

the Wagnerites, complained that the epic narrative in the first act is "too long"—an objection never heard while Scaria sang it; another proof that Wagner's dramas are interesting *throughout* only when they are interpreted by first-class artists. At to-day's performance of "Parsifal" the cast will be a different one, there being three sets of singers for both "Parsifal" and "Tristan." This alternation is one of the things that make the Bayreuth festivals so interesting; not only because one can thus hear in one week the leading vocalists of the leading German opera-houses, but because the feeling of emulation is thereby mightily stirred in the artistic heart. When Malten, for instance, sings the part of *Kundry*, the presence of the most distinguished audience can hardly inspire her to such a supreme effort as the knowledge that all the seats in the front row of the "parquet" are occupied by the festival artists (including the rival *Kundry*, *Materna*), looking for faults through the microscopic medium of jealousy.

The audience was one that would have gladdened Wagner's heart. After the lights had been turned down there was not a stir or sound to be heard, except the occasional tinkling of the little silver bells on the bracelets of some ill-bred fashionable "ladies." Even at the close of the first and second acts the audience respected Wagner's wishes by abstaining from any attempt to call the artists before the footlights. At the end of the last act, however, the whole storage battery of enthusiasm was discharged at once; though even here the artists would only allow the curtain to be raised while they retained their position in the final tableau, refusing to mar the illusion by coming before the footlights and making an undramatic modern bow of thanks. The Bayreuth method of displaying enthusiasm is based on the thermometer of silence: the more a scene is appreciated, the more profound stillness reigns in the house; and there were places in "Parsifal" where it seemed as if breathing itself would be an offence against one's neighbors.

During the performance of "Tristan und Isolde," which followed two days after "Parsifal," this Wagnerian etiquette was not quite so strictly observed—not only because "Tristan," being a secular drama, does not call for such reverential silence as the quasi-ecclesiastic "Parsifal," but also because the majority of the audience consisted of a party of Viennese, who had been brought here on a special excursion train. The Viennese, being the most musical people in the world, are irrepressible in their enthusiasm, especially when listening to Wagner or Strauss, whom their liberal taste allows them to admire equally—each in his sphere. Consequently every act of "Tristan" was applauded frantically, though even here the artists respected Wagner's wishes, and refused to be seen after the fall of the curtain, before the end. The enthusiasm of the audience was fully justified, for a grander performance of Wagner's love-drama has perhaps never been given. I have always regarded "Tristan" as Wagner's most inspired work, and two of New York's leading Wagnerites, who previously considered "Die Meistersinger" his supreme effort, admitted, after yesterday's performance of "Tristan," that I was right. In front of me sat two Frenchmen, who kept muttering to one another, "C'est merveilleux, c'est merveilleux!" and there can be little doubt that if "Tristan" were to be produced in New York next winter, as has been intimated, it would attract as many crowded audiences as "Die Meistersinger" did last year.

The first act of "Tristan"—the conveying on shipboard of an unwilling bride to an aged king by a young hero, culminating in the love potion unwittingly drunk by them, which makes them

the victim of an irresistible passion—is wonderfully dramatic. On the love scene in the garden, in the second act, the composer has lavished a wealth of ravishing orchestral effects such as are to be found in no other work of his; and in the death scene of the last act the poetry of the text is only equalled in impressiveness by the tragic pathos of the music. Morally, too, no candid person can object to the legend as treated by Wagner. For, by the introduction of the magic love potion, he removes the action of the lovers from the region of mere amorous adventure (as treated by the mediæval poets) to the sphere of inevitable tragic necessity. And as, moreover, in his version, *Isolde* has never really become the wife of the king, who, indeed, when he hears of the love potion, follows the lovers to give his consent to their union only to see them breathe their last, the objections which have been advanced against Wagner's drama are seen to rest on ignorance and malice in perhaps equal parts.

As this was the first performance of "Tristan" ever given in Bayreuth, great things were expected of the scenic features and the performance, all of which hopes were realized. Vogel of Munich as *Tristan* and Frau Sucher as *Isolde* were very impressive in their difficult parts, and Frau Staudigl was such a good *Brangäne* as to make one wonder why she should have been two years in New York with her husband, without appearing in German opera. The orchestra was perfect, bringing out the delicate mezzotints abounding in this score with the same skill as the more brilliant colors; while the sailors sang their brief but very realistic chorus with admirable vivacity. Wagner's idea of heightening the effect of the music by means of minute correspondences with the dramatic by-play was illustrated in a hundred ways. To give one striking instance: While the sailors gradually pull in a rope, the orchestra plays a charming little melody with a peculiar rhythmic accent and swing, that suits their action so remarkably that it seems as if the two necessarily belonged together; and perhaps some of the Americans in the audience will, when they see the sailors on the *Etruria* or *Werra* pulling their ropes, involuntarily exclaim: "Hang it! Why don't the fellows sing the Rope Motive?"

