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EDITORIALS

One thing is asked for THE VOLANTE that has been accorded to no paper at the University hitherto, and yet it certainly is not too much to ask: that thorough self-sustaining that a great "tidal wave" of manuscripts shall flow to us, numerous as the Sibyl's scattered leaves of prophecy. The Atlantic, it is said, receives fifteen-sixteenths of the articles offered it. The Independent prefers a poor article over a big name, to a first-class production over a new name. Give us only a hundredth part of this independence, and you shall have a sheet that will be your organ, and not that of the editors. You have put your names on our subscription books in large lists. For this we are grateful. There is but one thing better that you can do, namely, give us your best thoughts in your own words. Much of every college paper is necessarily local. Three men, unless they be superficially omniscient, cannot learn everything of interest that occurs "under the shadows of these walls." We solicit something, if it but be an item from every one who wishes us success. Nothing would please us more than to become acquainted with the hand-writing of all those who imagine that handling the quill editorial is the lightest of all work. To the above are offered special inducements to write. Scattered as they are over all the world, they may hear of each other through these pages. They occupy a variety of interesting fields, and see life from all its standpoints. If they will tell us occasionally how the world is treating them we will circulate the good news. Can we promise our readers that our next number shall represent the talent of the classes all the way from '56 to '61.

It would be a trite remark to say that we are destitute of college spirit. To adopt, therefore, a different phraseology, has it ever occurred to any one that doing mothers and sisters are mistaken when they imagine that studious habits always prevail among those who are "one day to take the reins of government'? Tradition says not whether these things were always thus. Perhaps some of the alumni remember a time when the fear of ornament bored on the brows of aspiring genius. If these tires ever did exist, they are like the camp-fires of the Indians which, "Not many generations ago," etc. Are there not stories told of students who never failed, nor were tardy, nor cut a recitation? Do not our brothers and uncles tell how they compassed level and sea for weeks rather than fail on a single problem in mathematics? We used to listen to those recitals with the interest that attends the description of a lion hunt, or the adventures of the pioneers. However those things may have been one day, there is a lack of energy in every department of the University on the part of the students. It is manifest in the classroom, where few recite, with that confidence which comes of the frequent use of midnight oil. It is especially manifest in the societies, where vacant seats are too plenteously seen, and where many of the productions are merely old essays and orations re-read, and debates having but a shadow of a bearing on the questions at issue. We are allied to a medium that is either commonplace or extravagant to say that one real live, earnest, manly man in each class elevates not only the scholarship of an institution, but even the standing of each individual member. Some may take unmerit this remark, as though it called for earnestness and readiness in question. Let us say, then, that it is our deliberate conviction that there are not half a dozen men in the four college classes who take hold of their work with the consciousness that continued application pays. Point, will you to the man who unquestionably stands at the head of his class in all things, who never hesitates, is never mistaken, to whom the professor refers a difficult question as the final appeal. If there are such among us, why does one sing their praises from the bemastrap? We do not mean brilliant scholars—brilliant is oft-times like a meteor or a comet— but we mean practical, sensible, everyday workers. There is talent enough in the University to manufacture professional men that need yield to no superiors; but the best of all is he that will not sharpen his tools before using, and razors are made of tempered steel.

Is there any relation between "music and morals," and if the former has a tendency to promote the latter, we may henceforth expect to see perfect paragons of morality grow up from this University every year; and if we are disappointed in this expectation, the fault is not in any lack of musical advantages. When, after five weeks of incessant music, the "three-to-six-o'clock" Normals trilled their last trill, squeaked their last squeak, put away their instruments of torture, and withdrew to their native haunts (to the great delight of those who are by nature averse to exposing themselves to the fate of the much-celebrated "Schmer," unfortunate in his habits of early rising), then indeed it seemed as though Apollo and all the rest of the musical divinities, disgusted at our want of appreciation, had given us up to the unheeding man that hearkens to no music in himself." At this juncture, however, our Alma Mater, with true motherly instinct came to our aid. She showed herself willing to make all kinds of sacrifices to dispense with a "north wind," to get along without a new fence, and to deny
All of them, with the exception of one, adhere to the religion of their country. One is a Christian, and reads his Bible with the greatest interest. The others, he says, 'hate Bible, make fun of it, and maintain that all the American ideas as nearly as possible. The Japanese student in an eastern college who asked permission of the president to kill some rabbits was so parallel here.

