



John W. McArthur

THE

ALFRED STUDENT.

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Literary Department.

CO-EDUCATION.

Address delivered before the Woman's Congress, held in New York, Oct. 15, 1873, by Mrs. A. A. ALLEN.

Matthew Arnold defines culture to be, "The pursuit of our total perfection by means of getting to know, on all matters which most concern us, the best which has been thought and said in the world, and, through this knowledge, turning a stream of fresh and free thought upon our stock notions and habits which we follow now staunchly but mechanically, vainly imagining that there is a virtue in following them staunchly, which makes up for the mischief of following them mechanically."

Any culture to be noblest must not only have its inspiration in harmony with the great human and divine influences, but it must move on the high tide of human progress, keep abreast of the world's advance movements; in one word, be radical, radical to the core. The great historic characters, whose memory humanity fondly cherishes, were the radicals of their times, and those institutions that have greatly blessed man have sprung from fundamental truths. Humanity evidently in its highest and noblest moods, is not well pleased with unmitigated conservatists. They awaken no enthusiasm, start no aspirations. It carries them reluctantly as dead weights, and feels very much relieved when it shakes them off into their soon-forgotten graves, over which it weeps no tears but takes, a long breath of relief, straightens up and moves on more lightly than before in its upward course.

Institutions, like such men, must sail well ahead of the great human flotilla, not waiting to be wafted along by the breeze of public opinion, but starting currents in the spiritual atmosphere that shall waft others.

All such, it is true, have to meet the difficulties incident to the inauguration of any thing new. The approach of every reform in the world's history has been opposed by an immense noise of the logical and illogical cannonade set up against it. Conservatism has gone out to meet it, not only with staves and swords, but with the long ranged syllogism of the heavy logical argument, accompanied by an immense fusilade of men of all arms, engaged in demolishing it by scorn, ridicule and all that kind of logic which has ever proven that what has not been done cannot be done. Yet history has no respect for logic. The logic of events is its all-conquering logic. New truths, full of a divine, reformatory and uplifting power, are generally like their great embodiment, born in a Manger, their heralding angels unheard save by humble shepherds, their stars unseen save by magian watchers who first learn the new good will to men. All such truth has its manger period, its disputation with the doctors, its triumphant entry, its Mount of Transfiguration. It has its escape from bondage, its journey through the wilderness, a forty-years one, it may be, its Sinai, its victorious possession of the promised land.

Many pages of history we view as we do rare specimens of the stone age, and here is one of them. In the year of grace, five hundred and eighty-five, in the great council of divines at Macon arose this grave question: "Whether or not woman ought to be called a human being." After a long and vexatious disputation over many points involved in the question, it was decided by the learned doctors that she was a human being. This same council forbade bishops to protect their houses by dogs. So we see that as the womanly elements came into the pale of humanity, the dogly elements went out, and thus it will ever be as the genuine womanly virtues and forces ascend in society, the low brute forces descend. Now, although it has been perfectly orthodox from that time to consider woman within the limit of humanity, yet every stage of progress in her development as a human being has been met by grave prophecies of evil that it could

not be done without a general wreck of all good. Yet the simplest historian knows that he can mark the degree and the quality of the civilization of any period or people by the position of woman among that people or in that time. Social and political ethics has no more important problems to solve than those coming from this false position of one-half of the human family. By modern invention and culture, the distaff and loom have disappeared from among the household gods. Wife is no longer the derivative and synonym of weaver. The spinning jenny and power-loom are her servants. The needle plied by hand is fast becoming a thing of the past, and woman, having learned the alphabet, is substituting the pen for the needle. The time has come when the higher education of woman is no longer treated lightly. All now admit that she should be educated, but the extent and the methods are the debatable questions. All of the thoughtful and the observant, both of men and women, are unsatisfied with the old form boarding-school style and the institutions termed Ladies' Seminaries. It is true, they have done a good work, but somehow they are no longer able to satisfy the mothers educated in them, or the young women of ability and aspiration. They have too often had it for their aim to finish women's education just at that point and period of life when the solid parts of the young man's education begins, to extend thence through four or seven years of earnest toil. Then she sits down to wait the coming man, and to dream and fritter away several of the most precious years of her life. A young lady of this description said a short time since, "O, how little men know of the terrible suffering of this state. The *ennui*, the routine of little nothings that absorb like a sponge all of life's noblest aspirations." On being asked why she did not break away from them and go to work in earnest, replied, "We are bound by the silken cords of the proprieties, cords though silken and very delicate, bind with a power more irresistible, and a pressure more galling than any felon's chain and ball." The more earnest and capable are imploring for admission to the ranks of those seeking higher culture. They have been recently knocking at the doors of most of our colleges. While some have slammed the door in the faces of the intruders, and double bolted them, others have left their doors ajar, with a coy invitation to knock again, and a little louder than before, and we may arise and let you in. Or, it may be in the style that Col. Higginson represents Harvard as replying, "Go around to the side door, my daughters, and we will see what can be done for you. Perhaps there may be a little cold food for you in the Divinity School, or elsewhere, if taken on the sly; but so long as you persist in knocking at the front door you must remain outside of it." The result is, that a few young ladies have regularly recited in some of its classes, but their names cannot and do not appear on its catalogues. In the department of Comparative Zoology, under Prof. Agassiz, the number in the lecture room and of assistants in the Museum, is about the same of men and women. In the Anderson School of Natural History, established this year on the Island of Penekese, the number of students have been nearly equal of both sexes.

Cornell, last year, admitted woman in order to get the Sage Endowment, and after one year's experience, President White reports that this year they have not had to expel a single student, neither have they had any serious case of discipline. He does not know that it is the result of the presence of woman, but he thinks that it looks very much like it. We look with hope and pride to the rising walls of the Sage College on the fairest of Cornell grounds. O, were there more noble Sages to build for all time. Many of our more Western institutions have been mixed schools for longer or shorter periods.

