

The Spectrum.

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No. 3.

MY MOTHER.

From the French of Pierre Loti.

My mother! I have already mentioned her name two or three times in the course of these letters, but only in a cursory way. She has, from the very beginning, been for me a natural refuge, an asylum against all the terrors of the unknown, against all the black sorrows which have no definite cause. But I believe that the earliest time when her image, in a radiance of true and ineffable tenderness appeared to me quite real and lifelike, was one morning in the month of May, when she, followed by a ray of sunshine, entered my room bringing me a bouquet of pink hyacinths. I was just recovering from one of those children's diseases—measles or whooping-cough, I do not know which one. I was, in order to keep warm, compelled to remain in bed; and as I watched the rays which filtered through my closed windows, the morning splendor of the sun and the air, I found myself sad in my little white bed. I wished to get up, and go out; I wished above all, to see my mother, my mother, at any price.

The door opened, and my mother, smiling. Oh! I still see her distinctly, just as she appeared there, in the doorway coming into my room, accompanied by a ray of sunshine and a whiff of the outdoor breeze. I recall everything, the expression of her eyes meeting mine, the sound of her voice, even the details of her dear toilette, which would, today, appear so droll and so antiquated.

She had just returned from a morning walk in town. She wore a straw hat with yellow roses, and a shawl of lilac barege (it was the epoch of shawls), scattered over with little bouquets of darker violet. Her black locks—her poor, well loved locks, which have not changed their form today, but which have, alas! become thin and snow white, were at that time mixed with no thread of silver. She brought in the fragrance of sunshine and of summer air which she had taken out-doors. Her face on that morning, shrouded in her great rustic hat, is still present to my eyes in all its vividness.

With this bouquet of pink hyacinths she brought me also a little water pitcher and a little doll basin, imitated in extreme miniature after the fancy crockery which the fashionable people of the villages possess.

She leaned over to embrace me, and I no longer cared for anything else, neither to cry, nor to get up, nor to go out; she was there, and that satisfied me; I felt entirely consoled, tranquilized, changed by her beneficent presence.

I was at that time a little over three years of age, and my mother in the neighborhood of forty-two. But I had not the slightest idea of the age of my mother; the idea had not so much as occurred to me to ask if she were young or old; it was even later than this that I perceived that she was quite pretty. No! At that time, it was she, that was enough; that is to say, a figure quite unique, whom I would not dream of comparing with any other—a figure whence radiated for me joy, security, tenderness; a figure whence emanated all that was good; a figure which was the dwelling place of nascent faith and of prayer.

And I would like, for the first appearance of this blessed figure in this book of recollections, to salute her with unique words, with words made if possible, specially for her; words which of themselves would make beneficent tears flow; words which possess matchless sweetness and consolation and of pardon; words which could express that obstinate hope, which I have always, and in spite of everything, entertained for a celestial reunion without end.

Since I have touched upon this mystery and this inconsistency of my spirit, I wish to say here, in passing, that my mother is the only one in the world of whom I have not the feeling that death will separate me forever. With other human creatures whom I have adored with all my heart, with all my soul, I have ardently endeavored to imagine a hereafter, and, somewhere, an immortal future day without end—but alas! in vain. I have, on the contrary, always had the awful consciousness of an ever-

lasting annihilation—dust to dust! But for my mother I have almost kept intact my belief of former days.

It still appears to me that when I have finished playing my miserable role in this world, when I have trodden all the unbeaten paths after the impossible; when I have finished amusing the people with my cares and my anxieties, I will go to rest some place where my mother, who will have gone before, will receive me; and this smile of serene confidence which she now cherishes will have become a smile of triumphant certainty.

I confess I do not quite understand what may be the nature of this vague place which takes, in my imagination, the form of a pale gray vision; and words, however indefinite and vague they may be, still impart to these phantom conceptions a definite form.

I even (I know that what I am going to say is quite childish), I even picture to myself my mother, in that place, having preserved her earthly aspect, her dear white ringlets, and the straight lines of her beautiful profile, which the years are gradually destroying, but which I still admire.

The thought that my mother's countenance may some day disappear from my eyes forever, that her image, being nothing more than a combination of elements capable of disintegration, may forever be lost in the universal abyss—this thought, not only makes me sad at heart, but also causes me to revolt against it as impossible and monstrous. Oh! no. I have the feeling that in this face there is something peculiar which death cannot destroy. And, moreover, my love for my mother, which has been the only stable love of my life, is so free from any material tie that it, by its own force, makes me almost confident that the soul is a thing that cannot be destroyed. This love for my mother still fills me with a sort of hope which is at once inexplicable and conclusive.

I do not quite understand why this appearance of my mother by my bed-

side on that morning has affected me so, since she had been with me almost constantly. This is one of the mysteries as yet hidden from me; it was as if she had at that particular moment, been revealed to me for the first time in my life.

And why has this little water pitcher, in spite of myself, assumed among my toys, a privileged value, an importance of a relic? I have, far away, on the high seas, often, in times of danger, thought of it with tenderness, and have, with the mind's eyes, seen it in the place which it has, among other knick-knacks, occupied for years, in a little closet which is always locked; so that, if it were to disappear, I would have lost an amulette which nothing could ever replace.

And this poor lilac barege shawl which I have lately recognized among some old clothes which were worthy only of being given away to beggars—why have I caused it to be laid aside as a precious object? In its color, now faded, in its little old fashioned flowers of Indian design, I still find something like a beneficent protection and a smile. Methinks, even, that I find in it a calm, a sweet confidence, almost faith; there emanates from it a sweet recollection of my mother, mingled, perhaps, with melancholy regret for those May mornings of former days which were so much brighter than those of today.

Perhaps my friends unknown to me, who follow me from afar with their kindly sympathy, will understand me. And, moreover, those who cherish, or have cherished their mothers, will, I am quite sure, not smile at the childish prattlings which I have just uttered. But, for those to whom such a love is stranger, these lines will certainly seem quite ridiculous. Such may shrug their shoulders. They cannot imagine with what disdain I look down upon them.