A few facts about our relations with the country from which we obtained our teaching are worth our immediate consideration. In the first place, there were nothing like the interests of the Western powers. In the second, the Japanese were and remained devoted and eager to the health of their country. In conclusion, the Japanese have never known the aids of a good book. They are not absolutely the same. The Japanese are naturally more honest, and their people generally are as respectful for intelligence and humanity.

How has the United States treated them? Scarcely better than did the Catholics, three hundred years ago, when, Francois Xavier, the great Apostle of Romanism, visited them to establish in temporal and spiritual supremacy of the Pope. They came in a year ago with the words: “Your civilization is our guide. Send us officers to conduct our government as years are conducted.” The authorities at Washington sent them three men who were so corrupt that they could not direct offices. They wanted a man learned in international law, skilled in the foreign policy of the United States, who could conduct the fiscal affairs of the country, adjust foreign claims, &c. They were furnished with a dissipated and dishonorable subordinate of the Secretary of State, a man who was skilled in methods of agriculture and mining arts, and received the ignorant Captain, the laughing-stock of his native State. With thet methods of students in producing a nation, this nation, instead of increasing revenue, could take the fiscal system of Japan and modify it to promote its financial prosperity, our government officials might become more educated and instruct the citizens in the forms of government.

Muscovites were released after a trial of these men, they set aside. It is stated, as a matter of actual history, that these funds were never put to any direct use, except to purchase books, and to pay for a few lectures in the University. It is difficult to say whether there is a secret instruction in the case. The whole English language is a sad commentary on our education.

No, shall music suffer the same fate? Is a question yet to be decided. The experiment is just making itself felt. The success or failure of it will depend upon, first, whether the essential elements of Music, like the elements of Grammar and Mathematics, are not lost in a multiplication of its objects. The two things are so interrelated that the identity of person, irrespective of any “slight peculiarity in the throat,” and, secondly, whether the instruction can be made sufficiently practical and interesting to awaken any degree of enthusiasm among the students on this subject. On this second point there need be no fear so long as this department is conducted by those most skilled in the art. It was so exactly popular coming from the Professor of English presented it to his classes as a specimen of correct spelling seldom equalled by the most faithful followers of Webster and Worcester. How the business was kept up until Japan itself produced over 1,200,000,000,000 books in 1875? The Nation quotes the “History of British Commerce” as its authority for this fact.

This College Course very strangely says: “The training provided for girls, even in our common schools, largely incapacitates them for the duties and the joys of their natural cliques, and sharply defined social classes. Our educational system is an implementation. We are ready to be experimented upon. If you can succeed in beating any “size” and “tune” into us, yours may be the honor, while ours will be the grateful enjoyment.

The University of Chicago has the honor of importing “the Western idea” to four intelligent and observant natives of the great empire of the East. The press of the city has heralded to the world that almost every class of Japanese society is now under the influence of the Western system. It has concluded to remain with us in the main through the influence of Mr. Cartwright, Jr., of the Associated Press. It is a brother of the ex-Treasurer, his private secretary, and two other men the office of the带有 the adjective “Western” in its name. They are it not only unpleasant, but quite impolite, considering the difference between their present and their former government relations, to be at all equivocal in the subject. On other topics they converse as freely as their imperfect understanding of our language admits. Everything is new to them. Our government, our customs, our wettish, our mode of teaching, our habits of thought—everything is peculiar. They came, they say, to learn “the Western idea,” and by this they mean whatever contrasts with their own land. Each has an English form to cultivate the acquisition of the language. Among themselves they are jolly and talkative, and evidently appreciate fun as well as the rest of us. By their attention and interest when conversed with, and by the grace with which they bow to all that salute them in the halls, they show an unfailing respect for persons of whatever rank.