At the first performance of "Tristan," as of "Parsifal," the house was crowded, and the indications are that the fifth festival will be the most successful financially of all those given so far. What a bitter pill this must be to those who, like Hanslick, confidently prophesied that the festival of 1876 would never be repeated! It was announced yesterday that the sixth festival will be held next summer. Five festivals in ten years is at the rate of one every two years, which is even in excess of the anticipations of Wagner, who, when he first built the theatre in Bayreuth, merely hoped to have a festival once in three years. In one thing, it is true, Wagner was disappointed—in his desire to make Bayreuth a dramatic high school for young singers. This plan, he says, failed from lack of a sufficient number of candidates of talent. But in another sense Bayreuth always was, and still is, a dramatic high school, where the singers who never enjoyed Wagner's tuition learn from those who have, and the latter from one another. Even Madame Marchesi of Paris, who has trained so many *lyric* singers for the operatic stage, is now recommending her pupils to visit Bayreuth, and she admits that the possession of a dramatic voice is now the great desideratum in a singer, while light, lyric voices are at a discount. Even Patti, Nilsson, and other leading warblers are without a "job" this season, and have sought refuge in the concert hall, while for dramatic singers the managers are fighting and establishing boycotts against

American competitors. And for this change in popular taste Richard Wagner and his Bayreuth festivals are chiefly responsible. H. T. F.

## Correspondence.

### INTELLECTUAL MEN AND WOMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent "E. R. S.," two weeks ago, in his interesting letter, "Why Not Make Her an Intellectual Woman?" describes very truly that state of affairs in society which results from want of mental activity in its members, namely, general lack of interest in all subjects of thought except mere gossip; hence the deplorably low state of society talk and society entertainments in general. As a remedy your correspondent suggests that the women should be made more intellectual by receiving a higher education. And in the last number of the *Nation* Mr. Robert Waters joins the first correspondent, and quotes what a lady of Vassar College says about the matter.

Now, I appreciate fully these remarks, but think it can be easily shown that the mere higher instruction, such as colleges usually afford, is far from likely to produce the desired effect. The fact is, that we find people everywhere, both men and women, who have had the advantage of a college education, but who, in a few years of life in business or in society, have lost almost the last trace of interest in matters of science, literature, art, etc. What is the cause of this? In my estimation it is our wrong modes of instruction. We do not instruct in order to *inspire*, but in order to have good recitations. The standing of the pupil does not depend upon his insight into the subject of study, not upon having perceived the bearing of the lesson upon other parts, not upon seeing what other questions of interest are raised thereby, but depends, in the main, upon the glibness with which he recites from the book. The pupil is far more interested in the "percentage" of his recitations than in the subject-matter of those recitations. After finishing a course of study in any science, the ordinary pupil has in his mind a recollection of things learned and recited, but not digested. He has not a source of reflection and interesting inquiry inviting him in all his spare moments. Such he would have, had he really mastered the elements.

I believe that all candid observers will say that these statements are true as regards by far the greater part of our colleges and schools of all kinds. Now, let a young man or woman thus trained enter the world: that source of joyful mental activity which he possesses who has learned to take a scientific, unselfish interest in things, is totally wanting; and as those subjects once learned (chiefly by force of memory) pass away, the mind becomes more and more vacant, and we have the result which we observe everywhere in society.

The aim and purpose of all education is primarily the greater happiness of the individual. The value, then, of a higher education consists not so much in storing the mind with useful knowledge as in giving that inspiration which throughout life is a source of joyful activity, a source of interest in all that interests the best of our race. We shall look in vain, I fear, for improvement in the tone of conversation in society, for improvement of the interest that people take in earnest matters of thought and inquiry, so long as the conditions I have pointed out continue to prevail.—Respectfully yours,

WERNER A. STILLE.

ST. LOUIS, August 1, 1886.

## WOMAN IN MUSIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I am glad to observe that my little book, 'Woman in Music,' is bringing out some discussion of the subject implied in its title in the columns of the *Nation*. In the opening chapter of the work an examination of the problem why woman has thus far failed to create any large musical composition destined to become classical is invited, and the author's inability to solve it is freely acknowledged.