Serena B. Ash.

THE UNITED STATES MINT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The process of minting, or making money from the various metals, is one about which the general public do not seem to have very clear ideas. Anyone who is fortunate enough to visit one of the United States mints, and have the methods of work explained to him, as it is to all visitors, can feel that there is a great deal to be learned about the matter, if only a reasonable

attention be given to the explanation of the work in the different departments, as given by the officials, who escort visitors through the building.

The United States mint in San Francisco is said to be the largest in the world, and to have the greatest capacity of all mints, gold and silver coins being the only ones minted there. Visitors to this mint are allowed to pass

through the building between the hours of 9 and 11 a. m. on every working day, and any one may go through the building with the least possible formality. No questions are asked in regard to the motive of the visit, or on any other subject.

On entering the building, visitors are ushered into a large room, where each one is required to register his name and address. In this room there is a collection of ancient and modern coins, dating from 500 B. C. to the present time, and these may be examined while waiting for a party of from ten to twenty persons to assemble. As soon as the party has assembled, it is escorted through the building by a guide, who, as they pass through the various rooms, explains the work in detail, from the time the crude metal, as purified at the mine, is received, until it is turned out as currency.

The party first passes through the basement, where are situated large vaults, in which are stored about 53,000,000 silver dollars, which are held as a reserve fund for the redemption of silver currency. This money is stored in sacks of \$1,000 each, and the vaults are rarely opened, except when a retiring secretary of the treasury turns the keys of office over to his successor, the vaults being then opened for verification of the amounts stored therein.

Passing through the boiler room, the "sweep cellar" is the next place of interest, but visitors can see the work in this room only through closed windows. The sweepings of the entire building are carefully taken up and stored in barrels, and when a sufficient number has been collected, these barrels are taken to this cellar, where the sweepings are subjected to a process for the extraction of gold dust, as filings, etc. About \$5,000 is annually derived from this source, while from the carpet in the adjusting room from \$2,000 to \$2,500 are annually taken.

The melting room is the point of interest. Here the gold is melted and cast into bricks and later into ingots. Deposits of gold varying in value from \$50 to \$1,000,000 are received and melted in this room. After the gold has been transferred into bricks, a small sample is taken from each end of one of the bricks, and sent to the assaying room, where, from these samples, the exact value of the deposit is calculated; and the depositor receives the value in money, while the bricks await their turn in being cast into ingots.

When the bricks are melted to be cast into ingots, they are subjected to

a heat of 2,000°, and while the metal is in liquid form it is poured into the ingot moulds, in which it is allowed to cool, the ingots being then about ten inches long, two inches wide, and one inch in thickness. The average value of a gold ingot is about \$1,500; that of a silver ingot, from \$50 to \$60.

In the coinage department the ingots are rolled, under a pressure of two hundred tons, until they are the exact thickness of the coins into which they are to be made. This rolling increases their length to an average of about five feet.

Passing from the coinage department to the annealing room visitors go through the engine room, in which a 150 horse-power engine, which supplies power for the entire building, is running so smoothly that scarcely a sound is to be heard. The engine has been running steadily for twenty-four years, and the workmen refer to it as "Little Beauty."

In the annealing room the strips of metal, after rolling, are subjected to a gentle heat for thirty minutes, and are then cleaned with grease, beeswax and sawdust. In the cutting room the coins are cut from the strips of metal. One coin is first cut from the end of the strip and tested in order to find if it is the correct weight. If found exact, the strip is passed through the cutting machine, which cuts the coin from the strip at the rate of one hundred and thirty-two per minute. The part of the strip remaining, together with rejected strips, is sent back to the melting room, there to be once more converted into ingots. The blank coins are once more subjected to a cleaning process, and are then sent to the stamping department, where are a number of stamping presses, having adjustable dies, for coins varying in value from ten cents to twenty dollars. Each press will stamp the coins at the rate of one hundred per minute.

There are but three working rooms through which visitors are not allowed to pass, these three being the adjusting, refining and assaying rooms. In the adjusting room a number of girls are at work weighing the coins and filing them to an exact weight, and visitors are not allowed in the room because filings would necessarily be carried away on their shoes, and the attention of the girls would be taken from their work. In the refining room the coins, after stamping, receive their final cleansing with strong acids, the fumes of which are so strong that the workmen are compelled to wear sponges

over their mouths, noses and ears; for this reason it would be impossible for visitors to breathe in the room. Visitors are not allowed in the assaying room, as their continual entrance and

exit, by allowing dust to enter, would seriously interfere with the mechanism of the delicately adjusted balances in use there.
J. M.

AMERICANS AS HERO-WORSHIPPERS.

The American people as a whole are not very successful as hero-worshippers. They are intensely patriotic, when their feelings are aroused, they are extremely proud of their country and of her great men; yet the national hero is not, in some cases, a person to be envied.

The American youth is brought up on the doctrine of the equality of man, and he believes in it with all his heart. He has been brought up to think and act for himself, and he feels that he has the ability and the right to pass judgment on the actions and lives of his fellow men, great and small. So it is not strange that the heroes of our late war have, as it would seem, been somewhat severely criticised.

Take for instance the young hero of the Merrimac, Lieutenant Richmond Pearson Hobson. After his daring exploit at Santiago Harbor he was the most talked of man in the realm. And his popularity steadily grew as he further proved himself worthy of admiration. But on his return to the United States he kissed himself out of the hearts of his fellow men to two days' time. And now when the name of Hobson is mentioned one thinks, not of the great service he rendered his country, but of the immense amount of kissing he did.

But is it right to forget all we owe to Hobson simply because he showed himself lacking in judgment in such an unimportant matter?