They may find it difficult to meet with us in the class-room, it is not probable that they would be willing to do it. C line, that they had been forbidden to show their pride that they could not endure intimate association with unfulfilled citizens of a republic. Still they respect our professors as having the royal rights of scholars.

Much time was expended, when they first came, in teaching them the fundamental principles of arithmetic, such as addition and subtraction. Some of their teachers were disposed to omit this and take up the task in despair. That period the question of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division were reduced to the task of three, the number being three times the value of the 1. If it is mutually agreed to exchange gold for gold, and silver for silver, by weight. Here was the Yankee’s opportunity. Carrying $1,000, say, to Yedo, it was exchanged for its weight in kokons. These kokons, next day in the market, of course bought three times their weight in ichiu. This was taken to China as quickly as possible, and put into gold, bringing $2500. Back again to Yedo, $3000 instead of $1,000, and so the business was kept up until Japan itself should be a nation, and not only a nation, of books.
LITERARY.

MY FRESHMAN RIDE.

I, who have written much in prose and verse, (For reference, see "Aurora Leigh," first line), who might have written some prose, but barely verse, (This sentiment I claim as wholly mine), now write this poem. I am not well known, and want my sisters and my fellowsmen, Talk back, and drown my words with idle talk, Ye laughing maidens of St. Xavier! Take heed, as well, ye gentle girls, Ye share the laws within these limits confided.

This is the first of a series of articles to be contributed by our alumni, during the present year. We hope by this arrangement to accomplish two objects; sat, to add to the value of the Volante in a literal point of view; ad, to bring the alumni of our University and the un

Refresh your memories, and see whether you can reach back to the first equinoctial epidemic. Somebody has dug up a copy of the first edition of Virgil, in which there is an engraving representing men dragging a load of hay, while all around are the sick, dying and dead horses—things, in fact, looking much the same today. But, blame your Jones, O ye blithely-equational, or we may hear of the disease not only in Virgil, but also in Livy, Homer, Tuck

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dignity of their situation, and employ themselves with all conscientiousness and energy for the perfection of a work further on; they regard their work as the object of their constraint, and their joys and pleasures consist in the duration of time as their active activity. I believe that the joyful period of youth should have its counterpart in the grandeur and durée of old age, that, in the portion of college life that the richest that abounds in this to make a serious mistake fruitful of evil results. The mistake is enhanced frequently by the lessening of the already annihilated and in their recollection dwelling chiefly upon the tricks, the games, the suppers,—anything but the toil that fitted them comforta-

ble and successfully to do the work that was waiting for them. It may be that as workers they had afterwards proved failures, but in the midst of their constant chagrin they turned to those free and easy years of college life as the years of happiness, when they thought little of responsibility, and severed the college from the struggle of life. My thought is that these periods are not the wrong men love the second, the comfort and success of the second is measured by the conscientiousness and diligence that characterizes the first. It is a plain, almost unnecessary suggestion, one would think, and especially a suggestion that would not need emphasis, but if it is not timely why do so many of our college men appear like strangers landed in a new city when first they are through their studies? Why, as time rolls on, do they seem to adopt themselves with such glee to the work that is press-

ing? It is not enough that a man has a diploma; he has gone through a course of study, and has safely, by hook or crook, passed the perils of quantitative examination. He has grasped, whether not, the man love to seer; he sees the situation, and needed not to be crowded.

It is a lamentable sight to see a young man, like an over-

laden pack horse, crowding two years into one, abridging his exercise, shutting himself off from reflection, coming to the surface only for excitation, and taking a full bottle only when his last examination is over. What has he learned in this galloping through his books? How much of his old health has he preserved? But the mind is good if he is in the face of a practical, living question. Very, he has lived too long at high pressure to think at times calmly in their relations. He has learned his tasks too much as you receive a crowd of strangers,—to forget them, and not to know them and use them at critical times when their friendship is sorely needed.

For most of us to do a thing well we need all the time we can get, and all possible preparation. When we come upon the bound of senior year, the mind is almost skepti-

cal when you tell them they will be men sometime; and youth that have been boys long enough are frequently so insensibly to enjoy the position of training to real conflict, or are so indifferent to success that up to the hour of their engagements they court disaster.