I can hardly allow the communication of Mr. Philip Hale, which appears in your paper over the date of Paris, July 9, to pass without a reply to its manifest injustice. At the very outset Mr. Hale says:

"I have not read Mr. George P. Upton's 'Woman in Music,' but from your notice of it in the *Nation* of June 17th I infer that he is better acquainted with German music than French music, and that Élise Polko is more of a personality to him than Louise Bertin, C. de Grandval, or Augusta Holmès. To be sure, Élise Polko is known in America by a translation of stories about musicians in which traditional and original lies are ingeniously mixed with descriptions of that peculiarly sentimental, ultra-amorous nature so dear to that class of German women called by Heinrich Dorn 'die Horde überspannter hysterischer Weiber.' But to see her taken seriously and even named in the same sentence with Clara Schumann, does not of itself awaken a desire to buy Mr. Upton's book."

Mr. Hale's unfair statement is in itself sufficient testimony that he has not read the book. Had he done so, he would have found that on page 17 the reader is warned against accepting the musical literature of Élise Polko, as being untrustworthy, and that the only other connection in which her name is used is on page 145, where her personal description of Mendelssohn's wife is cited, because it is the observation of an eye-witness. As to Mme. Schumann, twelve pages are devoted to her musical genius and to the relations between herself and her husband, while frequent and enthusiastic reference is made to her in other parts of the book. I do not think this point needs further amplification.

The cases of French female composers cited by Mr. Hale attest to the truth of the general sentiment which forms the keynote of 'Woman in Music,' namely, that "while a few women, during the last two centuries, have created a few works, now mostly unknown, no woman during that time has written either an opera, oratorio, symphony, or instrumental work of large dimensions that is in the modern repertory" (p. 20). Mr. Hale cites Louise Bertin, Mme. de Grandval, Mlle. Holmès, and Mlle. Pelletan. Louise Bertin wrote an opera, "Esmeralda," which was an eventual failure, for the reason that it was not well written. Mme. de Grandval and Mlle. Holmès have a local reputation. They are unknown out of France. Neither of their names can be found in the standard encyclopædias, and not one of their works is in the modern repertory, or, so far as I know, has had a hearing outside of Paris. As to Mlle. Pelletan, her reputation rests upon the Gluck edition, which has nothing whatever to do with the subject of my book.

The remainder of Mr. Hale's communication is too flippant to need answer.—Yours truly,

GEORGE P. UPTON.

CHICAGO, August 1, 1886.

## QUEER DOINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: On the 23d of June the Board of Trustees of the University of Mississippi declared vacant the chairs of mathematics, Latin, Greek, English, natural history. Shortly afterwards the Secretary, Hon. H. M. Sullivan, himself a member of

the Board, scattered broadcast over the land circulars requesting intending applicants to forward their testimonials, or be present here in person, on the 27th of July, when the Board would meet to fill the vacant chairs.

Straightway there rose up from the Baptists of the State a cry of alarm and indignation. Sixty thousand of them (white and black) "would know the reason why" their "representatives" in the Faculty, one of them a minister, had been ousted. The Methodists, too, had a "representative," also a minister, among the five that had been dropped; and the Presbyterians; and the Episcopalians.

By the morning of the 27th five hundred teachers, hailing from nearly every State in the Union, and many from foreign parts, had entered the lists, most of them by letter. Thirty-five had hastened hither to be on the spot, remembering that *les absents ont toujours tort*. The Board met on Tuesday and did not adjourn *sine die* till Thursday afternoon. What was the outcome of it all? Truly

"Parturient montes; nascetur ridiculus mus."

Nay, hardly so much as a *mus*. It took two days and a half for the fifteen members of the Board to "swap votes" in such a way as to reinstate the several "representatives" of the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, shove the Methodist into the gap made by the Chancellor's resignation, and stop up that gap with a Presbyterian, the "sole and only" man taken from the five hundred. And the five hundred who stood for mathematics, Latin, Greek, English, natural history—what of them? Why, they seem to have gone on "a fool's errand." But, doubtless, they have learned this lesson—that when the University of Mississippi next announces a batch of vacant chairs they must go to their ministers for certificates of orthodoxy; not to the masters in literature and science for testimonials to their fitness.