Does that make his service any the less praiseworthy? And if, as has been said, he kissed everything that came along, from the school girl yet in her teens to the sour old maid with moss on her lip, why could not this be taken as an additional proof of bravery and endurance?

From the time of the battle of Manila Bay until a week or so ago, Admiral George Dewey was the idol of the American people. His home-coming was a time of general rejoicing. New York fairly out-did herself in preparing

a welcome for the admiral, and his trip to Washington was a continual ovation. He was offered the highest honor in the power of the nation to give, the nomination for presidency of the United States. A grand triumphal arch was built in his honor, a magnificent home in Washington was given him, and countless thousands of babies were named after him (as were also numerous late discoveries in the patent medicine line), and the Argus started a Dewey watch fund.

But of late there has been a change. Many contributors to the Dewey home fund have been so deplorably lacking in good taste as to demand the return of their contributions. The Dewey arch has been renamed the Arch of the Navy and the admiral's likeness has been hissed in one of the theatres of Washington.

Probably the first revulsion of feeling against the admiral was caused by his sudden and unexpected marriage. This feeling was intensified by his giving to his wife the home in Washington which had been presented to him. But surely a man may marry when and whom he pleases and may have the right to manage his own property as he chooses!

But it may not be the fault of the people that some of our war heroes are being consigned to oblivion, while others are being made disagreeably prominent by the sensational stories circulated in our newspapers. We are pre-eminently a just people. We believe in giving every man his due. But no matter how great a man may be in one respect, if he be weak in another, we reserve the right to criticise him when, in our judgment, he deserves criticism. We lack that blind, unreasoning faith in the infallibility of greatness which makes the true hero-worshiper. We judge all men by the same standard and give to each one the full measure of merit that falls his due.

A poll of the classes shows that almost every student now enrolled will return after the holidays.

A colored scorcher in Chicago recently placed the mile bicycle record at 1:19.

MECHANICAL NOTES.

The L. S. & M. S. railway has established a record for speed. Recently one of their engines made a run of five miles in three minutes, or at the rate of 100 miles an hour.

P. C. Gorder, with '00, paid us a visit last week. He was on his way from Oakes, his former home, to Devils Lake, where he and his father will open a large machine shop.

The smoke-stack for the new compound engine has been erected and the blower will soon be connected with the forges, thus making it possible, from now on, to accommodate a large number of students, both in engineering and shop practice.

Messrs. Heath and Olsen are drawing plans for the proposed addition to the drill hall. It will be for the benefit of the gymnasium principally, and will provide for shower baths, dressing rooms and lockers. We hope their plan may soon become a reality.

Professor F. V. Warren, who has been with us since September, left November 29 for Philadelphia to assume the duties of superintendent of construction for a large contracting firm. Although Mr. Warren was here but a short time, he won the confidence and esteem of every one with whom he was associated, and we are very sorry to have him leave.

Mr. P. S. Rose, who takes the place left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Warren, arrived November 30. Mr. Rose is a graduate from the Michigan Agricultural College, and has had large experience in various lines of school work. He has also had practical experience in the shop and designing departments of large manufacturing firms, leaving the Bickford Tool

Company to accept this place. Mrs. Rose will probably remain in the East until spring.

The coal industry of North Dakota has been creating considerable interest of late, owing to a discovery by means of which the vast veins of lignite coal underlying large portions of North Dakota may be converted into a fuel said to be equal to the best eastern coal. The process is a crushing of the lignite, removal of the sulphur and other elements aside from carbon, and the pressure of the residue into blocks about the size of the ordinary anthracite product. The cost of preparing the fuel is so reasonable that it can be put upon the market at a price far below that demanded for eastern coal. If this process proves a success North Dakota lignite fields will be the source of supply for western fuel, and perhaps in the future encourage manufacturing industries.

This is an age of invention, and nearly every day there are improvements and inventions being made in different lines. Our state is raising large quantities of flax every year and not many years ago the straw from this product always went to waste. Now we make use of the fibre to some extent, but as yet there has been no step made towards making use of the woody part. If some machine could be invented by means of which this woody mass could be ground up and pressed in pieces of convenient size for the many different purposes it would make a great source of fuel in the Northwest. It makes a very clean fire, and has great heating qualities. Wake up, ye mechanical geniuses of the N. D. A. C., make a fortune for yourselves and do something that will be of value to your fellow men.

EXCHANGES.

The Student comes to us a month late. While there are a few worthy articles found on its front pages one cannot but feel as he turns the leaves that shortly after starting in the editor ran short of matter and to fill up space seized on the first things he came across, the registrar's list, a page "ad" for the paper, and a number of other things that are easily thought of and just as easily forgotten.

The Industrial Collegian of Brookings, S. Dakota, comes to us in an attractive form, but we suggest that they devote more time to the literary and exchange departments. A college paper appearing month by month should contain at least one article that is as good as the institution can afford. The editor of the paper is of the same opinion as ourselves in regard to the introduction of shorthand into the schools.

Develop a faculty for work, but don't try to work the faculty.—Ex.

Thirty thousand people saw the Yale-Harvard foot-ball game.

Governor Roosevelt is winning new glory by the stand he has taken regarding prize fights in New York.

The late Dr. Horatio Bryant leaves an estate of \$40,000 to be divided between Tabor College, Iowa, and Talladega College, Alabama.

He asked a miss what was a kiss, grammatically defined. "It's a conjunction, sir," she said, "and hence can't be declined."—Ex. Note—None of our girls decline.

Among our exchanges this month we name the Yankton Student, The Volante, The College Exponent, and The Eastener as worthy of special mention for the quality of matter they contain.

On Hallowe'en several students at Madison, Wisconsin, entered the laundry in the ladies' hall and carried away several articles. As a result ten or fifteen of the young men have been indefinitely suspended.

Bull fighting is a brutal sport and we have suppressed it in Cuba, presumably in the interests of civilization. Meanwhile, we promote and encourage prize fighting in New York. Consistency is not an American jewel.—Ex.