Co-education means a common faculty, a common curriculum, a common examination. I can do no better, perhaps, than to relate in this connection, some of the effects of co-education, as thus defined in the institution at Alfred, in this State, with which I have been connected, first as student, then as teacher, for over a third of a century. The work of this school has been a hard and pioneer one, as must ever be the founding and building of a school without endowment, in a region without wealth. Most emphatically is it true of this school which has been the school of the poor. Not many sons and daughters of the rich have entered its portals. Beginning its mission in a small upper room with some thirty-six pupils, it has gradually increased, from year to year, till its present number is some four hundred yearly attendance. In this time, it has had some 6,600 matriculates, of whom 3,600 have been males and 3,000 females. The provisions of the charter grant equal right and privileges to both sexes. The following are some of the results: First, economy. It enables the institution to nearly double the number of students with the same means, as far as to buildings, library, apparatus and teachers as would be required for either sex alone. It enables brothers and sisters to mutually help each other, hiring rooms and boarding themselves; the sisters can do the housework for their brothers, thus allowing parents to support two in school with the fund that would barely suffice for one under other circumstances giving home and responsibility to both. Sometimes a brother sends himself and sister, and occasionally a sister a younger brother; yet there are sad features connected with these good ones. Parents are more apt to help their sons than their daughters, and society helps the young men by giving them plenty of work and good pay, whilst the work for young women is precarious, and mostly poorly paid. Young men of energy and economy are enabled to go through a course of study not unfrequently without interruption, by working vacation and recess hours, while with young ladies it becomes a hard and prolonged struggle, though many limit their expenses to within seventy-five to one hundred dollars per year, including board and school expenses. The great want of the young ladies of limited means, is some healthy and remunerative employment for their vacations and portions of recess hours. A few only can be accommodated in families to work for their board, and as they hold the book in one hand, and do a servant's full work with the other, there is danger of the task

being too much. Some have failed here. The teachers' profession is constantly overcrowded with us, being often two teachers to each school.

(CONCLUDED NEXT NUMBER.)

THE ENCHANTED LAND.

M. E. H. EVERETT.

When my beloved and I were young,
We dwelt in some enchanted land,
Where winds and birds had words for us,
That we no longer understand;
And some blessed meaning grew
In all lovely things we knew,
When our hearts were young and true!

The gold-brown bees hummed in and out
Among the Summer roses, there,
The green-leaved trees shook in the wind;
The mountain brooks made music rare,
And, rowing past the willows grey,
Glorious with night and glad with day,
Our voiceless river kept its way.

What change hath dimmed the golden flame
That burned along those sunset skies?
Or, is it that a mocking cloud
Floats coldly, dimly in our eyes?
Where, to the wild flowers blossoming,
Do any more our dear birds sing
Triumphant anthems of the Spring?

We miss the fairy chimes that rung
Melodious changes through the air—
The earth forgets the full content,
The joy-wreathed grace she used to wear;
And nevermore our blossoms glow
In the meadow-lands below,
Flushed like sunset, white like snow!

And yet, I think, dear, if we went,
We two only, hand in hand—
Down the meadow, we might reach
Once again that blessed land!
Think, the gates that shone so fair,
Might fly open to us, there,
And shut us out from sin and care!

How the birds we loved would sing
Close beside the singing brooks!
How our flowers would turn to us,
With glad welcome in their looks!
And released from care and pain,
How we two would love again,
Wandering o'er that sunny plain!

I went down that cold path alone,
One evening in the fragrant May,
Feeling how, just beyond my sight,
That long-lost land around me lay;
I could hear its winds blow by,
And almost its radiant sky
Flashed upon my longing eye!

And I thought, if thou wouldst come!
Waiting for thee till the dark,
Turning oft with hungry eyes
Through the mist to watch and hark!

O, I called so sadly, dear,
But no token reached my ear!
Didst thou answer? Didst thou hear?

O, land of blessed dreams foretold,
Where peace shines whitely like the moon!
Where the pure fountains evermore
Breathe rippling music through the noon!
We know, thy rivers of delight,
Closed round with wavering walls of night,
Lie just beyond our yearning sight!

Sometimes, on quiet Sabbath eves,
When the last glare of day is spent,
Our souls lean through the purple gloom,
To breathe the sweetness and content;
And pale, soft lights around us glow,
And we can hear the wind sing low
Some burden, that we used to know.

But vainly through the mists we grope,
We hark in vain, with faltering breath,
We shall not find it, till our eyes
Are at the end unsealed by death—
Then, indeed, we too, shall stand
Once more, gladly, hand in hand,
In a glorious, holy land!

RECKLESS USE OF POISONS.

PROF. H. C. COON.

An imperfect knowledge of the plain teachings of Science, and a carelessness in the observance of the laws of nature, which it is her province to reveal, often bring to us much pain and sorrow.

This is frequently manifest in the ignorant or reckless use of substances which are poisonous in their character, and which, acting upon the system, produce many of the diseases that tend to make life miserable, and bring upon us early decay and death.

The purpose of these articles is to describe the action of a few such substances, and to point out where we bring them into such a relation to us, as to cause by their use deleterious results. A *poison* is "anything, which, when taken into the system, or applied, acting not mechanically, but by its own inherent virtues, produces death, or tends to produce death." Whatever substance, when thus taken, disturbs the life processes, causing disease, is a poison; and its action will, unless overcome by the vital forces, with or without the aid of some remedial agent, result in death.

Each poison has its own specific action upon the system, which is somewhat modified by the circumstances, and the condition of the system, the quantity having much to do in determining this action, and in causing what physicians call *acute* or *chronic* poisoning with their peculiar train of evils. A poisonous substance, when given to counteract a disease, producing what is denominated a medicinal effect, is called a medicine; but when taken into a healthy system, or into a diseased system, which does not require its action to overcome the disease, it may be called a medicine, and given as such, yet it acts as a poison, and, in proportion to the quantity tak-

en, tends to produce disease, against which the system must struggle in its efforts to regain the lost equilibrium in the vital forces. Wise, indeed, ought those to be who dispense poisons for the curing of disease—masters in the study of the human system, and the laws that pertain thereto; skilled in the knowledge of the nature and action of the remedies that they must use for this purpose; while those not thus prepared, the common people, ought to know enough of poisons and their action, not to tamper with them in any form.

The first substance to be considered is *Lead*. Nearly all the salts of lead are poisonous, and although they are not often used with the intent to kill, yet from the many uses, to which, in their various forms, they are applied, they cause numerous and wide-spread evil, and acute and chronic lead poisoning are often met with. The frequency of such cases is increased, by the fact that lead is a cumulative poison, that is, a small quantity being taken into the system remains there, and each additional amount taken increases its power to act until it has so accumulated, as to produce the violent symptoms of acute lead poisoning.

Acute symptoms. Dungleon says: "When taken in small doses, for some time it causes violent and obstinate colic, rigidity of abdominal muscles, cramps, remission of pains, obstinate constipation, urine diminished, saliva increased, countenance anxious and gloomy. If relief be not promptly obtained, giddiness, debility, torpor, coma, convulsions, death." Often a blue line on margin of gums marks the nature of the poison.

The *chronic symptoms* which may result from the acute or from the action of small quantities, are rheumatic pains, weakness of hands, arms and wrists, ending in paralysis of the muscles, paralysis of optic nerve, and at length apoplexy. It acts on the cerebro spinal system, and especially upon the great sympathetic nervous system, so paralyzing it as to nearly or quite destroy the nutrition of the muscular and nervous tissues. The nervous centers are softened, and neuralgias, wasting away, paralysis and prostration of the bodily and mental powers are often the result.