The trustees have been guilty of a gross indignity to both the five and to the five hundred. The five were removed for cause or without cause. If for cause, they should not have been reinstated. But they have been reinstated; ergo. If the election had been solely on men's merits, one of the five hundred would surely have beaten one of the five. But not one of them did it; ergo.—I am very truly yours,

ONE OF THE FIVE HUNDRED.

OXFORD, MISS., July 30, 1886.

## "TRAFFIC IN VOTES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent, "G. B.," in his article in No. 1101 of the *Nation*, under the above heading, comes justly to the conclusion that the way to prevent this evil is to inspire the people with a greater interest in elections, and make them feel a responsibility in the selection of candidates. I should like to suggest the advisability of carrying this principle still further, and of keeping up the same interest and responsibility of the people throughout the term for which their representatives are chosen. The people should not be allowed to feel that their duties are ended on the election to Congress of Mr. 1 or Mr. 2, and that the responsibility is thenceforward shifted to the shoulders of their representative elect; but they should feel the necessity of watching his votes in order to be able to criticize them, and, if need be, to express publicly their disapproval of them in a way which the representative would feel. In the majority of cases how many people know or care which way their representative has voted upon any particular question?

It seems that this feeling of responsibility would excite the interest of the people, and render them constantly on the alert to catch their repre-

sentative in a wrong vote, and that the representative in his turn, if he knew that the seal of popular disapproval were liable to be put upon his actions, would be more careful in casting his vote, and in scrutinizing more closely the provisions of each measure with particular reference to the opinion of his constituency.

It may be inquired how this result is to be produced. We have in answer only to point to the example of one of the smallest members of the family of republics. In the present Constitution of Switzerland there is a provision that certain laws of a general scope, and not urgent in character, may, upon the demand of a certain number of voters, be referred to the popular vote; and it is only after the final vote of the people in favor of a measure so referred that it becomes a law. This *Referendum*, so called, has been in operation for nearly twelve years, and seems to have worked well. During this period of twelve years fourteen laws have been referred to the people on their demand. Of these fourteen, but three have finally received the approval of the people. The total number of laws upon which the *Referendum* has been demanded by the people shows their unflinching interest in national affairs, while the large proportion of rejections shows that the people are not inclined in Switzerland to stand aside in politics, and allow their representatives to have their own way in the national legislature as we do.

A. F.

BOSTON, August 6, 1886.

## THE DISINTEGRATION OF PARTIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your remarks on party disintegration could be supplemented indefinitely. In all sections of the country the dissolution is marked and rapid. I have before me just now a leading Democratic paper which censures a Congressman of this State for even favoring the consideration of the Morrison tariff bill, and, in the very next sentence, belabors him for opposing the Administration.

But it is useless to multiply instances. The truth is apparent that we are clinging to the mere forms of organizations which have no logical excuse for continuance whatever. This ought not to continue, *cannot* continue; but what is going to come out of it all? Are any wise steps being taken to organize order out of the political crash that is long since overdue? Scattered about, here and there, are all the elements necessary to the formation of a party to which a patriotic American could give his support and maintain his self-respect—a party that would in course of time repair the damage done by the present Supreme Court in its unaccountable legal-tender decision; a party that would have the honesty and courage to reform a tariff system which is so manifestly absurd that even the party which brought it into existence cannot defend it; a party which would interpret the Constitution as it is, and not in accordance with the dictates of political expediency; a party that would use its power to reform the civil service instead of hampering the President in his efforts to do so; that would resolutely and unanimously oppose demagogical pension schemes, river and harbor steals, and all that class legislation whose chief end is to secure another term for its authors.

Where are the newspapers and public leaders whose duty it is, and whose sacred privilege it should be considered, to gather these elements together? The time has come, and we are looking for a leader. A resolute, independent move forward might not be so quickly crowned with success as it was in the foundation of the Republican party, but its success would be no less certain. Will not the many papers and influential public

men who recognize and deplore the folly, the stupidity of clinging to organizations which have not even the shadow of a basis in reason or expediency, come forward and lead us out of this quagmire of political corruption and imbecility? The country at large is getting sick and tired of the present condition of affairs, and the right kind of a revolution now is about the only thing that can prevent one of the wrong kind in the near future.

W. H. J.

PARKERSBURG, W. VA., August 7.

### CAPITAL AND ENTERPRISE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The labor agitations which culminated in the Chicago bomb-throwing have called people's attention forcibly to subjects which have always deserved, though they have not always received, respectful treatment. Nothing is more worthy of serious and fair-minded consideration than the present industrial situation. No one is more worthy of courteous and fair-minded treatment than a man who attempts to take a sympathetic, intelligent interest in the statements of certain classes of society who think they are suffering unfair treatment at the hands of other classes.

