The Aurora 14.1

Iowa State Agricultural College

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THE AURORA.

"Science with Practice."


LITERARY.

FRG. ANCEINT GERMAN.

No animal of any race,
No blossom in the fields,
No little star in any space,
Is made to fill a lonely place,
Without the mate Love yields.

They live united heart to heart,
And share each smile and sigh,
Drawn near thro' life by kindly art,
Embracing closely, they depart
When it is time to die.

There is no other heart on earth
In full accord with mine,
Alone in sorrow and in mirth,
I vainly seek for kindred earth,
And love for which I pine.

Why is it I am often sad
Though my lips breathe no sigh,
And longings come for something glad
To seek what I have never had
And know not when, nor why?

This Paradise enchants the eye
More than all earth beside,
With sweetest bloom beneath the sky,
And pearls 'mid smooth pebbles lie
Where brooklets swiftly glide.

What are pearls and flowers to me
With this translucent glow?
The choicest beauties that I see
Cannot my heart from sadness free,
And why, I do not know.

MEPHISTOPHELES AND MARGARET.

WILL B. HUNTER.

Man's life is a constant struggle between two great forces; a battle for supremacy between two ruling principles; the one tending to hurry the soul to everlasting doom, the other to make for it a place in the home of the blessed; one making of this world a Pandemonium, the other transforming it into a Paradise.

These principles of good and evil are manifest in every work of nature, deforming or beautifying it. They grow up together in this world almost inseparably. Poets and men of letters, whose function it is to represent nature, have ever labored to give to the world their conception of these embodied principles. Characterizing them they present them to us as actors on the great stage of the world's theatre. Dante has given us Geryon and Beatrice; Milton, Satan and Abdiel; Shakespeare, Iago and Desdemona; Goethe, as the most successful exponent of nature in all ages, has embodied all these in Mephistopheles and Margaret.

Mephistopheles stands pre-eminently the greatest devil of modern literature. He is the spirit of Negation. He lives but to oppose. His vitality is an eternal opposition to the sublime laws of the universe—to the will.
of the Omnipotent. His existence is thoroughly cognizant. With a sinister smile he watches the workings of corrupt politicians in the councils of the state and laughs in shameless glee when they bury a nation in co-fusion or plunge it into the horrors of a bloody war. With fiendish delight he gloats over the spectacle of successful treacheries. Everything that tends to drag men down to the gates of his hellish kingdom; everything that savors of sin, and misery and crime; every text-book of evil; every instrument of torture; everything that causes a man to live a life of iniquity and die at last cursing the God that gave him being is known and enjoyed by him. He could lay his finger on the underlying cause which hurls the bomb of death into every community. He could tell the philanthropist where to strike for the emancipation of a people, but with diabolical complacency he keeps all such knowledge back. It is not a desire to root out and destroy evil that has caused him to delve into the deepest pits of infamy; it is only that he may the more intelligently work out the evil principle which he represents. A knowledge of crime, coupled with a desire to make a practical application of it to this world, is the essence of his character. The combination is horrible, unnatural, inhuman.

Mephistopheles personifies the working of evil in the human heart. As evil, after once gaining entrance to a pure life, daily grows and increases in power, so Mephistopheles as its representative in the tragedy of Faust, reaches step by step a lower and more degraded position. After he had left the poodle's form we find him in conversation with the eager student as a satirist who criticises without mercy the faults of the four
university faculties; in Auerbach's cellar he plays the role of conjuror; in the witches' kitchen that of witchmaster; in order to find a jewel for Margaret a fortune hunter; in Martha's garden a panderer; in the duel with Valentine a bully; and finally on the Blocksberg the master of ceremonies as Satan himself in the wild orgies of confusion and beastiality.

It is impossible to think of Mephistopheles and not, for a moment, give a thought to that other grand conception of the principle of evil as delineated by Milton. Both these heroes of the epic and tragic rise together in the theatre of the philosophic mind, each, in turn, explaining and throwing light upon the other. Yet they are as unlike as is possible for two grand conceptions of the same thing to be.

Mephistopheles is the Satan of Milton—that fallen archangel of Paradise Lost, who would rather "reign in hell than serve in heaven;" that colossal, vindicative, ambitious devil whose mighty scheme it was to strike at the weakest point of a universe and plunge it into everlasting night; to drag a new world to the perdition of the old; to number as legion his carnal subjects of infamy and death. Mephistopheles is all this and more. Six thousand years of weary travel away from the Master's feet, thro' the scorching, soul consuming sands of the world's desert of sin, have long since driven out what little of the archangel remained. He is now a dry, shrivelled up, scoffing spirit. He is Satan modernized with a knowledge of all the sin that ever existed to intensify his devilish thirst for crime. The scheming, enthusiastic archangel has been soured and civilized into the clever, cold-hearted Mephistopheles.

