

peasant life in Thuringia. A metrical translation would, it is believed, be enjoyed by those that do not attempt the original text. Since, however, no such translation exists, at least the students of German may enjoy this little gem.

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A good story to read when one is not in search of anything particularly substantial is "Kith and Kin," by Jessie Fothergill. It is a story of Yorkshire, England, and in it is described a large meeting of Liberals in a vast manufacturing city. The story has quite a good plot, and is not at all trashy. The tone is good, and the moral is—well, read it and find out for yourself.

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Oftentimes our ideas of books depend much upon the way that they are read. A book that we ourselves read does not give us the same impression if we hear it read by some one else. How will it be when our books are phonographic cylinders, as Edward Bellamy has been pleased to imagine in "With the Eyes Shut?" Will the majority of critics and reviewers find themselves in Othello's plight, or will they direct their energies towards the professional readers that dictate to phonographs? Bellamy does not tell us of the fate of this large class of human beings. Perhaps, in the future, to satisfy this curiosity, he may write a monograph on "The Involvement of the Critic."

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The books of William Dean Howells have a great attraction for the writer of this department. There is a quaint humor about Howells, and an attention to details that is really delightful. In "Annie Kilburn" we see philanthropy as practised by some misguided people, and in "Silas Lapham" are chronicled the woes of the newly rich. But one of the most entertaining of Howells' books is "Their Wedding Journey." Basil and Isabel March are exceedingly practical people; and, in the bliss of a wedding journey, Isabel does not forget that Basil has an appetite that is insatiable. Happy Basil to be so appreciated! Then, too, at Niagara, Isabel enjoys more than the cataract, the blissful grooms and their bushing brides. By all means read this account of a wedding journey, if you haven't already done so. The Marchs' experience in a crowded Quebec hotel is exceedingly amusing.

J. T.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The fact that the faculty has appointed a committee to consider the advisability of dropping the first preparatory year, is an excellent proof that we are enjoying a substantial growth here in the University, and also that the number of high schools which are preparing students for the second year is increasing rapidly. It can only be a question of a very short time when there will be no need for the Latin school and the University may be limited to its proper sphere—to furnish higher education for the youth of the state.

The papers are trying to raise a howl because Patrick Egan, in an address before a meeting of Chilian millers, remarked upon the crudeness of their milling machinery, and announced his intention "to order from the United States, machinery and workmen like those used there in order to make known the progress realized in that important industry." They seem to fear that Egan will turn his mission to profit by going into the milling business on his own account.

We would like to know why a man has not as much right to invest his capital in Chilian mills, when he is minister to

Chili, as he would have were he consul-general to Hong Kong; or why an United States officer cannot invest his capital in any private enterprise which he may see fit. The press seem jealous of any man, whoever he may be, who has energy enough to improve the opportunity which he has.

If the newspaper accounts be true, the Australian ballot system was a decided success in the city of Boston in the election that was held there a few days since. It seems to us that any system that would tend to increase the difficulty of stuffing ballot boxes and of intimidating voters should meet with the approval of all candid and fair minded men. Perhaps if Governor Hill, of New York, is the nominee of the democratic party in '92, he may have some difficulty in persuading honest men that his veto of the Australian ballot system was not caused by selfish, not to say worse, motives. The alleged cause of the veto seems exceedingly flimsy and has been found by experience to be purely imaginary. The Australian ballot system is now employed in, at least two states, and in both it has been found successful. We hope to see, in the near future, this system of voting, or some other that gives as universal satisfaction, used in every state and territory in the country.

There is a nuisance that we have refrained from commenting upon before because we had hoped that it would disappear, but the thing has not disappeared, nor has it waned, but seems to wax stronger every day. We refer to the aggregation of small boys that assemble on the campus every day when the companies are drilling, and every time that some of the boys attempt to have a little sport with the foot ball. We wonder if something cannot be done to relieve us of this evil. It seems to us that if nothing better can be done that the powers that be could induce some of the police to come up and arrest a few of the pests. The Lincoln police show great interest in the students by running up here to the University whenever the boys are practicing the college yell. Why do they not show the same interest in squelching the aggregation of ragamuffins that is rapidly becoming intolerable?

Now the vice-president of the United States has decided to make an honest penny by engaging in the saloon business. While it may not be contrary to law for any citizen of this country to engage in any business that the law sanctions, yet it does not seem that Mr. Morton has taken something from the dignity that he, as holding the next to the highest office in the gift of the people is supposed to possess. The liquor men all over the country seem to be highly elated over the fact that now an officer of high dignity has engaged in their calling. Mr. Morton has not only lowered his dignity and that of the office which he holds, but has also openly violated the laws regulating the liquor traffic in force in the District of Columbia, for in failing to secure the signatures of the requisite number of property owners in the vicinity of the proposed establishment, he proceeded to set the mill rolling. When the highest officers in the land violate the very laws that they themselves should enforce, what can be expected of common people?

The Pan-American congress has been making a tour through the country, and visiting the chief points of interest in our land for the past few weeks. It seems to us, although we admire James G. Blaine, that there is something grotesque, if not absolutely ridiculous, in wasting so much energy, money and time that must necessarily be consumed in showing these visitors around the country. How are we to