University authorities expires in April. It is said that other parties have made him offers that are in themselves no small temptation to a man in the doctor's position. THE HESPERIAN desires to take this opportunity to express a hope that the regents will not fail to secure Dr. Billings' services for the coming year. The work upon which he has been engaged since the beginning of his connection with the University has not only been one of almost unspeakable value to the farmers of this state, whose wealth consists almost entirely of live stock, but has turned upon this institution the eyes of the entire scientific world. The experiments of his laboratory, however, have not yet been carried to their conclusion. It has been unmistakably demonstrated that there are preventives for the most destructive of animal diseases, but we believe that the doctor has not yet completed his important task. The establishment of a laboratory in connection with this University, in which the work of original investigation could be carried on would be an incalculable advantage to the institution. There is nothing of the kind in America under state support, and we believe no reason can be given why it might not educate those students who are now compelled to go to German laboratories. Such men become the brain and intellect of modern science, and they desire to secure not a classical but a medical education. With this laboratory established, say at the college farm, it would not only become a center of original research, but the weakling which once existed here under the name of medical college could be resuscitated and made the pride of this state. Dr. Billings has undoubtedly shown that no man in America today is so well fitted as he to found this much needed adjunct to our already-magnificent educational facilities. We know that the students are unanimous in their appreciation of the work that has placed our university far in the lead in at least one line of scientific investigation, and just