Both began their career in heaven. Satan as a noble minded but ambitious angel; Mephistopheles as a mocking, irreverent devil. Satan opposed from a longing for revenge; Mephistopheles was created a negative spirit. Satan hopes to reach a more effective position; Mephistopheles would sink lower if he could. Satan hesitates before leading man to destruction; Mephistopheles chafes at the chains which hold him back; Satan slinks silently and shamefully away after he has tempted the mother of our race; Mephistopheles would have remained to watch his victim and gloat over her downfall. Satan labors for infamous self-aggrandizement; Mephistopheles because it amuses him. Satan's greatness lies in the vastness of his motives; Mephistopheles' in his intimate acquaintance with everything. Satan may end in being a devil; Mephistopheles is a devil irrecoverably. Wherever he may be he is the same carnal, irre-ligious, sarcastic, heartless fiend.

In direct contrast to this hell-born iconoclast rises before us, like a beautiful angel in a still more beautiful drama, sweet, lovely, innocent Margaret. Her story is the simple tragedy of a woman—the loss of maidenly honor through love. By love she is exalted, through love she has fallen.

"It is the olden story,
Yet ever new again,
And whenso'er it happens
Then breaks a heart in twain."

Goethe's pen picture of her is overpowering in its effect. Certain lines of it linger in the mind and stir it like strains of heavenly music. Into it he poured all the loves of his life. His great noble heart sang out in one low, sweet symphony of love and gave us—Margaret.
As one is lured into admiring the atrocity and complexity of Mephistopheles so is he charmed by the innocence and simplicity of Margaret. She uses only the simplest of words, yet her every speech is a beautiful breathing of her inward life, of her pure love and simple faith in God. Even in the deepest depths of her misery she remains true to that holy voice which promises her redemption through the punishment of her sin.

She is the purest and most pathetic creation in literature, representing all the passions of many lives, innocence, beauty, artless vanity, facination, love, passion, guilt and the torment of conscience. She is both real in her words and ways and ideal in her embodiment of the pure woman nature. Margaret, this lovely child, this soul so full of faith, this shy maiden longing for love, this sweet, enthusiastic, laughing rosebud, whose peace is gone after she has seen her lover, whose heart is heavy when he is away, who—every thought is of him she loves, this Margaret is the genuine German maiden in all her native simplicity. Who can look upon her and elide her as she plucks the pretty flower, as she pulls off leaf by leaf and softly murmurs: "He loves me, loves—me—not!" What heart cannot pity her sin when in the dismal depths of the dungeon, at the dawning of her day of death, she cries in the anguish of a remorse-stricken soul:

"Yes, the day comes. The last day breaks for me.
My wedding day it was to be!

The death bell tolls, the wand is broken;
I am sized, and bound and delivered,
Shoved to the block. They give the sign.

Now over each neck has quivered,
The blade that is quivering over mine.
Dumb lies the world like the grave."

The last lines of the tragedy in which she exists reveals to us her mission.

"The woman soul leadeth us
Upward and on."

She is the representative of the spirit of good With Mephistopheles as the representative of the spirit of evil, she carries on a constant warfare for the soul of Faust. Convinced of the vanity of ever attaining any precise knowledge on any subject of human inquiry, feeling that his efforts have been in vain, that science is impotent, Faust rushes into the world. He gives his soul into the keeping of Mephistopheles. He surrounds himself with earthly enjoyments. Desire drives him to wickedness. With the devil as guide he finally reaches the summit of waste, desolate worldliness. He looks upon nature in a subjective light and is baffled; but after his meeting with Margaret he is raised above anything subjective. She aroused in him an emotion which bound him to his fellow men, which seemed to bridge for him the chasm separating him from the infinite. Margaret, as the exponent of love, showed him how he might erect a temple within his soul before whose portals that monster sin should lie prone in the dust. She awakened in him a promise and a prophecy of strength which grew into giant proportions, and afterwards led him to life. Though she disappeared from the scene of action before the life of her lover was ended; though her lifetime showed but little improvement in his nature, she had sown the seeds of restoration, which were destined to germinate into a vine of purity, ever
growing and entwining round his heart, and finally making for it a flowery couch as it lay before the throne of God.

Love is the all-redeeming, all-uplifting power on earth and in heaven, and to man it is revealed in its most pure and perfect form through woman. Thus is this transitory life of earth it is only a symbol of its divine being, and the spirit which woman reveals to us here ever draws us upward and onward as Margaret draws the soul of Faust.