There is an amazing way exists in many a student's mind, viz.: a disposition to hurry, with a touch of worry in their haste. It is manifested in men of very different tempers from some of whom I have already spoken. There are serious, eager spiers, spoiling for the fray, fairly

Thorough men, conscious of resources, are the want of the world. The only apologia for youth in the serious work of life is that which is formed by unusual mastery of opportunity. The man who has impressed time into his service, and shun-

ned the future till he could master it will witness the defeat of a thousand men who have yielded to the pressure and allowed time to drive them instead. The one makes a steady, star-

like progress; the other is small, swift, meteoric.

The boys in the senior class of eighteen and twenty years may indulge in some jokes over the antiquity of the seniority of thirty or thirty-five years of age, but when they come to meas-

ure with him at metaphysics or moral philosophy the laugh is at the expense of the stripping, and the laugh is after-

wards continued, as the patient, contemplative man finds him-

self at home, while his younger and more superficial brother seems lost and in confusion. My younger brothers, I have two words of caution, that I address to you all: 'The world is waiting for you anxiously. It needs well furnished men. 2d. Do not damage your cause and ours by holding the breach a little longer, that you may be able to hold it when you come."

COMMUNICATED.

AN ASTRONOMICAL EXPEDITION.

BY PROFESSOR TRUMAN H. SAFFORD.

Before the term opened I received instructions to depart Westward to find the longitudes of Fort Hayes and Denver. The operation is a tolerably simple one, if you only know how to set about it. You have to set up a portable observatory, install the instrument, find the exact time, then telegraph your time to some other station whose longitude is known, and have the observer there compare it with your time and determine the difference of time for the place. Such will be the method of operation, it may not be a large number, Messrs. Fisher and Hayne of 74º and myself. Arrived at Fort Lewesden, we found a small observatory on the military reservation, charge of Lieut. Rudher. The Knight Instrument was shipped to us. It is a portable astronomical and telegraphic, to carry with us. After a week's work in arranging preliminaries we, Mr. Hayne and I, started, September 12th, for the Kansas Pacific railroad, on the evening of September 12th.

We arrived at Hays City, Kansas, the next afternoon, loaded with apparatus and many packages, for which we had fought luggage-masters all along the road, and set ourselves to getting in position.

Hays City is a little sweet border town; one side of it is

lined with whisky shops; the other side is devoted to more peaceful occupations. It is emphatically a Gregory place, according to the principles so well expressed by Mr. Greely himself; the cemetery is thrifty, thirty-four out of the thirty-

five of its inhabitants having died in its bosom. A few weeks before a majefacteur was shot in the jail by some one that feared otherwise he would not get his desert, and his friends promptly burned both court house and jail. The verdict which a coroner's jury brought in, in a case of murder committed by unlawful death of a man that was in the business, and habitually collected horses with a lariet; one day he left his lariet hanging to the timbers of a midway bridge, and the horses, driven by curiously rode into it, and was found suspended by the neck.

We spent a night at the Gibson House—a very good hotel for the little business we had and remained with— in Hays City. It is true I was awakened by the pleasant note of the pistol, but it was not the same shot which desperately wounded a soldier, on the same night.

The next day we visited the Fort, and got our tents in order. We encamped near the railroad track, at a settlement called Rome, consisting of one house. The Romans are three in number, and live by buffalo-hunting. Rome is on Big Creek, a very small stream just now, and is not in a good country for agriculture. Grass grows well, in a brown, stunted way; but grazing must always be the main reliance of Central and Western Kansas.

At the Fort we made acquaintances: Col. Floyd-Jones, of the 61st infantry and his officers were very kind to help us, and the quarter-master had already put up a stone post to rest our instruments upon; over this one of our tents was pitched. A guard of soldiers was set, so that we could leave the instruments in security. The principal instrument was a portable transit, something like the meridian circle of the Ob-

servatory, though much smaller. It was set up every evening, and taken down after work was done. A telegraph-repairer was on hand to make a loop in the line and put up our tele-

graph office, and every night came an operator from Hays and three men from the railroad company to take care of him, do the talking for us.