Uses that cause these results. Those manufacturing or working with lead or its compounds are very liable to these diseases, and it is only by the greatest care and cleanliness that they can be avoided. Others besides these are frequently injured—

1st. By the use of such articles as cause it to be taken into the system with that which they drink or eat.

In drinks, a very common way is by the use of leaden vessels for culinary or other purposes. In England, cider is often stored in leaden casks, which as it forms vinegar, readily unites with the lead, forming an acetate, which is an active poison; and in France, wine is thus stored, and when used it causes that peculiar colic which takes its name from the region where it is so frequent. In this country we do not suffer so much from this cause as from the use of lead pipes for the conveyance of water. The oxygen and carbonic acid, which are always associated with hard water, combine with

the lead of the pipe, forming carbonate and oxide of lead, a constant product of the corrosive action of air and water upon it. Its formation is, of course, very much encouraged by the presence of organic matter in a state of decay, which evolves carbonic acid. The purer and softer the water, the less of this corrosive action.

This poison is taken into the system in very minute doses it may be, yet when its nature is remembered it cannot be otherwise than injurious, causing ills which often are not easily understood. Not long since a case of poisoning occurred not far from this place, caused by water running through lead pipe before it was used for culinary purposes. In the lead regions of Illinois, recently, a family was poisoned by the water of a well trickling over a vein of lead ore half a mile away. Very many articles of daily use, which are liable to be taken into the mouth or eaten, contain lead, among which may be mentioned, acids kept in glazed jars; and among the many other poisonous compounds used in coloring candy, lead is not the least. In New Castle, England, Mr. Pattinson, analytical chemist, recently reports "that he has examined various samples of sugar confectionary sold there and finds that nearly all of the articles colored yellow and orange are so colored by chromate of lead." "Out of thirty-five specimens, sold by twenty different dealers, twenty-eight were colored by this poison." "Some of the articles contained upwards of one-tenth of a grain of metallic lead, which was supplied to the manufacturer under the names of orange and lemon chrome." One case of acute poisoning was reported. Similar results might be obtained in our candy shops, and the reckless cupidity in those manufacturing such articles ought to be dealt with by the strong hand of the law, in order that the health and lives of our children may not be ignorantly destroyed. Buff envelopes, cards, and fancy papers often contain lead, and should be used with caution.

2d. By the use of such articles as cause it to be taken in by the absorbants.

A few years ago a train of symptoms occurred in a snuff-taker, which long troubled the doctors to find out the cause, but at length, the symptoms being so characteristic, they examined the snuff and found it largely adulterated with litharge and oxide of lead, which caused all the mischief. Sleeping in rooms recently painted sometimes is the cause of serious disease. Another use of lead compounds produces its poisonous effects upon the vain and proud, in the shape of the popular hair dyes and restorers, as Hall's, Mrs. Allen's, Ring's, and a host of others, each of which claim to contain no deleterious compound, the falsity of which can be easily proven by putting a small portion into a test tube or a tea-cup, and dropping into it a small crystal of iodide of potassium which, as it dissolves, will give a yellow precipitate. Prof. Chandler's report to the Board of Health, of New York, in 1870, says out of 16 preparations for the hair examined, 15 contained lead in varying proportions, as shown by the following table:

<i>Grains of Lead in One-third Ounce.</i>	
Clark's Distilled Restorative for the Hair.....	0.11
Chevalier's Life for the Hair.....	1.02

Circassian Hair Rejuvenator.....	2.71
Ayer's Hair Vigor.....	2.89
Prof. Wood's Hair Restorative.....	3.08
Dr. J. J. O. Brien's Hair Restorer of America.....	3.28
Gray's Celebrated Hair Restorer.....	3.38
Phalon's Vitalia.....	4.69
Ring's Vegetable Ambrosia.....	5.09
Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer.....	5.57
L. Knittel's Indian Hair Tonic.....	6.29
Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer.....	7.13
Dr. Tebbett's Physiological Hair Regenerator.....	7.44
Martha Washington's Hair Retorative.....	9.80
Singer's Hair Restorative.....	16.39

A nerve poison, used upon the head, where it is readily absorbed, can but produce derangement, which is often widespread and lasting. Most observing physicians have met with these cases, reports of which are constantly finding their way into the medical and other journals. A few extracts from these will suffice to show their action. A medical correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says, "he has under his care a lady paralyzed on her right side for three years, and utterly helpless most of the time. Her vision has been very imperfect, and her memory utterly lost; caused by the use of a popular hair dye." In another case, the eyes were a constant source of torture, wheels of light, burning flames, and lightning flashes, were her constant attendants, so that she had to be confined to a dark room. I know of a lady who, by the use of one of these, produced inflammation and partial paralysis of the optic nerve, with nearly a loss of sight, and many others who have more or less injured their eyes, by the use of these "harmless compounds."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A DREAM.

A recent ball night found me in the midst of a fashionable throng, with all its pomp and display. It was an high-day, and all fashion's votaries were there. With the rest, was the coarse and illiterate Mrs. Shoddy, glittering with gems and gilded trappings, admitted by the open sesame, gold, and justifying by her vulgar display the foreign opinions concerning our social manners.

There were present young men who, by fashion's emulations were compelled to struggle, often almost to starve, now and then to become forgers or defaulters, to maintain their social positions.

The lovely belles discoursing sweetly of Mr. McDonald's lectures on Light or of Shakespeare's Faery Queen, shone in the midst of an admiring group.

While sitting apart and pondering on the diverse elements before me, I was surprised by a sudden, inexplicable change. The scene, while like, was yet very unlike the one but a short time ago before me. The only sparkle now was of bright, laughing eyes; the splendor of ornament and attire was toned down to the simplicity of taste. Instead of ostentatious display was true artistic beauty; but my pen is powerless to describe the difference in the scenes.

The most marked change, however, was in manners and conversation. With modest animation they were talking in groups here and there of science in its thousand aspects,

of art, of literature, of divine philosophy, of politics and questions of the day. Keen sensibilities, power of thought, information, widely cultured taste, wit and repartee, all showed themselves in the conversations. The lore of antiquity with its mighty thoughts and achievements, with its myriad pleasing and ennobling associations, gave a rich coloring to the active, progressive present, and its engrossing topics. Classic music, the most perfect results in harmony, executed with inimitable skill, filled the rooms from time to time with its entrancing sounds.

Amazed at the scene so new to me, I inquired of a gentleman standing by, where this assembly might be, in Germany, with its famous culture, or the Scotland of poetry and song? Neither, he replied, this is in America. It is Boston then, the centre of American culture, I remarked. No, it is a country village in Western New York, called A——, he answered. I was mute with astonishment. Yes, he continued, this is in a small village; come and see it. He touched my arm, and in an instant we were in the streets of a beautiful village, neatly laid out, and carefully cared for.