Mr. A. K. Ware, Northfield, Minnesota, has offered a prize of \$50 to be contested for each winter by the senior classes from Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges. The subjects treated are to be of current interest and the contest purely oratorical.

The Carletonia comes to us well written and interesting. The story, Richard Elliot, is good, but a trifle long for the rest of the paper. It is a trifle over-loaded with "athletics," a fault quite excusable in this period of gridiron warfare.

It is true that this is a period of athletic activity, still this is not the only theme that is occupying the attention of the world and should not be the only thing to occupy the minds of college students or to furnish all the material with which to fill a college paper. The Aggie Life seems to have been edited on a foot-ball field, for it is almost

wholly made up of team line ups, touch-downs, tackles, end runs, etc. We know from past acquaintance with this journal that it is worthy of good things, and after its fevered brow has been allowed to cool at the close of foot-ball season we will look for more of its old-time work.

One who is supposed to know says that although Edwin Markham is a poet of high order, he is a failure as a lecturer. Markham has taken residence in New York City and is completing an epic upon which he has been working for ten years.

The exchange department of a college paper is one of its most valuable parts. Through it the students of our educational institutions come in contact with students from other colleges, obtain new ideas, and develop a spirit of friendly rivalry which brings forth much good and in all tends to help along a common cause, i. e., give the best in an education.

The Minneapolis Journal publishes some very funny "ads," e. g., "Wanted—A boy to deliver oysters that can ride a wheel." It does not say what wheel the oyster rides. Here is another—"A furnished room for rent by a lady 10x14, steam heat and gas; call Sunday."

The November Cosmopolitan contains another article on Modern Education, this time by President Hadley of Yale. President Hadley seems partial to the theory that Latin is the backbone of all true education. The Cosmopolitan has printed some interesting papers on this subject, written by leading educators, and now offers \$3,000, to be divided among the leading universities of this country, for the best papers, by students, upon the question.

The students of Yale university in mass meeting Nov. 14 considered the plan of consolidating the management of the affairs of the several university athletic associations under the direction of the governing board with a graduate treasurer as executive, and without a dissenting voice ratified the plan and expressed the belief that a better concentration of efforts and more effective supervision of athletics would be secured. It was announced that the alumni of Yale resident in New York have subscribed more than \$8,000 to liquidate the debt on Yale field.

ATHLETICS.

The ladies have organized a basket-ball team and are practicing daily.

The Carlisle Indians, of foot-ball fame, are students in a government manual training school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

The association is about to purchase basket-ball suits for the second team, so that all the players may be equipped for good work.

It is just as important in a student's training that he undertake athletic work with a strong will and a desire for success and superiority, as it is in undertaking or training for any other line of work. It is simply a waste of time and energy to take up any line of athletic work other than upon a systematic and a regular basis.

The basket-ball league which formerly existed through the Y. M. C. A., Fargo College and our college, will be reorganized for the coming season, and a series of games will be played, in which the first and second teams of each institution will participate for the championship of the season of '99-'00. The first teams play for the league banner and the second teams for a silver cup. The Y's now hold the banner and also the cup. Last year these games proved a very popular amusement to the people of Fargo. To those interested in athletic sports there is not a more pleasing indoor game for the winter months.

THE FOOTBALL OF 1900 AS SEEN FROM
THE RESULTS OF '99.

Western foot-ball will be of a very high grade of skill and physical strength in 1900. This year the better western teams have broken even with those of the East. The winning teams West and East have in all cases been exponents of a high degree of physical training. Though superiority in weight has in no case alone won a first grade game, no team possessing a player of inferior or small frame of body has won. Football players of superior merit seem invariably to be men of stalky, weighty, but angular build. Speed can not be sacrificed to weight; and it is equally true that strength and endurance cannot be sacrificed in order to get fleetness. No meritorious game has been won this season without good kicking. Indeed, I think it may be said with a surety that no team can be

constructed for next season which shall be able to win in a good college association or circuit, which does not possess good punting ability; and the reasonably sure drop kick man will hardly ever fail to score if his line is in any way worthy of him.

Not even the great O'Dea has been able to hold his physical form for an entire season, as was evidenced in the Minnesota game, where his superior ends alone saved his work from defeat by a very inferior opponent, a U. of M. substitute, yet, time and again in the game, even in such poor form that he missed goals that a novice could easily accomplish, his punting saved Wisconsin from defeat. Finally it may be said that the kicking game persisted in made it possible for his side to win. By line rushing Wisconsin could not have greatly endangered the U. of M. goal. Thus, for a seasons work, a team must have more than one good kicker, and such a man is next to useless if he cannot handle punted balls. This O'Dea almost failed at the Minneapolis game, fumbling about two out of three possible catches. His game at this stage was only saved to him through his fine support.

The ends must be fleet of foot to follow the punts and hard as iron to stand the hard open field tackling. Minnesota lost to Wisconsin on her disabled ends alone. They could not stand the physical punishment administered them in the last twenty minutes of the game, so that their full-back had to give up punting, and hence the work which had previously defended their goal. A line which holds "like a stone wall" is already out of date. It must charge as a mass and individually, whether on defense or offense, but with purpose. Attempts at blocking kicks must, like kicking, be done by not to exceed two or three specialists. The other men are needed too badly at other points in the field; for in a reasonably good game there will be few blocked kicks.

A good offensive line can be built of comparatively green men, but it must have active backs behind it. In the football of the future, nervous energy to push to speed will be at a premium. Alertness of thought, and brains to appreciate the necessity of action in unison will decide future games.

H. L. B.

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It seems that the suggestion in the November SPECTRUM for introducing a business course is to become a fact. Arrangements have been made by which a practical business course, consisting of stenography, book-keeping, and commercial arithmetic will be inaugurated at the beginning of the winter term, so that the boys may be as well versed in business methods as along technical lines.