Mephistopheles and Margaret. A hell-born devil; a heaven-born child. One the personification of doubt; the other the embodiment of faith. One luring men to destruction; the other aspiring to a place in heaven and by her example guiding men to paths of purity. One causing evil through a devilish impulse; the other through an ungovernable love. One irrevocably fallen; the other fallen but risen again to the feet of the Master. Thus they stand. Representatives of the two conflicting elements of life; representatives of the powers which ever sway the actions of men; the problem of evil and its solution.

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OUR NATION’S PROBLEM.

FRED FAVILLE.

On the twenty-second day of September, 1827, from a quiet hamlet in the Green Mountains of “Old Vermont,” a shrewd and fanatical mind first proclaimed to the world a new theory. Its ideas were gross but attractive. They were clothed in the sacred garb of religion, and expounded by a man bold and unscrupulous in his statements. Converts were rapidly made among the ignorant and superstitious. These regarded their leader as a divine messenger, and accepted his declarations as oracles received from the hand of the Almighty. With implicit faith in the pretended revelations of their leader, his followers flocked by hundreds to Nauvoo, Illinois, which they believed divinely decreed to be their earthly Zion. So Mormonism began and flourished under its self-ordained prophet, Joseph Smith.

At Nauvoo came reverses many and severe; their prophet was killed, their property confiscated, and finally with laws enacted against them and an army confronting them, in 1847, sixteen thousand Mormons began that wonderful hegira to an unknown land, lying far towards the setting sun.

Then the sea of public opinion that had lashed itself into fury at the presence of this Mormon iniquity was lulled to a peaceful calm; and the people of the rejoiced at what they considered a final and easy settlement of the Mormon question. But the transplanting of this Upas tree neither killed it, nor impeded its growth. In the arid sands of the Great American Desert the pernicious plant flourished. It sent its roots deep into the soil and spread its branches far and wide, until now they cast a black and baleful shade over a vast territory, which should be kissed by the bright sunbeams of a higher civilization. Men hoped that as civilization advanced “the whistle of the locomotive would sound its requiem, and the pickaxe of the miner would dig its grave.” But instead of dying out at the approach of the messenger of modern civilization, Mormonism converted them to its own uses, and by masterly effort made this desert of
the United States "to bud and blossom as the rose." For more than a quarter of a century it has toiled to develop these barren wilds, and its efforts have been crowned with success. It has established homes for its people, and steadily built up a civilization antagonistic to the principles of a republican form of government.

The people of the United States have been busy developing great industries and founding a republic the peer of any nation of the globe. And while thousands of lives have been sacrificed to lift the dense fog of slavery from our southern horizon, there has steadily grown upon our western sky the black and threatening cloud of mormonism. While our institutions seek to make men free from every evil within and without them, and to make the true, the pure, the good, attractive, Mormonism, with its adjunct polygamy, would rob vice of its hideousness, clothe it in virtue's robes, sanctify it by the name of religion and invoke upon it the blessing of the Almighty. For more than thirty years, in defiance of the highest moral and social law, this "American Bluebeard" has ruled his harem unmolested on the banks of Utah's briny lake.

But while we abhor the vile practice of polygamy, polygamy is not to-day the most dangerous factor of "Our Nation's Problem." Mormonism compels this republic to present to the world the strange spectacle of a government within a government. In Utah, in opposition to our national constitution, there exists a thorough blending of church and state. Instead of a republican form of government in Utah, there is a hierarchy. There the statutes of the United States congress are superseded by the laws of the Mormon church, and the only recognized system of government is a so-called theocracy. That two hundred thousand people should enjoy the privileges of a free government, and yet pay complete allegiance to a despotic priesthood in opposition to that government, is a blot upon our nation's honor which should be erased.

The great mass of the Mormons are foreign-born. They were proselyted and transplanted from the degradation, the poverty, and the oppression of serfdom in the Old World, to peaceful farms and comfortable homes in the New, by the Mormon church. It is to the Mormon church that they believe they owe all the blessings that have come to them. In their ignorance they attribute to that priesthood what in reality is the gift of our government. In gratitude they swear allegiance to an institution antagonistic to the government that is their real benefactor. Having adopted the principles of this theocracy there hangs a Damocles' sword suspended above the heads of the disciples of Mormonism, the fear of Divine punishment if they disobey the decrees of their unscrupulous leaders. These leaders dictate not only the social and religious, but even the political affairs of their people. In this our free republic, where every citizen is a sovereign, we have one man wielding the voting power of two hundred thousand people. Surely it is time that decisive steps were taken to eradicate this evil. To-day the Mormons control Utah and are rapidly obtaining the balance of power in Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona and Colorado. The political party that is amicable to them will obtain control of four of our future states. The temptation is too great for political parties to deal honestly with the great problem. Utah
with her thousands of people is already knocking for admission into the sisterhood of the states. Once admitted, and under a state constitution she would defy the national government to interfere in her nefarious practices.