We passed along the street and entered a fine building in which I found a valuable public library, a large and well supplied reading room, an art gallery of no mean merits, and a commodious and convenient lecture hall constructed in accordance with the most approved principles of accoustics and optics.

Fine paintings and statues ornamented all the rooms, and the signs of correct taste were manifest in every arrangement. Passing thence and visiting the academy and public schools of the highest excellence, my conductor then led me into a neat and unassuming cottage, where we were most hospitably entertained. On the table were the choicest books, the gems of English literature; in its place was a piano; flowers and works of art were there. A thousand little things, natural and artificial, indicated wide knowledge and refined tastes. This is the cottage of a workman in yonder factory, and is a type of most others, said my companion, as we passed into the street.

Evening was approaching and the streets were filled with the villagers going, with wives and children, to the reading room, or walking forth for recreation. As they walked, the surrounding landscape, the passing cloud, the sun-flecked hillside with the shadows lengthening upon it, the tinkling sheep bell, were all noticed and awoke the sweetest responses in their hearts. Their souls seemed so richly endowed and so finely attuned that all nature was continually playing the richest melodies upon them. From groups of young people under the trees, strains of music, such as Pan or Orpheus might have envied, floated out, now and then, on the quiet evening air.

This, then, is a favored village in all the land, I said. No, indeed, it is like a thousand, ten thousand others. And what has caused the change from the condition I formerly knew? I cried. The precepts and examples of brave men and woman, who have lived up to their highest ideals, had a potent influence. The people have dethroned their former god, gold,

and made him a slave, and he has wrought much and works still. People seek him now not to worship, but to employ in securing culture, growth, comfort, to use him in travel and every development of the soul. The young couple, beginning life, strive first, after the mere necessities are secured, for the means of culture, for the intellectual luxuries, and to aid in providing for the public means of progress. As a result of the culture, comes interest in, and knowledge of, right living in its physical aspects as well as its intellectual. The chemistry of the kitchen must be understood by the young lady no less than music, poetry, painting, literature. The physiological aspects of dress, sleep, bathing, exercise, stimulants, and narcotics are fully understood, and the benefits upon health and physical well being are immeasurable. Every form of knowledge has contributed to the improvement of the people.

Yet this, after all, I cried regretfully, must have destroyed the Yankee enterprise so dear to my heart. There is no longer courage and manliness at least. The people now spend their time in dreaming over books and pictures, dawdling in baths, talking their lives away. If perchance they labor and trade, it is for the sake of means to enjoy their dreamy existence!

No, indeed, exclaimed my guide, with flushing face and flashing eye, there is nothing on earth to stimulate enterprise like wants so high and so noble as are the wants of men now! No enterprise! Preposterous.

To claim that culture enervates and destroys manly character is worthy of a fool only. Literary and critical insight, by their very nature, give insight into all else, and especially clear the vision in respect to truth, enabling the mind to grasp it in a thousand forms where mere logical power could not find one of its golden grains. The feeling that happiness depends on things of the soul, which no one can destroy; that oppression or misfortune cannot affect ones communion with the purest and noblest on earth and in Heaven, gives a courage and an independence you, blind sir, have no conception of.

When men fight now, they fight to defend, not mere dwelling places, but homes sacred by a thousand richer and higher experiences than homes have ever known before, and by as much as the stake is greater, do men dare and sacrifice more.

Braver, more independent, nobler men the world—

Here, making an involuntary movement in sympathy with the gesture of my companion, I lost my balance and fell from my chair, where I unfortunately had been asleep. Collecting my confused thoughts, I found myself amid the original party. "Parvenu! isn't worth a cent," "horrible dress of Miss Smith," "did you ever," jumbled and broken came to my ears. It was all a dream.

Will it ever come true?

Mrs. Livermore, in a private letter, says that she contemplates visiting Alfred briefly this Winter.

OUR COMMON INSECTS.*

BY PROF. H. C. COON.

This modest work of 225 pages, by Dr. Packard, is an attempt to bring before the masses such information as will enable them to know more of the habits, character and life of those insects that are most common, and about which every one should have some knowledge. The science of entomology is comparatively in its infancy, and its importance is not yet fully realized. Insects are either beneficial or injurious to man; beneficial when they destroy substances and insects that are deleterious to the health and prosperity of the race; injurious when they destroy the products of industry and take from the health or wealth of the country. The annual loss to our country from these is reckoned at five hundred millions of dollars; fifty millions of this might be saved by the proper intelligence and co-operation of farmers. To increase this intelligence, and to induce observation in this direction, is one design of this publication, by one of our close observing scientific men who is devoting his life to this work.

The introduction to the book begins with the question, "What is an insect?" then follows the answers to this and other questions, such as "How insects eat, walk, fly, grow, and the senses of insects, with proper illustrations of the various parts. The first and second chapters have for their titles "The Home of the Bees," and the third "The Parasites of the Honey Bee." The perusal of these alone will well pay the price of the book. Then follow chapters on Moths, Mosquitoes, Borers, Flies, Gnats, Lice, and others which treat of the subject in a manner both interesting and instructive. The following passage will illustrate the style: "Were we to select from among the insects a type of all that is savage, relentless, and blood-thirsty, the dragon fly would be our choice. From the moment of its birth until its death, usually a twelve month, it riots in bloodshed and carnage. Living beneath the water, perhaps eleven months of its life, in the larva and pupa state, it is literally a walking pitfall for luckless aquatic insects, but when transformed into a fly, ever on the wing in pursuit of its prey, it throws off all concealment, and reveals more unblushingly its rapacious character. To man, however, aside from its bad name and its repulsive aspect, which its gay trappings do not conceal, its whole life is beneficent. It is a scavenger, being like that class ugly and repulsive, and holding literally among insects, the lowest rank in society. In the water it preys upon young mosquitoes and the larva of other noxious insects. It thus aids in maintaining the balance of life, and cleanses the swamps of miasmata, thus purifying the air we breathe. During its existence of three or four weeks above the water its whole life is a continued good to man. It hawks over pools and fields, and through gardens decimating swarms of mosquitoes, flies, gnats, and other baneful insects."

The last chapter is devoted to a calendar of the insects that appear each month, with practical hints to aid those interested in their study.

*Our Common Insects. A Popular Account of the insects of our Fields, Forests, Gardens and Houses. By A. S. PACKARD, JR. Published by the Salem Naturalist Agency.

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CONTENTS.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.	PAGE	EDITORIAL.	PAGE
Co-Education	1	AT HOME.	8
The Enchanted Land	2	ALUMNI NOTES.	11
Reckless Use of Poisons	3	THE COLLEGE WORLD.	11
A Dream	5		
Our Common Insects	6		

INTRODUCTORY.