Without doubt, the interest in this country in economic and labor questions has increased many times over within the last year. In view of the increased attention which many are giving such matters, will you allow me to emphasize two important economic definitions? I think that the distinction between profits and interest, between the *entrepreneur* and the capitalist, has been too much neglected. Trained economists, as well as socialistic and labor agitators, seem to have the impression that profit must necessarily accrue to the owner of capital. Prof. Francis A. Walker, who has given the subject of profit more discerning treatment than perhaps any economist, outside of Germany, says ('Political Economy,' chap. iv, sec. 276): "Unfortunately, as it seems to me, the *entrepreneur* function has not been adequately treated, if, indeed, it has been in the smallest degree recognized. English and American economists in general have chosen to regard the capitalist as the employer of labor—that is, as employing labor merely because of the possession of capital, and to the extent only to which he possesses capital." The German economists have long recognized the importance of the *entrepreneur* (*Unternehmer*) in modern industrial distribution. Briefly, the *entrepreneur* (the employer, the boss) is an individual who organizes an industry either on his own or on borrowed capital. He comes to do this because he is endowed with the personal qualifications which make a modern industrial enterprise a success. These are, mainly, powers of organization and administration and business insight. He gains profit because he has these qualifications. His profit is what remains when the cost of raw material, wages, interest, rent, and all expenses have been deducted from the gross produce. Profit is the reward of exceptional ability. One man gets more profit than another, other things being equal, because he has the above-named personal qualities to a greater extent than the other. A man gets profit because he has natural abilities which other people are willing to pay for. As industrial society is organized at present, it cannot get along without the *entrepreneur*. It is doubtful if it ever can; we need him more and more every day. The only ways in which profit can go to any one but the *entrepreneur* are two: he might be a kind-hearted man and give his profit away to some one; he might make a voluntary surrender of it. There are not enough kind-hearted people engaged in industry at present to establish an industrial system on this basis. Some or all of his profit might be taken from him by force. This

would mean that society had concluded not to allow enterprise and natural ability to be rewarded without stint or hindrance. A coöperative organization of society might be brought about in which the *entrepreneur* would not appear except as a boss or foreman. No scheme of society is practicable which leaves out of consideration individuals with the capacities of the *entrepreneur*. A coöperative commonwealth or a socialistic state would need him much more than society does now. He would be needed so badly that unless the commonwealth or state, when it came to reward him, suspended the law of supply and demand, he could probably get what he asked for. That is what he receives now, and he would not be likely to ask for less. It is evident that interest and profit are very different things. Capital is paid interest, not profit. Interest is what is paid for the use of capital. Profit is the reward and *product* of exceptional ability.

A man may combine both functions. He may go into manufacturing on his own capital. In that case his surplus over cost of production must be at least sufficient to pay the current rate of interest on his capital, and to give him such profit as will make it worth his while to continue in the business. We are never surprised to find a man engaged in business with at least borrowed circulating capital. We are surprised at the reverse. The capitalist and the *entrepreneur* are more apt than not to be different persons.

This distinction may not seem to be of much value. There can never be any harm in insisting on clearness of definition, and, I am sure, great damage and misunderstanding are resulting from neglect to do so in this case. Inasmuch as the orthodox economists have confused this important distinction, it is not surprising that labor agitators and socialists have also gone amiss. In socialistic and labor literature we hardly ever find the distinction made. The capitalist is almost universally confounded with the *entrepreneur*. Capital and the capitalist are made to bear the whole responsibility for what goes wrong in the present social system. According to Laurence Gronlund ('Coöperative Commonwealth,' page 24), in 1880 at least four times as much of the annual product of labor in this country went towards the support of labor as went towards compensation for the use of capital. Profits absorb more than interest and rent together. If the annual amount which goes to profit, in the strict sense of the term, were handed over to the wage-earners, the wages of each workingman would be raised by something less than one-half. With whom, then, have the laboring classes most excuse for a quarrel? No colossal fortune can be raised by the employment of capital at three and four per cent. The man who borrows capital at such rates and has the natural ability to make twenty per cent. with it should attract the invective of the agitators for a spell.