Once more winter is here, and we abandon our outdoor sports and labors

for indoor work and amusements. It is a change from a period of health-giving exercises to one of what should be intellectual and social culture. It is a time when we should make up with our minds what we have lost during the summer in strengthening our bodies. Numerous social and literary events occur and we should see that we make most of this time to improve ourselves in those accomplishments which distinguish the true lady and gentleman.

It is encouraging to note the interest that is manifested by those who are preparing to take part in the coming oratorical and declamation contests. Never before in the history of the institution has there been such a number preparing to compete for the prizes. Indications are that both literary societies will hold preliminaries to select representatives for the declamation contest, and it will also be necessary to have a preliminary contest to choose the competitors for the state meet in March. This is a condition that should exist. It takes competition to bring forth the best efforts, and from a large number of enthusiastic workers surely creditable efforts will result and merit will win.

It is well to remember that there are others occupying space in this great world as well as yourself, and by keeping this fact in mind it might add greatly to the pleasure and comfort of those around you. When one enters a room in which exercises are being conducted and tramps down the aisle as if he were treading in a load of hay or had a half ton weight on his head, it shows that he is either lacking in that very valuable commodity, thoughtfulness, or has very little respect for the person conducting the exercise. Just remember you are not in the barn or the machine shop when you are attending a public exercise. If you are not interested in the speaker or his theme, do not show your lack of breeding by creating such a disturbance that those near you cannot enjoy the part. Be considerate of others, it will cost you nothing and it will add much to the good opinion others have of you.

The Rev. S. G. Smith of St. Paul, has brought himself before the public by stating that the world would be better off if all the women were turned out of their jobs to-morrow. In this

statement, he excepts school teachers and a few other classes. His statement is by no means without facts to confirm it. We have, however, no license to accept his argument as wholly true, yet we believe that the moral and intellectual condition of the world would be greatly benefited if the great influence of women in general were directed in a different path from that followed in this country for the past ten years. We do not doubt their ability to fill successfully almost any position held by man, but implanted instinctively in every heart and in woman herself there is an almost unexplainable reason why she should not vie with man for every position he holds. Woman should be man's helper in everything, and not his competitor, and in following out her praiseworthy idea of being self-supporting she should take heed lest she become more dependent than before, and lose those womanly characteristics which should be the admiration of the world.

There has been, perhaps, no question in politics within the last decade that has so occupied the attention of the American people as the case of Brigham H. Roberts, congressman-elect from Utah. The result has been in accordance with the wish of the great majority and according to the laws of the country is probably justifiable. But that is not the question upon which the public has passed judgment. It is in a great measure what Roberts has said, "a religious issue." The people as a whole have not judged him merely as a law breaker, but their judgment has been passed on a polygamist, an immoral man. Now, without taking the side of Roberts or advocating polygamy, we doubt if he were judged by an unbiased public whether we could, from our Supreme Code of Morals, label him guilty of immorality—in fact we do not believe it possible. We do, however, believe he is violating the laws of the land as they now exist, yet it is doubtful whether in his case the judgment is really merited. So far as Roberts is concerned it is an *ex post facto* law. The question is how shall we deal justly with him and retain the honor of the country?

Our athletics are now becoming what they should be—The association which controls them now being properly organized and the various departments systematically arranged. It

might be said that heretofore it has been in the embryo stage, but now it has reached that period where life and energy is beginning to assert itself. As we now stand we have a good gymnasium with the most essential apparatus, such as dumb-bells, Indian clubs, parallel bars, mats, rings, etc., necessary for the systematic development of the body. Arrangements are now being made by which shower baths, dressing rooms and the like will also be added to make it the most complete institution of its kind in the country. With all these mechanisms and arrangements for the full development of the body, for the training of the hand, the eye and the brain to work accurately and quickly together, a student can ill afford to neglect such opportunities. With good, earnest work, with careful management and a thorough understanding of what athletics mean in the broadest sense, there is no reason why our athletic association should not play a prominent part in the development, physically and mentally, of the future great men of the state.

Indications are that a large number of young ladies will take advantage of the course in cooking and sewing during the winter term, and since arrangements have been made to offer exceptional opportunities in music, many more will come to the metropolis to study with thorough teachers and to enjoy the privilege of hearing much in a musical way that they could not hope to get in a small town. While we are giving an attractive course to the farm boy, we are giving an equally attractive course to the farm girl. Life on a farm need not be all drudgery. The town girl, too, will find here facilities for domestic science, music, and language not equalled in this state. The A. C. gives to the young people a practical education, one that can be applied immediately to the affairs of every-day life and at the same time adds enough of culture to make the whole attractive and pleasant.

Another term is almost over, and as we lay the old books aside to pick up the new, we can not help but make a mental review of the work of the term just ending and see how much more we now know than when we commenced. Have we made the best use of our time by adding to the stock of knowledge that will help us later on? If it is not quite satisfactory, now is the time to resolve that it will be entirely so, next term.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

Exams.

Orations.

Basket ball.

Declamations.

John furnished the guests with "red pop" Friday, Dec. 1.

It is said that the Mandolin Club refuses to play behind a screen.

At chapel, on Dec. 6, Mr. Mills gave a review of the troubles in South Africa.

Ed Andrews, one of our soldier students, will be back with us next term.

In chapel, Nov. 28, Professor Bolley gave an instructive talk to the young ladies.

Professor H. L. Bolley will give a talk on evolution Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Unitarian Church.

Professor McArdle gave a party to the Collegians Nov. 29. All seemed to enjoy themselves.

The foot-ball season is followed by severe reviews in the various studies preparatory to examinations.

The winning second team on their return from Valley City were given a banquet at President Worst's.

Wonderful discovery in science by one of our Sophomores. He writes that the thorax is part of the stomach.

Students, remember that you must join the Athletic Association before you are allowed to use the apparatus.

Part of the college Mandolin Club assisted Professor Brosche in his musicale at the Unitarian Church Thursday evening, Dec. 14.