Procrastination on the part of the government has aided this evil in its growth. Now the government must take immediate action for the extirpation of the result of its own inactivity. The nation must raise its strong arm, and strike this vile institution so that its leaders will understand that the national edicts must and shall be obeyed.

Our present legislation, faithfully adhered to, bids fair to eventually sound the death-knell of polygamy. But even with polygamy exterminated, we have not eradicated the greatest evil of Mormonism. Not only must we cut off its poisonous branches, but we must go farther, and laying the axe at the very root of this Upas tree, make impossible forever in this country, the political dictation of any priesthood, to an American citizen.

To aid in Utah’s reformation, no man should be naturalized who owes a higher allegiance to a corrupt hierarchy, than to the government of the United States. Instead of giving the broad plains and rich mines of the west to polygamists, they should be reserved for citizens loyal to the national government. Intelligent immigrants should be encouraged to settle in Utah. Christian schools should be established and supported by government aid, and obedience taught to the great republic on earth, as well as to the great republic in heaven. While we disfranchise their polygamous leaders, let us instruct the rising generation that if they wish to enjoy the privileges of American citizens, they must obey the laws of the United States. While we send to this be-nighted people the mace of a nation’s authority, let us not forget to accompany it by the white-winged messenger of fraternal love.

Ours is a Christian nation; let us show the world that “Our Nation’s Problem” can be solved and the danger to our nation’s life removed in a Christian way. Books will do greater execution against Mormonism than bullets; the soldiers of the Cross more than the soldiers of the Union. If the United States would keep its soldiers out of Utah it must send its teachers there. Let the enlightenment of the nineteenth century dawn upon this ignorant people and Mormonism will disappear as mist before the rising sun. Twenty-five years ago slavery was abolished by the bayonet; today let its twin sister, Mormonism, be banished by the presence of the Master. Let true Christianity penetrate the mountain barriers of Utah, delve into her mines of gold, cultivate her broad fields, enlarge her water-courses, enter her pagan temples, establish her colleges, and bear to her the true teachings of the meek and lowly one; then “the plant which the Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up.”

SCIENTIFIC.

INVENTORS OF TO-DAY.

Inventing can now be classed among the exact sciences. It is no longer a matter of happy accident or even of sound mechanical judgment. The world has rapidly progressed during the past quarter of a century, and today the man who is merely ingenious
can do but little that is of value to the
world; something more than ingenuity
is necessary for the production of a
successful invention. Thirty or forty
years ago a good mechanic could
hardly spend an hour in a shop with­
out seeing an opportunity for im­
provement in something, and what
was true in one shop at that time
was true in all.

Since then a whole generation has
been steadily at work improving and
inventing; mere ingenuity has ex­
hausted its powers, and even original­
ity has but a limited field in which to
seek profit in inventing.

The first task of an inventor now is
to discover a want. He must then
find out whether any attempts have
been made to meet this want; if so,
how, when, and by whom. He must
learn the state of the art, so that he
may avoid traversing the footsteps of
others who have failed.

These are not matters which can
be guessed at; they call for careful
study, and when he has learned all
he can about the subject, then, and
not till then, can he begin and solve
the problem intelligently.

EDITOR.

FREE TRADE.

They who believe that a protective
tariff is an unmixed good, should
study for awhile the other side of
the question from that upon which
they have been accustomed to look.
It will not be denied that the policy
of protection has built up great manu­
factoring interests in the east (al­
though many of them must even be
upheld by tariff laws to keep them
from going to the wall). But all
this has been done by a burdensome
tax upon other industries. And this
is not all. Other industries, while
being taxed to sustain weak-kneed
manufacturing interests are at the
same time having their markets de­
stroyed by persistence in this course.

England and her dependencies have
been the purchasers of more than half
the surplus agricultural products of
the United States. But while she
was buying so freely from us, we vir­
tually closed our ports against her
manufactures by putting a prohibitive
duty upon them. As a matter of
course, England would not long sub­
mit to this.

With her boundless resources she
has set herself to work to produce in
her colonies what she has hitherto
bought, that she may be as independ­
dent of us as we vainly fancied we
were of her.

By a generous outlay of money she
has stimulated the production of wheat
in India, butter and cheese in Cana­
da, cotton in her West Indian islands,
and beef in Australia.

So if she buys any agricultural pro­
ducts of us, she buys them at her own
price.

The result of this unjust and short
sighted policy is that the prices of
everything that farmers have to sell
have already fallen and are still fall­
ing. The manufacturers are squeez­
ing to death the goose that lays the
golden eggs. If the farmers must be
taxed to support manufacturing inter­
ests that are not self-sustaining, better
it would be for them by far that it be
done directly and given to the manu­
facters as a bonus. EDITOR.