It would be a cause for thankfulness, on the part of both laboring man and capitalist, if we could get along without the *entrepreneur*. Prof. Walker says there is no economic excuse for him except that he performs services which neither laborers nor capitalists can do for themselves. How to manage without brains an individual or private enterprise, is the question which agitates the socialistic and labor world.—Very truly,

T. K. WORTHINGTON.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, August 5, 1886.

### CONTROL OF THE ELECTIVE SYSTEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The following translation of an extract, in the *Berliner National-Zeitung*, from a recent article by the editor of Schmoller's *Jahrbuch für Gesetzgebung, Verwaltung und Volkswissen-*

*schaft*, may interest a number of your readers. Schmoller is Professor of Political Economy in the University of Berlin, very reactionary in his views, but deservedly popular for his qualities as a man and as a teacher. Where the bias of his political opinions does not interfere, he may be considered a model teacher; and his views of the present University system should compel attention all the more as they set him at variance with his political friends. In his review of a pamphlet by Dr. Georges Blondel, of Lyons, on the "Study of Law at German Universities," occurs the following passage:

"We desire a reform of the so-called academic freedom of the student. Blondel lays well-founded stress upon the fact that, in spite of its great advantages, in the case of law students its worst features become most apparent. This freedom, while stimulating the greatest application and encouraging the best individual development of a chosen few, engenders an average attendance at lectures of little over half the number of those who elected the course, and utterly engulfs, for at least a year or two, about a third of all the law students in laziness, beer drinking, and sloth. Blondel sums up his impressions in this way: 'Ce qu'on trouve de moins bon, ce sont les étudiants. Sans doute, il y en a d'excellents, et je crois avoir fait large la part des éloges. Mais, si la paresse n'est le privilège d'aucun pays, l'élement paresseux l'est en Allemagne remarquablement. Les cours sont désertes et les brasseries sont pleines.' Whoever, in spite of all that can be brought forward in objection, sees, with the present writer, the best aristocracy in that of the officials, teachers, and clergymen of Germany; whoever bases with him all political and economic hopes on the continuance and healthy development of this brain aristocracy, cannot but view with profound sorrow and with grave alarm for the future many features of academic life."

After a digression against duelling and drinking, and against the prejudice that favors them, he continues:

"Students in other branches are not so indolent as the law students. The latter are the wealthiest; consequently, says Blondel, 'ils sont les plus enclins à la paresse et au plaisir.' But ought wealth to give this privilege? Must not every class of necessity degenerate which arrogates the luxury of dedicating its sons à la paresse et au plaisir? Allow youth all possible liberty, every trial of strength, all manner of enjoyment; but distribute these liberties and pleasures over a decade or more, and permit their indulgence only at intervals. To maintain rigid discipline in the Gymnasium, and later on at the office desk, while relaxing all restraint during the long intervening years, pleasure's romping-ground, is to ruin the gifts of mind and body, to laugh to utter scorn every principle of pedagogy.

"How to find a remedy? I should be the last man to advocate sudden change in our academic studies or their administration. Improvement must be slow and cautious. Passing by changes in the frequency and nature of the examinations, projects which Blondel discusses, I wish to mention, in conclusion, an idea that I have long cherished, and which could hardly meet with serious objection. At the Seminar in Political Economy which Prof. Knapp and I conducted at Strassburg, the former commenced a record, in 1875, of the attendance of each pupil, and I have continued this custom in Berlin. . . . My suggestion is to keep strict records of attendance, to communicate the data to parents and guardians at the end of each semester, and to inscribe on the diploma given the student at his departure the percentage of his attendance in each course. No change need be made in the university statutes, and yet this method would have a miraculous effect on the diligence of the student. Academic liberties would not be infringed, but a certain publicity given to laziness would act as a curb. Even laziness would have its rights respected; solely the privilege of concealing laziness, of grossly deceiving parents and examiners by long lists of electives, . . . would be abolished. Could that be harmful?"

These utterances will possibly raise a storm of objections in Germany, but they will come from those who deny the harmfulness of the *Kneipe* and the *Bummel*. To Americans, unendowed with a sense for the poetry of these institutions, a consideration of Prof. Schmoller's remarks may be of two-fold value. In the first place, oppo-

nents of the system which Harvard is striving to introduce ought to perceive that in Germany, where that system has had a thorough trial, the only fault found is with the want of control of the attention given by the student to studies once elected. Should we not expect a leader in Prussian state socialism, which seeks its ideal in the absolute control of bureaucratic authority over the doings of the individual, to seize the opportunity of advocating the exercise of a similar control by the academic senate over the choice of study of its wards? On the contrary, the champion of paternal government has no objections to offer to that elective system which is so distasteful to governors of our paternal colleges.