Professor—What can you say of equal volumes of gases. Sophie—Equal volumes of gases occupy the same amount of space.

At the request of Secretary Wilson, the agricultural department has prepared and forwarded to Washington for the Paris Exposition, root samples of wheat, flax, and Austrian brome grass.

Almost all the professors on the station staff will take part in the conduction of the Farmers' Institutes to

be held the latter part of this and the beginning of next month in the northern part of the state.

The agricultural department is busy preparing a bulletin—a report for 1899 of field experiments with the several farm crops. The bulletin will be illustrated and be one of the best crop reports ever issued by this station.

The chemical department has just received a first class vacuum pump, which is worked by a crank movement. It is one of the best pieces of machinery used for college work, and will enable the performance of many experiments, which have, heretofore, been omitted.

Recent investigations on a sample of water in the chemical laboratory indicate that North Dakota may have a most remarkable artesian well, possessed of the property of furnishing distilled and artesian water with just enough of salt added to make it healthful as a beverage. It might be well for the geological department to examine into the geology of the surrounding country and discover under what conditions nature produces this remarkable product. Of course it is genuine or it could not be artesian water.

The class in astronomy has found the subject so interesting this term that they have decided to continue the work during the winter term under the organization of an astronomy club. The work will consist principally of constellation study, the diurnal motion of the stars by means of photography, and papers on some of the most interesting features of the subject by the different members of the club. If there are any outside of the class who are interested in this work, they are invited to join the club, and can do so by seeing Prof. Hall, who will have the direction of the work.

The class room at Francis Hall, which is to be used for the instruction to be given in farm machinery this winter, is being well prepared for the purpose. Small models of several machines are already in place. The walls are being hung with pictures, charts, etc., illustrating the structure and use of various kinds of farm machines. Professor Ten Eyck hopes to make this branch one of the most pleasant and profitable studies given in the course in agriculture.

I have wondered and I wonder, and I
'spose I always will,

While our standard of admission is in
rule;

Why monumental asses are so seldom
kept at home

And parents send their idiots to
school.

I have wondered and I wonder, and I
'spose I always will,

While these monumental asses are
the rule,

Why a squirt of soap and water couldn't
take the place of brains

In some heads we daily see about our
school.

Where did the boys get their horns?

Ask Manns about the fish story he
told at the Chemical Club.

Cronan has been fired from the
choir. As to the cause, ask "Irish."

A great number of our students went
home to eat their Thanksgiving turkey.

E. D. Tucker, a former student, umpired
the game at Valley City on the
27th.

Dr. Mallarian will give a lecture next
term for the benefit of the athletic asso-
ciation.

Congress is in session. Students
please watch the newspapers and notice
what happens.

Miss Senn gave a reading in chapel
Monday, the 4th. The subject was
"Message to Garcia."

During the first part of November
Prof. Bolley visited a number of eleva-
tors along the line of the "Soo" and in
the Twin Cities to determine the con-
dition of the wheat with the hope that
some means may be found for the pre-
vention of the distribution of smut.

After Dr. Mallarian's lecture at the
university, one of the professors there
is said to have asked: "Doctor, don't
you think our girls are much hand-
somer than yours at the A. C.?" The
doctor looked him straight in the eye
and answered, "No, sir."

B. F. Meinecke, '99, has accepted a
position with Swift & Co. in St. Paul.
He left Nov. 20 to assume his new
duties.

Prof. Bolley has offered a medal for
the best "kicker" in the institution,
contests to be held each month.
Chronic kickers barred.

Professor Hall paid a flying visit to
Minneapolis last week.

Miss Berry is teaching in a private
family near Dickinson.

Mr. N. L. Shattuck visited his son,
the secretary, at the college Nov. 11.

An inventory was taken of the appa-
ratus in the botanical laboratory last
week.

The Milwaukee railroad leads off by
offering to students the rate of one
and one-third fare for the holidays.

We notice a two-page article, "Bac-
teria of the Soil," (by Mr. Merton
Field), in the November number of the
National Rural.

Professor Waldron sent out two
bulletins this week. First, "Ornamental
Planting;" second, "Report of the
work in the experimental plots."

The students who invited themselves
to Miss Senn's reception were perhaps
as a whole a little bold, but their leader
was a man with unlimited gall.

The local editor suggests that the
musical talent of the college arrange
to give several concerts at the college
during the winter term. Why not?

The course of elocution given in the
farm school seems to be a winner,
judging from the interest it has awak-
ened for the coming declamation con-
test.

We would suggest to one of our
young bucks that when taking leave
of the young woman who endures his
affection he should keep away from the
windows.

The geological laboratory is nearly
completed and by next term it will be
in shape for analytical work. Two
hundred and twenty-five specimens of
blowpipe material have been secured.

At the Educational Association to be
held at Grand Forks Christmas week,
President Worst will read a paper on
"Education as a Directing Force."
Professor Waldron will speak on "Sci-
ence and Ethics."

Invitations have been received an-
nouncing the marriage of Miss Helen
Jewett and Mr. Scot McKay at
Fresno, Cal. Miss Jewett was formerly
a member of '00. THE SPECTRUM joins
in offering congratulations.

German class: Prof.—“What is the gender of book?”

Student—“Masculine.”

Prof.—“No.”

Student—“Feminine.”

Prof.—“No.”

Student—“Neuter.”

Prof.—“That’s good.”

Mayville is to have a public library.

The college enrollment has increased very rapidly the last month.

Tom Manns: “Our society has won seven out of five contests.”

Miss Jessie Taylor, with '01, has gone to Minneapolis to study music.

Prof. Warren gave an interesting talk to the freshmen Thursday, Nov. 24.

Heath said that if he had had Mac’s mustache he would have secured the job at Casselton.

Tuesday morning, Nov. 21, Dr. Malarian gave some very valuable advice to the students on how to study.