The civil engineers of New York
have decided that the obelisk will
have to be housed and kept at an even
temperature to prevent disintegration.
Five years residence in New York has
changed the obelisk more than 3500
years in Egypt.
THREE FRIGID FACTS.

1. Every man knows better what he wants to buy and sell than the government can possibly know for him. He will buy and sell to the best advantage if left free to buy and sell as he chooses.

2. Every one who buys sells at the same time. His purchase is really an exchange. The money he pays for the goods which he buys is really an order given to the seller for other goods. The more buying, the more selling.

3. As regards dealings between inhabitants of the same street, the same town, the same country, no one thinks of disputing these truths. But they are just as true as regards dealings between inhabitants of different countries.—Ex.

OCEAN CURRENTS.

CLIMATIC CHANGES TO RESULT FROM CUTTING THE CANAL ACROSS THE Isthmus of Panama.

Eminent hydrographers have ascertained that the surface of the Pacific at Panama is about fifteen (15) feet higher than that of the Atlantic at Aspinwall.

The opinion is entertained by some scientists that this remarkable elevation of the waters of the Pacific above those of the Atlantic is caused by the force and peculiar direction of the vast plexus of currents in the Pacific Ocean, which, while they carry forward an immense volume of water to this point, impede and obstruct to a great extent its return.

By examining the map it will be seen that a considerable part of the Isthmus projects into the sea on the Pacific side, forming a promontory, with Point Mala for its headland. The Gulf of Panama from this point to the Columbian coast, due east a distance of about one hundred (100) miles, is constricted; above this line it widens considerably and the volume of water is much greater in extent.

The Japan current of the Pacific ocean in its onward sweep is split in twain by the Aleutian Islands on the coast of Alaska; a portion passes through Behring Strait and the residue rushes down the western coast of our continent and imprints against the coast barriers of Central America.

The impact of the current against this barrier causes it to deflect westwardly, or to fly off in a tangent to join and return with other currents from the South Pacific, and the commingling of these currents form a mighty stream which sweeps directly eastward to the shore of the Isthmus of Panama. The volume of this current in its passage eastward is vastly increased by the joining of other currents from the South Pacific, which sweeps up the western coast of South America, and the mighty swirl of these united streams from the great equatorial counter current which expends its immense force upon the Pacific shores of the Isthmus. The trite axiom that "water always seeks its level" does not always hold good; for instance the surface of the Mississippi is six (6) feet higher than that of the Atchafalaya river, and hence the increased danger of controlling the threatened deflection of the giant river into the latter stream.

At Cape Horn, where the two vast oceans intermingle their waters, the level of their united surface is uniform; at the Isthmus the level of the
Pacific is fifteen (15) feet higher than that of the Atlantic, and this remarkable difference between the surfaces of the two great bodies of water only a few miles apart can only be explained in one way, viz: by the peculiar action of the current in the Pacific ocean.

Science is cold and calculating; takes nothing for granted unless it be a postulate too simple to require a demonstration, and deduces from fact and reason a conclusion for the proof of a given proposition. This proposition of the scientific world is respectfully submitted. The considerable elevation of the surface of the Pacific above that of the Atlantic at the Isthmus of Panama is caused by the impact of the great equatorial counter current, and the waters are piled up in the Gulf of Panama by the *vis a tergo* of this mighty stream.

The length of the canal will be about 33 miles, consequently there will be a fall closely approximating to six (6) inches per mile, and a current through the canal will be inevitable as soon as communication between the two oceans is complete.

The might of the greater volume of water in the Pacific reinforced by its elevation, and with added force of the great equatorial counter current, will certainly create a strong current through the canal, and unless it is protected by heavy abutments of suitable material, the erosion of this scouring torrent will eventually destroy a considerable portion of the Isthmus, and the great equatorial counter current will mingle its water with those of the Gulf Stream.

The great thermal currents of the Pacific have greatly modified the climate of our western coast, and when this great body of heated water is driven through the Isthmus by the sheer weight of its immense volume, and becomes confluent with and passes northward with the Gulf Stream, it will bring about remarkable climatic changes along our Atlantic coast. In the event that the Gulf Stream should be reinforced by the thermal currents of the Pacific finding their way through the Panama canal, it will carry along with it an increased elevation of temperature, which will exert a remarkable influence upon the ice floes and frozen shores of Iceland, and other countries of northwestern Europe, and the climate of those bleak and frigid regions will certainly undergo a wonderful change.—American, Nashville, Tenn.