On the other hand, admirers of the German system can learn that here, too, a difference must be made between free electives and voluntary attendance. If voluntary attendance is to mean no steady control of diligence, idleness up to examination-time and hasty "grinding" will be the rule. Thus, if we substitute Academic Department for Juristische Fakultät, Prof. Schmoller's lament is remarkably like the speeches in Memorial Hall at Harvard's Commencement. How, then, about applying Schmoller's remedy in its fullest extent? Would not the whole "soft-course" danger be dissipated if the marking system were completely abandoned; if such examinations as were held to control the several courses were rigorous pass examinations only; if "honors" depended on special examinations and original theses, as they already do, in part, at Harvard; and, finally, if such estimates of individual industry as were required in the allotment of scholarships and for college discipline should be based upon a just survey of the statistics of attendance, although (and indeed on condition that) such attendance should be made as strictly voluntary as study itself must be? Then, perhaps, steadiness of purpose and faithfulness in endeavor would become the true criterion; we should have more fixed stars and fewer comets in the undergraduate firmament.

Well aware that I am intruding upon your valuable time and space at a moment when there is a natural truce to the scholastic warfare, I plead in extenuation my remoteness from the scene of conflict, as well as the tempting opportunity, and remain,

Very respectfully,  
BERLIN, July 19, 1886.

MORRIS LOEB.

## Notes.

J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co. have in press a 'Manual of North American Birds, for the Naturalist and Sportsman,' generically illustrated, by Robert Ridgway; 'Three Thousand Miles through Brazil,' by James W. Wells, in two volumes, profusely illustrated; 'A Soldier's Reminiscences in Peace and War,' by Gen. R. W. Johnson, U.S.A.; 'Lyrical Poems,' by Emily Thornton Charles; 'A Signal Success,' being the work and travels of Mrs. Martha J. Coston, an autobiography; and 'The Curability of Insanity,' by Pliny Earle, M.D.

'Uncle Titus,' from the German of Mme. Spyri, by Lucy Wheelock; and 'The Modern Jew: His Present and his Future,' by Anna L. Dawes, are in the press of D. Lothrop & Co., Boston.

Wm. S. Gottsberger will publish this week 'Aphrodite, a Romance of Ancient Hellas,' by Ernst Eckstein; translated by Mary J. Safford.

W. J. Johnston, Potter Building, New York city, will shortly issue 'The Electric Motor and its Applications,' by T. C. Martin and J. Wetzler.

Ginn & Co. announce 'The Elements of Plane and Solid Analytic Geometry,' by Prof. J. D. Runkle, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Interstate Publishing Company, Chicago, have issued a new edition of the 'Supplemental Dictionary,' by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Fallows, D.D. It is uniform in size and style with Webster's Unabridged, and will hereafter be sold to the trade at a reduced price.

Mr. Bret Harte has written a children's Christmas book, with the alluring title of 'The Queen of the Pirate Isle,' which will be illustrated by twenty-five drawings by Miss Kate Greenaway, printed in colors in the text. The result of this combination of one of the most English of artists with one of the most American of authors will be awaited with unusual interest. The book will be published early in the fall by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, and by Chatto & Windus in London.

With the August number, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. resume publication of the Official Postal Guide.

Dr. C. W. Larison's 'Geography: A Text-book in Phonetic Orthography' (Ringoes, N. J.) is a respectable attempt to bring into more general use the phonetic system and typography devised by the reformatory author. Dr. Larison hopes to fix the correct pronunciation of geographical names by first impression. His work is not a mere gazetteer, but describes the physical and other features of the countries of the eastern hemisphere in an interesting manner. Objection will be taken in some quarters to the statement that the Russian Government is "mild and well suited to the people it governs." Nor can we all ways agree with Dr. Larison's standard pronunciation. He gives us Greenwich (for *grinidj*), Cabul' only (*kaw'bl* being also well supported), and accents on the last syllable Cronstadt, "Königszberg," and Magdeburg. "Tu'rim" must be an accidental error. And mongrel are "Frankfort on the Min," "Gwadalquivir," and "Severs" (Sèvres). If all the figures of population were as much out of the way as 95,000 for Bremen and 180,000 for Breslau, they would be utterly untrustworthy. It is odd not to find any mention of Berlin under Germany.