It is reported that it took L. R. Waldron an hour and a half to walk home from Prof. Smith’s musical. Who “em” she, L. R?

A number of the girls spent a very pleasant evening Nov. 24 at the home of Miss Pederson. Refreshments were served at a late hour.

Frank Newman, one of our former students, visited the institution Nov. 15. He is now attending the law department of the Minnesota U.

President Worst has made several visits East, in company with Mayor Johnson, in the interests of the Interstate Grain Growers’ Convention.

If Meinecke had stayed much longer the Hee-Hee Hoo-Hoo Haa-Haa’s would have got after him on account of his write-up in the Call of the All-Star game.

O. A. Thompson has been elected manager of the college basket ball teams. He is hard at work trying to develop two winning teams for the winter’s contests.

It is rumored that at the anti-Roberts meeting held recently at Francis Hall, the guests, before leaving, rose EN MASSE and sang, “Gal, You is a Red Hot Number.”

“Stub” Paulson returned to college Nov. 16. He is hard at work making up his studies.

Sewing class: “What kind of needles are these?” “Sharps, Granddowns, and ‘go-betweens.’”

A dainty apron, made by Miss Jennie Barrett, has been sent to the National Apron Exhibit at Chicago, to represent the department of domestic economy.

Ed Andrews, one of our students, who served his country in the Philippines, is writing a series of articles on the Philippine Islands and their dusky people for the Walhalla Mountaineer.

Jensen said it would not have been so bad if it had not been heard all over the car. Jimmie says it tastes sweeter the louder it is; and she says, “For heaven’s sake keep it out of THE SPECTRUM.”

President Worst, in his paper for the State Teachers’ Association, champions the cause of the farm boy and girl, advocating that they are entitled to schools that will prepare for and connect with the Agricultural College.

Mesdames Ash and McVeety and Miss Nichol gave an “At Home” in Francis Hall Dec. 8. Progressive medley was the order of the evening. Miss Van Horn won first prize for ladies, and Mr. Mills first prize for gentlemen.

The Chemical Department a short time since received from a former student a package of candy for analysis. Upon examination it was found to contain a quantity of ipecac, a substance used to produce vomiting. The candy had been sent by an unknown party.

The failure of Harper & Bros. was a great surprise to all. In their weekly and monthly publications, as well as in their school and college text-books, they represented the very best that the world affords in mechanical skill in the art of illustration and in literary ability.

A unique dinner was to be served to the Board of Trustees at their last meeting. It was to be a Farmer’s Home dinner appropriately served, Miss Stapleton acting as hostess. Sad to relate, the members of the board got wind of the feast being prepared for them, and only one had courage to face the ordeal.

Heath: "What is an animal; vertebrate or invertebrate?"

W. M. Hays, from St. Anthony Park, visited the college Nov. 21.

The advance agent of the All-Star meteoric show seems to have got his dates mixed.

The Preps. are becoming very learned. They are "abstracting the square root."

Professor Waldron attended the meeting of the Minnesota horticulturists in Minneapolis, Dec. 7.

The "Collegians" give one of their social entertainments at deLendrecie Hall on the 15th instant.

The fickleness of the American people was recently demonstrated by their action toward the hero of Manila bay.

Several members of the Michigan legislature, have been indicted recently for accepting bribes during the session.

Prof. Waldron gave a talk to the Senior Preps. in Household Economics on germs and moulds, illustrated by the microscope.

Miss Senn entertained about forty ladies at a Roycroft party Friday afternoon, Dec. 1. The affair was most pleasant and novel.

The Minneapolis papers announce that Flannagan, the star full back at Grand Forks, will pitch for the Minneapolis team next season.

Heath and Waldron are now devoting most of their odd moments to the constructing of a net for capturing "company" after society.

News comes to us of the death of L. W. Varnum, who was a student here during the winter of '95. Mr. Varnum was engaged in the lumber business at Sykeston.

The Westland Educator for November contains an able and timely article from the pen of President McFarland, Valley City, on "The Schools as Collecting Agencies." According to our notion, Mr. McFarland is not far from right when he says "the practice is wrong in principle. * * * It diverts from the true spirit of patriotism. The child is liable to think that it is the giving of material gifts that characterizes patriotism and to overlook the fact that patriotism is an attitude of the entire life towards one's country."

Dr. T. D. Hinebauch was a visitor at chapel, Thursday of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Smith, from Amenia, who attended the Flax Convention, visited the college Thursday—Mrs. Smith favored us with a solo.

Representative Sargent, with others from the Flax Convention visited the college Thursday. Mr. Sargent addressed the students on "Economy in Agriculture."

The class in invertebrate anatomy has taken up the study of the earth worm. Every now and then a smothered female screech may be heard to issue from the zoo laboratory, where the dear ones watch the evolutions of the fish bait.

Little Prep., Little Prep., with your hep-hep-hep,
We feel the whole earth tremble when you step.

Soon you'll lose your short legg'd pants
And, as 'cross the lawn you dance
In a uniform, you'll glisten, Little Prep.

Of late there has been no regularity in the time the steam is turned on the mechanical building. Fortunately for the occupants, the weather has been such that one could exist for two or three hours without steam heat. We hope that before severe weather sets in some system will be devised whereby the building may be kept warm at least during class hours.

It is related that Ben Butler on being asked to return thanks after a meal which had been rendered monotonous by repetition, had cast a meaning glance over the table and ironically quoted, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." While we do not wish to be hypercritical, we hope that the choir will be able to give us a greater assortment of songs and thereby prevent an unnecessary use of scripture.

Examination in arithmetic: Define (a) notary public, (b) clearing house. Answer: (a) A notary republic is a person who acnoliges public doucments. In some states he has something to do with marriages, and may sign public bills; (b) A clearing house is at the harbor's or the boundrey of the nation and persons comming from other cuntreys have their goods examined, and ships get a clearing before they leave the harbor.

That new SPECTRUM desk is a dandy.