THE ALFRED STUDENT, in this number, makes its first appearance before the public, bespeaking a favorable reception and a generous support. Those more immediately interested in the enterprise have felt the need of some medium for mutual improvement and interchange of views on questions pertaining to education, art, science, literature, and general progress. It shall be our aim to make the STUDENT conform to the advanced stage of college journalism. While laboring for the highest welfare of the institution which it represents, we shall strive to embrace in its scope, to the best of our ability, the broad realm of all worthy culture. In this realm of culture, unsolved questions of great interest are constantly presenting themselves. Accepting nothing simply because of its oldness, rejecting nothing because of its newness, we shall seek, as best we may, for the genuine merits of each. On many of these issues we may, doubtless, take what may be deemed radical ground; but it shall be our endeavor, at the same time, to treat candidly and impartially all subjects coming within our jurisdiction. The endeavor will be to foster, not that culture which is chiefly effective in small criticisms, with a keen turn for faultfinding, and bookish pedantry, but most ineffective in all the great activities; but rather that culture which enkindles sympathy, trust, enthusiasm, and awakens that resolution which works with an "intense and convinced energy." Education is coming, more and more, to mean that quickness, depth and force of soul, not to be obtained solely from courses of study, nor modes in class-room drill, but rather from those pervasive influences which go to make up the present living tendencies. More and more is needed, a culture that broadens, deepens the soul and causes the spiritual forces to mount God-ward. Religion is the topmost flower of humanity, and no complete culture can neglect this highest and fairest blossoming. No subject which has the aims thus enumerated for its object shall be considered foreign to, or inappropriate for, these columns.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CONTESTS.

Among the questions discussed by the college press since the opening of the collegiate year, the intercollegiate literary contest, hazing and college secret societies, have been prominent. The discussion upon the question of an intercollegiate literary contest seems to have been suggested by Mr. T. W. Higginson's article in *Scribner*, last year, on that subject. The *Nassau Lit* is one of the chief supporters of the scheme, claiming, in brief, that: 1st, a plan is feasible; 2d, such a contest would provoke generous rivalry, and would foster fellowship; 3d, it would furnish an adequate reward to the meritorious; 4th, it would tend to produce higher culture. The *Amherst Student*, and some of the Western papers also, favor the contests. The *Williams Vidette* is in favor, if the contestants be chosen by lot, so that all the students should be influenced by the competition. Harvard and Yale, on the other hand, are opposed to the measure. The *Yale Courant* says that a contest requiring months, or even a year, in special preparation, would seriously interfere with the work of a college course, and would have a tendency to substitute in place of seeking culture for its own sake, the aiming alone at rewards, which would bring but a nine days fame, and satisfy an immature ambition. It says also: "We do not think that the contests would cause any appreciable literary enthusiasm, nor would students be generally willing to enter into the competition. It is from the record of her Alumni that a college must be judged. No public exhibition of unripe powers can evidence the soundness of her work. To promote true culture among her students, she must strive to lead them by the way of hard, unceasing, unpretending labor, and leave the future to produce the fruit." With the sentiments of the *Courant*, the *Williams Review* seems to agree.

Even if such contests should do little for higher culture, it seems to us that they might and would greatly counteract the bloodlessness, as the *N. Y. Tribune* is pleased to call it, of American students, their lack of courage and their disposition to shun all contact with people in masses and on public occasions, upon which the press has so often commented, as for instance, in the outcry raised, a few years ago, by some of the papers against Harvard because some of her students desired, and were permitted, we believe, to read their orations at Commencement instead of speaking them. This bloodlessness, lack of ambition and enthusiasm, or whatever it may be termed, is shown most conclusively in the decline of the college literary societies, of public debates, and in the fact that students no longer match themselves against each other in keen intellectual conflicts as of yore. As a result of this, the power of our speakers generally, it is claimed, is on the wane, and the days of the Henrys, Websters and Clays are forever gone. Anything that would arrest this decadence of the literary societies and of public speaking, with all their consequences, is well worth months' or even a years' preparation by each college class. The intercollegiate literary contest, from the activities it would

doubtless excite, seems the most likely of anything yet proposed to accomplish this result.

Though mere technical or verbal scholarship might be injured by preparation for the contest, the power to use effectively ones acquirements gained by the preparation itself would more than compensate for the loss.

For the sake, alone, of the possibilities of good in the direction we have indicated, we are heartily in favor of the intercollegiate contests, and trust they will have a fair and careful trial, and we have strong hopes that the benefits of the contests would far exceed the anticipations of their advocates.

PRESENT STATUS OF ALFRED.

Almost the first question asked of an Alfred student, when among friends, is, "How is school?" The same question will, we judge, be propounded to *this* STUDENT, and it shall, in this very hour, be given him what he shall say.

First, numerically. Our Fall register contains about two hundred and sixty names; that for the present term one hundred and sixty, which are about our usual numbers, and considering the financial condition of the country, we think them very good.

The intellectual ability, or advancement of our students, also compares favorably with that of former terms; though on account of the large number of students who go out to teach during the winter, and of a correspondingly large number of young men from the farming districts, who can only be in school for that season, such a portion of our body as is made up, in spring and fall, of common school teachers, is exchanged, in winter, for a younger class; slight difference, however, is noticed in the higher departments of study.

We suppose Alfred shares the common lot in having always with her *some* drones, some *won't be* students, but the great mass of her members are characterized by the same spirit of work—drill—enthusiasm which possessed in so remarkable a degree, her first President, and which, as by hereditary transmission, has come down to so many of his admiring children, toiling in the same field.

History repeats herself no less faithfully in the minor details and unrecorded events of life than in the great ones that are blazoned before the world; we do not, therefore, so much wonder as admire, when we see the old stories of struggle and sacrifice related of master scholars, repeated and *relived* in our very midst. There are serious, unpretending workers among us, who are, though by slow and difficult steps, marching toward success and noble achievement. There are students here whom frivolty can neither divert, nor opposition impede, nor poverty daunt, in their determined purpose to become thoroughly educated. On such we rely for strength; to them we look for the future glory of the Institution. The Jubilee Sessions may be regarded a fair index of the present condition of our Lyceums; a review of them will be found elsewhere in our columns. Such is the

STUDENT's first account of Alfred; may no subsequent glance reveal deterioration, in any respect.

At Home.

We venture to presume that very few of the Alfred students who have gone out into the activities of business-life, in recalling the scenes of school days, do not remember Alfred as, indeed, in many respects, a home. Situated out of sight and hearing of the bustle and confusion of the world—hemmed in, as it were, by Allegany hills—Alfred is universally tranquil and orderly. The turbulent, seditious spirits that haunt so many schools and colleges, finding here so little kindred with their own natures, usually favor us with their absence, or, at the worst, a very short stay. The climate here is invariably healthful, and we are sure that the surrounding scenery has ever been *looked up to* by students.