Prof. F. W. Putnam, Permanent Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has published the Proceedings of the thirty-fourth meeting, held last August at Ann Arbor, Mich.

As a means of perfecting its series of municipal documents of American cities, the Cornell Library begins in its current Bulletin, No. 15, a list of what it has on its shelves. Gifts in this department (and it can only grow by gifts) will be very welcome. The Library now numbers nearly 62,000 volumes and about a quarter as many pamphlets. Since January its reading-room has been opened in the evening and lighted with incandescent electric lamps—on the whole, satisfactorily.

Some interesting particulars concerning the maternal ancestors (Haskins, Upham, etc.) of Ralph Waldo Emerson are given by a kinsman in the *Literary World* for August 7. More are to follow.

The most significant article in the August *Magazine of American History* is by Mr. Charles C. Jones, jr., of Atlanta, who briefly sketches the relations of the slaves to the Confederate Government during the civil war. When the Congress had screwed itself up to the point of employing them as soldiers, the bottom was already out of the rebellion.

*Shakespeareana* for August (Philadelphia: Leonard Scott Publishing Co.) shows more life than previous issues have done, and promises to open in October a "School of Shakspeare" department, intended to further coöperative study of the dramatist.

The third (July) number of the *English Historical Review* contains four articles, all of decided interest. The first is a short paper, by

Evelyn Abbott, upon "the earliest inhabitants of Greece," placing special emphasis upon the non-Hellenic elements in this population, and arguing that the art of writing in all probability came considerably earlier than has usually been assumed. The second article, by Mr. Charles I. Elton, upon "early forms of land-holding," is principally a discussion of M. Fustel de Coulanges's recently published studies. Mr. Elton gives all praise to the learning, industry, and ingenuity of these studies, and the valuable results secured by them; but still asserts his belief in the collective holding of land among the early Germans. Mr. Osmund Airy follows with an article upon Lauderdale, and Mr. A. W. Ward with one upon "The Electress Sophia and the Hanoverian Succession," chiefly founded upon the correspondence of the Electress with Leibnitz. Mr. Ward pays a high tribute to her character and intelligence. Among the Notes and Documents we find replies by both S. R. Gardiner and Walter Rye to the arguments of Mr. Aldis Wright in the last number in favor of the authenticity of the Squire papers. Mr. Rye promises a more complete argument in the next number.

*Sphinx* closed its first volume with No. 6 in June, and began its second with the July issue, on the cover of which latter we read the names of Colby & Rich, Boston, as agents for America of this Leipzig magazine. In the June number M. Hermann, the first prestidigitator in Germany, makes a by no means scoffing contribution to the solution of the problem whether spiritualists have to deal with mediumship or hocus-pocus. He and his brother "wizard," C. Hermann of Vienna, will, as sceptics, yet in good faith, experiment next autumn with a well-known English medium, William Eglinton. The discussion is continued by Carl dū Prel: "Psychic research" in the form of mind-reading also comes within the scope of this journal, which is devoted to the investigation of supersensual forces; and some examples are given of copies of drawings conveyed by mental impression. Cbiromancy and chiromony are likewise treated; and there are readable paragraphs on astrology, black and white magic, magnetism and hypnotism, levitation, doubles, even upon vegetarianism.

A French Wagnerite, M. Adolphe Jullien, has the freedom of the pages of *L'Art*, in the issue for July 15 (Macmillan), to make light of the composer Gounod, apropos of his "Mors et Vita," a sequel to the "Redemption." This does not prevent the illustrations to the article from being such as Gounod's admirers would like to possess, with the exception, perhaps, of a little caricature by Carjat. He is further represented before an easel in the studio of the painter J. Pils, and in a medallion by Ringel; and specimens of both his literary and his musical MS. are given in facsimile.

The French Academy has never been noted for its republican tendencies. Under the Empire it manifested a discreet but decided spirit of opposition to Cæsarism. Its general tone has invariably been one of conservatism, and, it may be added, of enlightened and calm toleration. But now, if we are to believe the radical press of Paris, its days are numbered. It has expressed sentiments of sympathy for the Duc d'Aumale. This "outrage to democracy," this "raising the flag of conspiracy," is sufficient cause, according to the journal of M. Henri Rochefort, for stripping the Academy of all its "advantages and privileges." Not only must the Academicians' fees, odious to the nation, be suppressed, but the whole corps must be suppressed and treated as an assembly of *factieux*.

Possibly the members of the Académie des Beaux-Arts had not pondered well the threats