Grover Cleveland is said to be Ford's Peter Sterling.

Wanted—Something to receive attention, H. McGuigan.

Loafers, to prevent being kicked out of our sanctum, will pass by our door.

Have you subscribed for THE SPECTRUM? If not, lose no time in so doing.

New physical laws are being discovered daily by the juniors in their work in laboratory physics.

By a new method of grafting, the Horticultural Department has at last developed trees that will bear bicycles.

The Sheldon Debating Society has challenged the Philomathian Society for a debate, to take place next term at Sheldon; each team to consist of three members.

Budge Hall and Davis Hall are the names given to the new buildings at the U. President and Mrs. Worst received an invitation to attend the "house warming" recently.

From the number of "prepies" who visit Professor McArdle's room every afternoon, for coaching in various mathematical subjects, it can easily be surmised that "exams" are approaching.

We would recommend to all those people for whom the brick sidewalk is not wide enough, that they walk in the road, as grass seed costs money and the legislature does not meet until next winter.

The Philomathian Literary Society has elected the following officers for next term:

President—F. O. Olsen.
 Vice-President—E. D. Stewart.
 Secretary—Jessie Brittin.
 Treasurer—C. J. Phelan.
 Member at Large—O. A. Thompson.
 Musical Director—Mable Spencer.

From a Valley City paper after the Normal—Aggie game: Several persons living on Normal Avenue were attracted by sounds similar to those made by a farmer in driving a balky horse. On closer inspection it was found that those sounds were caused by the affectionable parting of the A. C. boys with some of the green—and—yellow—ribbon—girls.

Professor Hall has taken several good negatives of the starry heavens for his astronomy class.

How one of our red-headed seniors begrudged the quarter he had to pay in lieu of the girl he was to bring to the Collegian party!

During these long winter months there are many lectures given on various subjects, some of them more or less interesting according to the tastes of the individual. These lectures are, as a general rule, the condensed results of wide research in the subject rendered, and by attending them we may learn as much in an hour as we would by diligent work perhaps for days on the same subject. We should, therefore, attend these lectures if possible.

One of the soldier boys tells the following story of Capt. Keye of Co. B: "One day while serving our country in the Philippines, a major, happening along, noticed that our boys, with true North Dakota independence, did not salute him as he thought the dignity of his rank required. He turned to the captain with the remark, 'Your men seem to think they are just as good as major generals, Captain!' The captain promptly replied: 'Yes, by—, they are, sir; all they need are the shoulder-straps.'"

While it is quite necessary that the books relating technically to chemistry, physics, etc., be distributed among the several departments and not put into the general library, we believe that the line should be drawn when it comes to the distribution of the books not technical in character. Under the present system all novels, essays, poems, religious works, etc., are under lock and key in a class room which is generally in use until three-thirty p. m., and from that time until night the person in charge of the key is absent. As a consequence probably about ten per cent of this class of reading is done that would be done if the system were to be changed. Scarcely a student knows what the college has in the way of the books mentioned, and we believe that such a system is detrimental to the general culture of the college. Another thing we wish to mention is that no one seems to have charge of the purchase of books for the general library. We take no pride in saying that the college does not possess those two epoch-making books, "The Origin of Species" and "The Descent of Man."

A new enlarging camera has just been received by the department of physics.

The Juniors are beginning to show their oratorical ability by discoursing learnedly upon the most important topics of the day. We would advise all members of the faculty and students to be always present so as to gain all the new ideas that will be given away so freely.

The Atheman Literary Society has elected the following officers for next term:

President—Florence E. Van Horn.
 Vice-President—H. N. Daly.
 Secretary—Anna Stapleton.
 Treasurer—D. Bottenfield.
 Member at Large—Maud Manning.
 Critic—T. H. Heath.

The Chemical Club held its third meeting of the year Thursday evening, Dec. 14, at the residence of Professor Ladd. Mr. J. McGuigan presented an interesting paper on some of the habits and customs of the Filipinos. Mr. Phelan followed by an instructive article on High Explosives, among other things giving the chemistry of lyddite. Mr. Bottenfield gave an interesting talk on what he had observed during the summer concerning parasitism in insects. He exhibited specimens collected by himself. Mrs. Shepperd entertained the members by relating her adventures in a coal mine. The club holds its next meeting Jan. 19.

The agricultural department is establishing a new system of drainage. By the new system all of the water from about the college buildings will be carried under the barn where, by a new and highly ingenious method of evaporation this surface water will be converted into vapor, which, when concentrated in the silo, will provide moisture that will be precipitated during the dry season, thereby rendering the farm entirely independent of the fickleness of summer rains. No doubt in the near future the genius who devised this system will complete another even more valuable, whereby hailstorms will become as harmless as rain. This new hail preventer consists in simply concentrating the intense heat of early summer and preserving it in cast-off carboys. On the approach of a hailstorm this heat will be allowed to escape and to mingle with the upper atmosphere. This will cause the temperature to rise to the melting point, and thereby turn the hail into rain.

Will the press by the reports concerning Secretary Long succeed in producing a change in the cabinet?

The St. Paul Dispatch for December 1 contains an interesting article on the gigantic telescope to be on exhibition at the Paris Exposition. It says: "Among the scientific exhibits at the Paris Exposition of 1900 the great telescope will undoubtedly be the most interesting and important object shown. It consists, says the Scientific American, of a horizontal tube 197 feet long provided with an objective 4.1 feet in diameter. The image of the moon or stars will be sent through this tube by the aid of a Foucault siderostat; that is to say, by a movable plane mirror. The focal length of the telescope of the Yerkes observatory is but 65.6 feet, so that it will be readily seen that with a telescope whose focal length was 197 feet it would be almost impossible to build a dome and mountings which would carry it. It is estimated that a 210 foot cupola would have been required, so the use of a fixed tube and a movable mirror for gathering the image may be regarded as an excellent solution of a mechanical difficulty."

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