Again, while the size of the place forbids all ceremonious conventionalities, there is, notwithstanding, none of that indiscriminate intimacy so common in small villages. Thus students are prevented, neither by social rigidity or vulgar familiarity, from becoming participants in that genial refinement which ought to be home-like to every American student. So we, here at home, by this new method, seek communication with those who have been here before us, and also with any who may come when we are gone. Some improvements have recently been made in the village, which may be of interest to former students. Among the more notable of these has been the transforming, during the last two summers, of the little plat of barren soil, lying on the corner of Main and Chapel streets, into a "park,"—of very moderate proportions, it is true—but which nevertheless is beautiful and beneficial. This spot, formerly good for nothing but the production of bruises, and scars, and noisome weeds, is now in summer-time literally a garden of flowers, and in its center a fountain sends forth continuously, a pure, clear stream of water, brought from a spring in the adjacent hillside.

Across Chapel street from the "park," a new and spacious "Variety Store" takes the place of the little, one-story coop, well remembered no doubt by many of "the boys." Just north of this stands a large, well-kept hotel, a thing not many years ago entirely unknown here. Next door to this, in the building which the student of five or six years ago will remember as Pettibone's grocery, is located the printing office, now immortalized by issuing the first number of the STUDENT. A little further along, we come to the stores of L. Green and Sons, lately enlarged and repaired. Turning up Church street, we find the First Seventh-day Baptist Church thoroughly renovated within and without. And it will be a relief to those who, during the last few years, have been compelled to listen, each week, to that doleful, dismal, distracting piece of old iron in the belfry, to know that on New

Year's day, we were greeted by a joyous, musical peal from a new bell. Sherman's factory has been burned down and rebuilt, but the "Smoking Seat" near by has withstood all destroying elements, and still invites moonlight lovers, (lovers of the moonlight we mean, of course,) to its spacious, sacred precincts.

To the east and south of the chapel are a number of new and tasty dwelling houses, adding not a little, to the sightliness of that part of the village. But there is opportunity for still further improvement. The old foot-bridge on Chapel-street which, judging by appearances, has echoed to the tread of Alfred students for many generations, still tremblingly sustains its daily burdens, which are liable at any moment to be precipitated into the chasm beneath.

There should certainly be a new prohibition to this effect: "Not more than one person allowed on this bridge at once, and that one is hereby strictly prohibited from moving faster than a walk."

Why there seems to be a tacit agreement here among the inhabitants, not to build their sidewalks more than about three feet wide; and why people who paint their houses every year or two, should leave the walks in front of them in such a state of decay as to be a terror to old women, and a source of profanity in young men, have long been questions of anxious consideration in our mind, but which have never been satisfactorily solved. If the faculty were the supreme authority in the matter, we might explain them on the grounds of "unpermitted association;" but we can conjure up no such excuse for the citizens.

We have also been much perplexed in trying to discover the wisdom of the policy which has left our college grounds bare and desolate all these years. We are not aware that trees and shrubbery are averse to Alfred soil, or that any competent authority has pronounced them detrimental to students. Why then have we and all our predecessors been compelled to keep climbing the (Chapel) Hill of Science without any shade-trees or evergreens to protect from the Winter's blast and the Summer's scorching rays? Why note nough, at least, to beautify the bare, blank space? Let us hope the next generation may find this aspect of affairs materially changed.

The school, as such, has been already sufficiently spoken of, but the literary societies demand a more extended notice.

We believe these to be among the most important functions of college life. We *know* they are *here*. It has often been said by those who have gone out as students or teachers in other institutions, or as professional or business men, that a faithful performance of Lyceum duties each week has been of more service to them, than the knowledge gained in any one department of study. The highest recommend an old graduate could furnish us, would be to say with pride and affection, "I was an Alleghanian, or an Orophilian; an Athenæan, or an Alfredian." And in this connection it may be well to notice briefly the Annual Jubilee sessions of these Societies. We wish it distinctly understood, however, that while we would be glad to gratify the feelings of all concerned, we

cannot follow the example of some others in indiscriminately and unreservedly praising *everything*. Just criticism is necessary to advancement, while unmerited praise is simply disgusting to sensible people.

The first public session this winter, was that of the Alleghanians, and took place on Christmas Eve. "Cyrus, the Persian," by D. M. Estee, was a tolerably fair production, and was recited in a creditable manner.

The essay, "Advancement," by W. I. Lewis, had much in it that was sensible, and worthy of approval, but its reading was somewhat marred by an affectation in pronunciation.

The Alleghanians were fortunate in securing the services of Prof. E. P. Larkin as their lecturer. His lecture on South America, coming from so able a pen as his, needs no complimentary notice here. The oration, by H. D. Clarke, was delivered in an earnest manner, and seemed to be well received.

A. B. Kenyon, in "The Leper," quite sustained his hitherto good reputation as a recitationist.

After this came the paper, which was very well read by Ira A. Place. Its literary merit, however, was very inconsiderable. *Two-thirds* of the paper was devoted to poetry. (?) The poem entitled "A Journalistic Epic," although showing some ability in its author, was much better adapted to some "sporting" journal, than to such a paper as the *Alleghanian* pretends to be. The valedictory, "Rome's Triumph," was clear and logical in its construction, elevating in its sentiment, and was delivered with almost faultless elocution.

On Christmas night, the Ladies' Athenæan Society called out a full house.

After the salute, came an oration by Miss Varnum. Her subject was "Maria Theresa." The speaker seemed to catch inspiration from her theme, and by her own peculiar power of thought and utterance, held the audience breathless with admiration. Mrs. Sherman's paper was original, intelligent, and substantial. Although many will disagree with her upon some particular points there sustained, yet we are sure none can deny the merit of the articles, or the sincerity of their authors. The recitation, by Miss Mary Crumb, was simply beautiful. She made a very happy selection, "The Grave by the Lake," and its recital well merited the storm of applause which followed. The Lecture on "Soul Culture," by Mrs. T. R. Williams, was really a soul-feast. She endeavored to show that true religion is both the means and end of true culture. Her deep sincerity, her persuasive moderation, and her thrilling earnestness could but impress the most irreligious with a conviction that she knew whereof she affirmed. It is humiliating to reflect that there are those in Alfred, calling themselves young ladies, who will make a continual disturbance by their idiotic tittering, during the reading of such a paper as Mrs. Williams' lecture. The Valedictory, by Miss Skinner, seemed to please her listeners very much. Her originality of design, and individuality of utterance, made even the common-place subject, "Temperance," interesting.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 31st, the Orophilians "held forth." Their programme was almost entirely filled out with

young members, who came upon the stage inexperienced and undrilled.