We as usual had the instruments up, and observations made, we sent word to Lewesden; they were ready for us, and the signaling began, after some preliminary talking. The station was at a telegraph key, which was tapped every five seconds by his chronometer, for half a minute, then waited half a minute, and again began. After he had had enough of this, the observer at the other end began in the same way; and each time, the observer who was not tapping, was listening and noting the time when the signal reached him.

The electricity is so short a time coming that the difference of the two chronometers, after their error on true time has been allowed, will be the real difference of time; or, what is the same thing, of longitude.

After three weeks at Hays City we got orders to go to Fort Hays. We left the dry, arid air of the plains, and the friends we had made, were more than compensation for the annoyances—more talked of than felt—of winter life. We had some good lodging, our mess-officers—civilians—clerks, with one officer—good company; and our host and bosom kind and obliging. We left behind us the comfortable climate of a wild country; and, as we expected, the open air and exer-

cise were good for our health.
THE VOLANT.

Denver was reached October 31st in the early morning; we soon hunted up the observatory-post, near the depot of the Rio Grande, railway, for surveying the city of Denver, but met only to Pueblo, in Colorado. The day was spent in finding the telegraph office and an operator, in securing the time arrangements for work; and the evening we saw as well along with the longitudinal of Denver. As soon as time allowed I took a walk towards the bluffs, where all Rocky Mountain scenery is best seen, and enjoyed the view of Long's and Evans's and Pike's Peak, soon clad in their mantles of snow.

Denver is a lively city about as large as Arenzo; it is built along the South Platte, rises gradually from the river and is growing very rapidly. The inhabitants are not always sour of their titles, and sometimes "jump" a claim. I was told that too much gambling goes on there; and I am inclined to think the town is no worse or better than similar towns here. I met all the railroad officials there; the railroad officials, to whom I was first recommended—as connected in business with the army—gave all facilities; and here and there an old friend or acquaintance appeared. One gentleman knew me when we were both the smallest kind of primary scholars in Vermont; another was a fellow-churchman, formerly of Illinois; and, because of the nature of our object, and the interest our friends took in us, we were made to feel much at home.

One day I went out to Golden City to see my brother—for- merly a student in the theological seminary here—and was introduced by him to the father of our well-remembered and well-loved dear little girl, whose early death was so sincerely regretted (for their own sakes, not his) by all his friends. Golden is just within the foothills, and aims at being a great center of railroad property. The Colorado Central runs for 8 miles from Denver by a standard-gauge road; there passengers change to a narrow-gauge train, drawn by the infant but dilapidated engine, General Sheridan, and runs on or off the track, as the case may be, to Georgetown. It is made for a trip to Pike's Peak. The scenery is wonderful along this line; but time was pressing, and I remained with my brother and his family till afternoon.

After our longitude work at Denver was done, we set up other instruments and determined the latitude; this was done upon the spot. We had now finished our work, and returned, rather quietly, to Fort Leavenworth. The only event of our homeward journey of any consequence was seeing a few hundred buffalo on the plains; otherwise the one day we spent in Kansas was dull and dreary. But there was still more rejoiced when the wet valley water of the Missouri was reached. The mineral wealth of the Rocky Mountains will attract people to Colorado in such a large agricultural population; but between them is a wide belt of barren steppe, where water is and must always be very scarce, and where the present country will always be more or less nomadic. The cities and towns of the United States now begin to scarce and scarcer; and the necessity will by-and-by come upon us of making thorough culture of smaller areas take the place of the careless tillage of wider expanses.

But the West is now fairly entering upon its second stage, that of intellectual development. The contest of civilization with barbarism is still going on in the Far West; but the Mississippi Valley is now the home of as civilized a people as exists. School-houses in Kansas are vastly finer and better built than they were a few years ago; and the farmers who are now acquiring higher culture here will have a better chance to grow by and in their future work than any set of men ever had before. It is surprising to find the good society and the progressive ideas that exist in a city like Denver; and every true American can but rejoice in the beauty and the culture as well as in the freedom of its glorious Foundation.