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*QUEER BOOKS IN A GERMAN LIBRARY.*

One of the most curiously original collection of books in any library is said to be a botanical collection at Warsentein, Germany. At first sight the volumes appear like rough blocks of wood, but on closer examination it is found that each is a complete history of the particular tree which it represents. At the back of the book the bark has been removed from a space large enough to admit the scientific and the common name of the tree as a title. One side is formed from the split wood of the tree, showing its grain and natural fracture, the other shows the wood when worked smooth and varnished. One end shows the grain as left by the saw, and the other the finely polished
SOIENTIFIO

wood. On opening the book one finds the fruit, seeds, leaves, and other products of the tree, the moss which usually grows upon its trunk, and the insects which usually feed upon the various parts of the tree. To all this is added a well-printed description of the habits, usual location, and manner of growth of the tree.—London News.

THE DEEPEST WELL IN THE WORLD.

The deepest well in the world is located at Homewood, Pa. It is owned by George Westinghouse, Jr. The average depth of the Homewood wells is about 1,850 feet. In the well now drilling everything found of the nature of gas or water at a depth of 2,000 feet was cased off as unimportant, and the drill at present is said to be a little over 6,000 feet below the surface, which would make it by all odds the deepest well in the world.

A careful record is being kept, and portions of each formation encountered preserved. Since it would necessarily have to be a very prolific gas vein to justify such deep drilling, it is a difficult matter to conjecture the object that prompted such a work, unless it be purely to satisfy a morbid curiosity. There are in Washington county some wells drilled to a depth of 4,000 feet, and the only other so far as known approaching the depth reached by Mr. Westinghouse is an artesian well in France, at which a depth of 5,000 feet was reached.—Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.

At Cornell University the salary attached to the professorships of civil engineering and physic have been advanced to $3,200. Those of eleven other professorships were increased from $2,750 to $3,000. One was raised from $1,800 to $2,500, and four were raised from $3,00 to $2,200.—Ithaca (N. Y.) Journal.

THF GREAT CANALS OF THE WORLD.

The Imperial canal of China is over 1,000 miles long. In the year 1861 was completed the greatest undertaking of the kind on the European continent, the canal of Languedoc, or Canal du Nida, to connect the Atlantic with the Mediterranean; its length is 148 miles, it has more than 100 locks and about 50 aqueducts, and its highest part is no less than 600 feet above the level of the sea; it is navigable for vessels of upward of 600 tons. The largest ship canal in Europe is the great North Holland canal, completed in 1825. It is 125 feet wide at the water surface, 31 feet wide at the bottom, and has a depth of 20 feet; it extends from Amsterdam to Helder, 51 miles. The Caledonia canal, in Scotland, has a total length of 60 miles, including three lakes. The Suez canal is 88 miles long, of which 60 miles are actual canal. The Erie canal is 350¼ miles long; the Ohio canal, Cleveland to Portsmouth, 332; the Miami and Erie, Cincinnati to Toledo, 391; the Wabash and Erie, Evansville to the Ohio line, 374.

A very ambitious scheme is projected which has in view the complete revolution of the climate of the northeastern states. It is no less than the building a dam across the Straits of Belle Isle, thereby stopping the floe
of an Arctic current, which is supposed to influence the climate of the New England states. By stopping this cold current it is supposed that the Gulf Stream will flow towards the land, and have a very material influence in abating the rigors of a New England winter.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR BOTH BURIAL AND CREMATION.

M. J. Kergovatz, a chemist of Brest, has discovered a mode of disposing of the mortal remains of humanity which he considers preferable in every way both to inhumation and cremation. His system is an antiseptic one, of a similar character and much less expensive than the old process of embalmment. All that is necessary is to rub the body over with a solution of plumbagine and then plunge it into a copper bath. But copper being an expensive mineral, zinc may be substituted for it in the case of the poor. On the other hand, persons of luxurious tastes may use silver or even gold if they please, the effect being the same. The discoverer has tried his system eleven times on the human subject and on a hundred dead animals, and he has never once known it to fail. Among the manifold advantages which would result from the adoption of this system, M. Kergovatz mentions one which, if generally availed of, will strike a death blow at one of the fine arts. By simply prolonging the duration of the bath the body is rendered as hard and indestructible as granite, and thus the country is provided with "ready-made statutes of the great men," and the state and the communes will be saved in future the considerable expense which our present dependence on the statuary art for memorial purposes impose on them.

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TERMS.

The AURORA will be forwarded to all subscribers until ordered discontinued and all arrearages paid.

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"THE AURORA,"

Ames, Iowa.