Mr. Robertson gave us a short and patriotic salute, after which came an oration by E. W. Thompson, which, though rather crude in its concept, was impressively spoken.

The Recitation, "Death bed of Benedict Arnold," by W. W. Miller, though an exceedingly difficult one, was a complete success. The Essay, by A. R. Hovey, was a commendable effort. The Paper, by Mr. Cotton, was nothing of which Orophilians need to boast. Unlike the *Alleghanian*, it was all prose, and some of that might have been omitted without depreciating its value. The Lecture, by Mr. W. P. Todd, of Canisteo, on "Reform," was well worth listening to, though we presume it might have been bettered at least a hundred per cent., by a little additional effort. Mr. Migner's valedictory was a glance backward, and a comparison of the "Old with the New." There was probably not a single fresh idea in the piece, yet Mr. Migner's graceful deportment, perfect enunciation, and magnetic intonation astonished his auditory, surprised even himself, and won for him an outbreak of hearty and prolonged applause.

The next evening the Alfredians entertained a large and appreciative assembly with a talented array of performers. The opening piece on "Language," by Miss J. M. Davis, was nicely devised and charmingly executed. The congregation could but be delighted at the music of her clear, earnest tones. Then came an oration by Miss Flora Cottrell, after which a long extract from the "Lady of the Lake," by Miss Dunham, who evinced perfect self-possession, and a good, strong memory. Another oration by Miss Sara M. Burdick followed, and then "Leaves from the Nineteenth Century," an entertaining, instructive, admirable paper, read as very few can read, by Miss Mattie J. Davis. We regret that we have not space to notice more at length its unusual merits. The poem by Mrs. Everett, was a truly pathetic and impressive one. The Valedictory was spoken by Mrs. S. L. S. Wardner.

The music by the "Harmonics" was good and appropriate throughout. They deserve the gratitude of every student for their untiring efforts to make the sessions a success. Although quite gratifying, these semi-annual sessions are not what they should be—not what they *might* be.

One cause of this deficiency is in the lack of library advantages; another in the apathy of the students in the matter of thorough, severe drill; and another—if we may venture to express an opinion upon so delicate a matter—is in the unfortunate selection of subjects. If young students will persist in selecting abstract themes, and moralizing in a blind, stumbling way therefrom; or in repeating in a crooked, crippled, ambiguous form, some hackneyed axioms and adages, they can neither benefit themselves, nor please their hearers. But if they will select some particular time, event, person, or concrete thing, and study faithfully thereon, confine themselves strictly to their topic, subject themselves to stern discipline, and then learn the secret of *being themselves*,

instead of aping some one else, they may accomplish both these important results.

As our position as local editor gives us a license to find fault with everything and everybody, we will immediately proceed to commence that delightful business.

There are three things in particular that we wish to scold about; and these are, first, our library; second, our reading room—that was; and third, our lecture course, that neither is, nor was. We have here a valuable library of several thousand volumes, which, though not as modern or as complete as we could wish, might be of incalculable benefit to students. But this library is situated in a cold, dismal, dirty garret, where it is inconvenient to go, and unpleasant to remain. Moreover, this garret is unlocked for the space of one hour each week, not long enough for a student to glance over its contents. It is needless to argue that a library conducted thus, is almost worthless to students.

Several terms ago the literary societies instituted and, until quite recently maintained, a reading-room; but it has been suffered to become among the things of the past, simply for lack of a room in which to live. Ought such a valuable source of information as a reading-room be sacrificed on such trivial grounds as these?

We believe that a good selection of current literature would be far better in the room called the "Laboratory," than the old bones and bottles with which it now is graced. At least, we believe that a slight effort on the part of teachers, students, and citizens—for all are interested in this matter—might give us our library and a good reading-room together, in some suitable, convenient place. They ought to be situated so that students could scarcely avoid them—in the most accessible place that can be found; then properly indexed and arranged. If this were done, it would not be a month before we would see an improvement, not only in Lyceums and in rhetorical, but in other classes, and even in social circles.

As to a lecture course, we wish merely to express our opinion that a limited number of suitable lectures, properly managed, might be made to pay, both pecuniarily and intellectually, and we hope another year will prove our judgment correct.

At midnight, just as the old year died, some patriotic youths loudly rang the chapel bell. Strange to say, no reward was offered for their apprehension.

Prof. E. P. Larkin is cheering and benefiting the village and the institution by an unusually long stay. People are always sorry to see him depart.

We wonder when the time will be set next for procuring the park fence. We have long since given up the idea of really seeing it.

Prof. King, a highly-recommended teacher of the French and German languages, has relieved Mrs. Kenyon of a portion of her classes.

It is rumored that the popular landlord, J. S. Kenyon, contemplates giving a social party, ere long, for the entertainment of the students.

Alumni Notes.

We intend to make this a permanent and special department of the STUDENT, and earnestly request items from all sources concerning members of the Alumni or old Students.

'44. Prof. Ira Sayles, A. M., is the Principal of Canisteo Academy, Canisteo, N. Y.

'45. Rev. Nathan Wardner, A. M., is pastor of the Seventh-day Baptist Church at West Hallock, Ill.

'47. Prof. James Marvin, D. D., has the department of Mathematics, at Allegany College, Meadville, Pa.

'48. Darius R. Ford, D. D., is Professor of Sciences in Elmira Female College.

'48. Darwin E. Maxson, D. D., is pastor of the Seventh-day Baptist Church, at Plainfield, N. J.

'51. Galusha Anderson, D. D., late of St. Louis, and termed the "Beecher of the West," has lately been called to the pastorate of a church in Brooklyn, N. Y.

'51. Ormanzo Allen, brother of President Allen, of Alfred University, is a Judge at Austin, Minn.

'54 T. Dwight Thatcher is now editor of the *Lawrence Republican*, at Lawrence, Kansas.

'52. Solon O. Thatcher is a Judge at the same place.

'53. Lorenzo J. Worden, ex-Senator of Kansas, is Postmaster at the same place.

'58. Weston Flint has recently been appointed Consul to China.

'48, '66. Revs. D. E. Maxson, D. D. and L. A. Platts are editors of the *S. S. Journal*, just issued by the Seventh-day Baptist denomination.

'54. Prof. Wm. A. Rogers is director of the Observatory at Harvard University.

'57. Gen. J. Hale Sypher is M. C. from the First District of Louisiana.

'64. Charles R. Thatcher is editor of the *Hornellsville Times*.

'61. Seymour Dexter is a successful lawyer in Elmira, N. Y., and recently represented Chemung Co., in the New York Legislature.

'64. A. Herbert Lewis is preaching at Shiloh, N. J.

'69. W. P. Todd is School Commissioner in Steuben County.

'69. I. B. Brown is practicing law at Corry, Pa.

'73. James A. Estee is Professor of Greek and Latin in Rogersville Seminary, South Dansville, N. Y.