But above all let us take courage in the opportunities we have to be useful and to promote the welfare of our fellow-men of all races and all nations; of the Orientals and the Chinese, the native American, and the European. The Orientals and the Chinese, they, too, are in a degree Americanizing; their virtues, at least, we can imitate, so far as washing and ironing are concerned, and perhaps a little in the matter of honesty. If they have been trained by the pressures of numbers and want into doing thorough and honest work, let us see if we cannot freely follow their example, and be a little less sharp at bargains and mercenary in our motives.

Different gentlemen have told me that it would be well to extend and perfect the kind of survey of Colorado which has been begun this year—that there is great need of more accurate maps of the mountain regions; and I have been impressed with the necessity that this work shall be scientifically done. On a plain direct measurement is more accurate than in the mountains; there the work becomes more complicated and delicate, and it would be a credit to America, in a scientific point of view, as well as a practical one, to the region, to make thorough work of surveys. I have mentioned the survey as being done under the direction of the Survey of the United States, and for the purpose of making thorough surveys of those counties.

With whatever he did, he did with all his might. Ever modest of himself, he concealed all the ways of his mind, and turned his eyes, into a focus upon the object in hand, worked like a house, and did nothing by halves. Hence with him there was no what you like of the world. All his life he had his wits about him so intensely directed to the point he was on, it is said, never seemed to him how to do the thing no one had seen, or had heard of it; and even the difficulty. His lightning had struck, and done its work; before they had even dreamed of doing it, let alone of doing it with success.

Is it strange that a man went straight from college into the Army, and in two years to the Privy Council of Great Britain,—reigned for nearly a quarter of a century, virtual king,—and carried his measures in spite of the opposition of the great and the learned of England ever produced? The simple secret of his success was, that his whole soul was set right on his work and his work for that one thing; as a man whose whole heart is in a love never deep and tender, because it ran counter to his ambition; too, that his work was so right, that he did not make the pains to transmit to posterity a single one of his speeches; but preserved, as a public scholar and literateur, his books and letters and working terribly for the edifice of their mind the governing power of the nation.

BOOKS

We insert, by permission, the following extract from the advance sheets of a new book entitled "Getting on in the World, or How to Succeed in Life," by Wm. Mathews, L.L.D., the publisher of "The New York Sun," University. This book will be published about Dec. 1st, and a more extended notice of it will appear in our next number.

FRAY, E. H., '71, is studying at Hahnemann Medical College.

R. C. COLTON, formerly of '72, and recently manager of the Cleveland Public School Publishing House is now studying law at Ann Arbor.

HAUNER, '73, is at Hamilton. Eddie assisted his father in surveying some southern railway last summer. It is rumored that he has found his "affinity" in a right southern city.

ADAM, C. C., '74, is hoeing with the girls at Cornell.

ROGERS, G. M., '75, is at Yale.

HORNER, B. E., '76, is at Union, Hamilton, Ill. Rev. is a man of good sense. He appreciates The Volant, and pays for it.

The entertainment given by the joint societies in the chapel on the evening of November first was in every respect an enjoyable affair. To begin with, the audience was good, the house being full. The members were there with their friends special, and their friends ordinary. The music was good and highly appreciated, so far as I could judge. On the whole the entertainment was excellent. I think that the entertainment will be as well as the last year. I think it was as well as the last year. I think it was as well as the last year.

Alumni Office.

At HOME.

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THE VOLANTE.

ABROAD.

We learn from The Chicago Tribune that our friends at Beloit College had a slight unpleasantness with their faculty recently, on the theory that the latter body claimed a right to examine the proof-sheets of the Annual Register, published by the students, and to exclude from said Register anything which might not accord with the rigid ideas of propriety entertain by our puritanical forefathers. We also learn that the students, after a brave protest, were obliged to yield to the pressure and surrender. It is rumored that the Beloit faculty will soon assume the right to examine the letters which the boys may write, so that nothing objectionable shall go out from their minds.

The Chicago H. Powers, D. D., pastor of the Centenary M. E. Church, in this city, has been elected President of the Northwestern University, at Evanston, in place of Dr. Haven, resigned. Dr. Powers has been successively beyond ordinary men, and will carry to his new field the energy of youth and the experience of older men.

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