Another college year is with us, freighted with its opportunities and possibilities; opportunities that have been afforded us in other college years, but not embraced; possibilities of realizing some hope we cherished in vain last year. Opportunities are not always portals through which pleasure and ease are secured. This duty that we have been chosen to perform has much of drudgery and some pleasant work in it. The AURORA is no longer an experiment. It is almost thirteen years since the first
number was given to the world. The announcement of the first editor expresses the spirit in which its managers launched out upon the untried enterprise. "The AURORA in taking a position in the world, offers no apology for claiming the right existence. It only bows respectfully and says: 'Good morning world.' The world smiles and the two walk away together." In assuming control we have no untried sea over which to guide our bark. Our course will be along the route that our predecessors have traveled. Our only promises are that we shall give our best efforts to the AURORA and the institution it represents.

The AURORA desires to call the attention of the Alumni to its needs. You form the principal part of the readers of the college paper; you are interested in its welfare. Some of you, in the past, have found fault with it; "no news," "not enough Alumni," et cetera. There is but one way of making the AURORA of interest to the Alumni, and that method is, that the Alumni let us know where they are and what they are doing. Let us hear from you.

The term has opened with the prospects of a prosperous year. More students have applied for admission than the institution can well accommodate. Story and Polk counties have sent in their full quota of students. A number from these counties, who are debarred from rooming at the college, are boarding at Ames and take advantage of the "bus" to get to class. The "ladies course" is securing a larger attendance of ladies than usual. This course has supplied a real want. It gives more language and literature and less laboratory work. The inadequacy of the ladies apartments to meet the increase in attendance, has compelled the President to ask for an appropriation of $66,000 for the building of a Ladies Hall.

The efforts, that the class of '83 made to establish a gymnasium, have given pleasure and profit to the classes that have succeeded it. The product of such spasmodic efforts live but little longer than the enthusiasm that begets it. It is now a demonstrated fact that if the college has a gymnasium it will not come through the liberality of professors and students, nor can it be controlled by the students. That we need such an institution no one doubts. Our students are largely from the farm and accustomed to physical exercise. They enter college abruptly, change to the sedentary life, and it is not to be wondered at that the freshman class is attacked by disease more often than the other classes. The freshmen are not alone suffering for exercise. Last year the AURORA plead for a gymnasium for the girls. This year both sexes can send up the same "wailing cry." If any college in the land needs a gymnasium it is ours. How shall we interest the trustees is the problem.

The farmer boy may enter this institution, carry his course nobly, emerge with a well-trained mind, but be devoid of that glitter, grace and urbanity that is so important in achieving success in the battle of life. The societies, to a great extent, remedy this evil. The boy or girl who enters cannot afford to allow one term to pass by without identifying
himself or herself with one of the societies. What society shall you join? The answer to this question can only be found in your own consciousness. Wherever you feel most at home there you should identify yourself.

Dr. Hock, a German naturalist, finds that the eastern hemisphere affords two hundred and sixty-nine plants and fifty-eight animals useful to man, while the western world contributes only fifty-two plants and thirteen animals.

EXCHANGE NOTES.

Exchanges come in slowly. I suppose the editors think that they will wait until we get thoroughly on our feet before they send in their morsel. If they knew how much "solid comfort" we could get out of a full exchange list, I am sure they would change their policy at once, and express themselves in a more substantial manner.

The first college paper published in America was the Dartmouth Gazette. Its first number appeared at Dartmouth College in 1810.—Hillsdale College Herald.

A correspondent in the Wooster Collegian has arraigned Herbert Spencer, Charles Darwin, Huxley, Tyndall, Haeckel, Carl Vogl, Vishow, Bain and Buechner before a committee of investigation to discover, if possible, where they have been working. The report of the committee may be summed up in a few words, "they have been jumping out of bounds." Would! that our colleges could train men to cut loose from the beaten track of investigation, as these men have; much of the myth and dogma of to-day would soon be relegated to the past. The writer has handled his weapon—ridicule—with some skill. Such a weapon, however, is of little value in attacking the citadels these men have built around them.

It is quite time that newspapers and those who fill their columns, should know enough not to attempt to prove their pet theories by making broad assertions that have no foundation. "A Subscriber" in the Delaware Farm and Home delivers an eloquent tirade against the Delaware College, which shows himself to be entirely ignorant of the facts in the case. In brief the writer makes six gross errors, the principal one is the assertion that "the classics" are the leading theme taught, while the agricultural branches are neglected.”—Delaware County Review.

Review, you have our sympathy. This sort of tirade is the stock in trade of a class of contributors to the farm journals of the country. We have had a similar persecution. It is gratifying to learn that such articles come from the pens of contributors that live a score or more miles from a railroad.

The Central Collegian, in the February number, has a sensible article on class distinction.

Lasell Leaves has a youthful sprightly ring that makes one feel in a good humor as long as they see it.

The Eastmans Journal has a practical business air that is in strong contrast with the other exchanges. We are also in receipt of Story County Watchman, Nevada Representative, New York Weekly Witness, and the Census Report of Iowa, by Frank D. Jackson, Secretary of State.