'73. G. S. M. Cottrell is Principal of Union Academy, Shiloh, N. J.

'44. Mrs. A. A. Allen delivered an able address before the Woman's Congress, held last October, in N. Y. City.

'61. Ellen F. Swinney is a medical student in N. Y. City.

'63. Mary A. E. Wager, A. M., assistant editor of the *Rural New Yorker*, is traveling in Europe.

'58. E. Elvira Kenyon, A. M., is Principal of the Ladies' Seminary, Plainfield, N. J.

'55. Elizabeth C. Wright, A. M., is now farming near Irving, Kansas.

'51. Miss Elizabeth Bartholemew, A. M., is a teacher in the Union School, Hornellsville, N. Y.

'50. J. M. Maxson McCray, A. M., M. D., is practicing medicine in Elmira, N. Y.

'59. Mrs. M. A. Fisher Dean, A. M., resides at Farina, Ill.

'61. E. Jennie Chapin, A. M., M. D., is practicing medicine in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The College World.

Prof. R. W. Raymond, in his inaugural address at the dedication of Pardee Hall, of Lafayette College, among many other good thoughts, expressed the following, which are worthy of careful study by every student and educator: "There is danger that, in our new born zeal for scientific education, we may sacrifice the interests of a truly liberal culture, producing a generation of specialists, incapable of appreciating the departments of human thought which lie outside their own, or even of rising within their own departments, to broad and comprehensive views. The chemists, geologists, and engineers, must not cease to be intelligent and active citizens. It may be demonstrated that such a mistaken neglect of studies, outside the range of a chosen profession, cripples activity and impairs success even in that profession. It is one result of the brotherhood of knowledge that no man, whether employed in the original investigations of nature, or in the application of natural laws to practical ends, can advance successfully, without communication of his thoughts to others, and the reception of their suggestions and experiences in return. Hence the mastery of language, which was the first condition of civilization, remains the essential condition of progress. The power to comprehend statements, logical arguments, and demonstrations, and to make such statements as may be comprehended by others, and will carry weight and influence in the very perfection of their form, is a vitally important part of the preparation of every young man for his life's career. His success, aside from his moral qualities, will be in direct proportion to his influence over other men; and this influence, again, will be in part proportional to his command of the means by which the minds of men are moved, mainly language.

Under this term we may include a knowledge of the methods of practical reasoning, and if this knowledge is best obtained by scholastic study of logic, then logic must be studied. If Latin and Greek are necessary, then must they be studied. For us, one thing is necessary—a thorough mastery of the

English tongue—and this alone has been made to yield a mental discipline not inferior to the classics.

But influence is not due to language alone. Behind this vehicle of thought there must be fullness and variety of thought itself. Those fruitful analogies, felicitous illustrations, graceful associations, which come, and come alone, through wide acquaintance with human life and literature, are so many elements of power, and, without this broad basis of a common ground from which to move the minds of others, the students of a special science, though possessed of the lever of Archimedes that would move the world, has no place whereon to stand.

We notice several recent changes in the curriculums of a number of colleges, the tendency being to enlarge the field of elective studies.

At Williams College hereafter, Latin and Greek will be reduced to four terms each, and after that they will be optional, but must be completed in the Sophomore year. Calculus is now made optional. The Seniors will have only two recitations per day, thus having time for writing and extra reading.

French, German and Greek are optional in Mount Holyoke Seminary.

At Wesleyan University, French and German are henceforth to be elective in the Sophomore year. In the Junior, in addition to previous elective studies, German, Latin, Physics and Physical Geography are to be elective. To the Senior electives are added mathematics, practical chemistry, practical biology and geology, Greek, general philology, natural theology, evidences of Christianity, psychology and philosophy.

Princeton College, of New Jersey, is making the experiment of including both a high school and a university within the scope of a college. To this end the system employed is conservative in one respect, and progressive in another. Freshmen and Sophomores are thoroughly drilled in the classics of the advanced high schools, and Juniors and Seniors are permitted to select for themselves all the studies of a regular university course. The courses require for both admission and graduation a severe examination in the fundamental branches of Latin, Greek and Mathematics, and thus solid acquirements are combined with a good degree of philosophical and literary culture. On the other hand, the Hon. J. G. Blaine, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, spoke at the Alumni Dinner of Colby University, most emphatically in commendation of the old system of thorough training as heretofore maintained at this college, in opposition to the "elective" systems, now becoming popular in our collegiate institutions.

The duties of American scholars in politics seem to be attracting the attention of students and commencement orators. At the last commencement of Dartmouth College, Whitelaw Reid, of the New York *Tribune*, discoursed concerning the duty of the American scholar to be a politician,

and of his duty as a politician, and repeated the address at Amherst College. At Middlebury College, the Rev. L. A. Austin spoke upon the theme: "The duty of men of culture to take up the issue against corruption and fraud in politics and government;" and at Princeton, the Hon. Henry H. Ross gave an address upon the necessity of educated men taking an active part in political affairs. The alumni of the University, at Lewisbery, listened to an oration by the Rev. I. C. Wynn, on "The Christian Scholar, the Conservator of the National Liberties."

The Patristic Course, established at Lafayette College last year, in which the Latin and Greek of Christian authors only are read, seems to have been quite successful.

A fair proportion of the Freshmen selected the Patristic Course last year, and Prof. March is preparing the necessary text books for the department. Prizes have also been established in the course.

In his address, at the opening of the new library building at Princeton, William Cullen Bryant said: "Every advance in civilization, every shining example of active virtue, every wise or sacred precept of human conduct, every triumph of art and skill, everything, in short, that stores the mind with wisdom, or instructs the hand, or enlightens the conscience, is of the past, and books are the repositories in which they are laid up for the use of mankind from generation to generation. Destroy the volumes in which they are contained, and you blot out the past ages, with all that they have done for us, and the human race would drift hopelessly into barbarism. The illustrious ones who have passed the gates of death before us, may have left their material parts in the grave, marked by some unknown memorial, or their dust may be scattered to the winds, but here is what the earth still possesses of their higher nature. Here are their words, still animated by the living soul, and here is the record of their glorious example. It matters not where their bones are laid, while we have among us, in the volumes which this structure will contain from century to century, this remnant of the immortal spirit."

In addition to the Western Colleges, which are open to both sexes, the following Eastern colleges are committed to co-education: Bates College, the University of Vermont, Wesleyan University, Cornell University; while Harvard University holds examinations for women on the general plan of the local examinations, which have for several years been successfully conducted by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, and Edinburgh.

The following is a remark made by a jocular professor to his indifferent and refractory class: "Some of you will undoubtedly obtain the degree of Amazingly Smart Scholars. You perceive that I talk symbolically by INITIAL LETTERS."—*Nassau Lit.*