The News Letter is the newsiest paper on our table.
"Hello!"
"Back again."
"When did you come?"
"Been teaching?" "Of course."

A name for the Freshmen is in order. We miss many familiar faces, but new ones take their places.

"Where has Gym gone?" "Gym has gone out to live with Prof. Mount."

"Billy" still drives the 'bus and Mr. Graves takes charge of the baggage.

The new Freshman class numbers 110 and are as yet nameless, but not for evermore. Watch the wall.

When you go to get classified now-a-days the leading question is: How many back studies have you?

A "Fresh" being asked who was Proctor on their floor, replied: "His name is Goodno, but I don't know whether he is a Freshman or not."

The library is open one hour per day more than last year. This is a move in the right direction. And why can it not be open all day? Echo answers, Why?

Beware of the Proctor, for he is abroad in the halls seeking whom he may devour.

The outside stairs leading to the library are in rather dilapidated condition, and should be repaired before the Seniors begin writing "Sike" essays.

Miss Blood, of Boston, is the new Preceptress and instructor in elocution.

Mrs. Riley, of Chariton, takes the position of librarian and assistant in mathematics.

Several of the young ladies found the Ames dray at the front door. As the driver was absent they took possession with the intention of having a ride, but the horses refused to advance, and much to the horror and disgust of the ladies, began to retreat. The occupants of said dray to avoid having any further trouble, abandoned the vehicle, to the great amusement of the spectators. It is needless to say that the ride was a failure.

Geo. Goodno is assistant in chemistry and spends his leisure time in instructing the unlearned Freshman in the straight and narrow way in which he is expected to travel. He also teaches them the scientific method of rolling cannon balls.

One of the young ladies recently made an interesting experiment by applying mercury to a gold ring. The experiment was not exactly a success. Moral—Don't try to combine gold and mercury.

W. R. Boyd, of the Freshman class, was taken sick last week, and left to spend a few days with his aunt at Williams, Ia.

Several of the students taught Saturdays in order to get back early. Next winter scholars may expect to attend nights and Sundays. How to dismiss at four o'clock and leave on the three thirty train, will be sent on receipt of postage stamps.

S. Yates still slings the mail and presides over the book department in a manner pleasing to all.

Class in geology. Prof.—For every 53 feet you approach the center of the earth, it becomes one degree warmer. Student—It must be pretty hot down there.

Student gets a 4 (?) and the class laughs.
Laboratory work in chemistry has been commenced already, and soon the Sophs will know all about chem.

The Juniors are now taxing their brains over Calculus, and the Sophs are beginning to orate on the $\sin$ and $\cos$-ine, and then they go off on a tangent.

The happy Senior spends his time on "Sike" notes.

Chapel at 5 o'clock, p. m.

"Boarding in the country" does not seem to be very popular among the students this spring.

The cadets are drilling in the Armory while the snow is on the ground. By Decoration day they will make a creditable appearance, and the AURORA predicts that under Capt. Lincoln's instruction, the I. A. C. cadets will be the best drilled college battalion in Iowa.

The following are the officers:

Company A:
O. W. Rich, Capt.
A. C. Felt, 1st Lieut.
B. L. Spencer, 2d Lieut.

Company B:
E. S. Richman, Capt.
Jno. Schoenleber, 2d Lieut.

Company C:
M. Mendenhall, Capt.
J. A. Perley, 1st Lieut.
H. C. Wallace, 2d Lieut.

Company D:
V. C. Gambell, Capt.
F. W. Malley, 1st Lieut.

JOINT SESSION PROGRAM.

Dec. - - - Mr. Boyd.
Debate—Should the prohibitory law be repealed?
Neg. - Messrs. Spencer & Harpel.
Recitation, - - Miss Wright.
Essay, - - Miss Moulton.

MUSIC.
Paraday, - - Miss Crawford.
Oration, - - Mr. Hunter.

MUSIC.

Only last year those "Sophs" were harmless "Freshies."

The following was written for the composition class by Freshman Green:

EARLY FRESHMANS EXPERIENCES

[In the old Cottage.]

How happy is life in the young Freshman's room,
By spiders, with cobwebs, so nicely festooned;
How the plastering falls from the old greasy walls,
And how noisless and quick are the footsteps in the halls.

How grand but to live in a two story brick
With dirt on the walls only half an inch thick.
And at night rest your bones on a two by four cot,
Where you lie like a snake coiled up in a knot,

And wait for the rattle of the old cottage bell,
That sounds like a pan to a flying dog's tail.
What a joy to arise and get your limbs straight,
And kindle a fire in a stove with no grate.

Then write composition by the light of the moon
While your next door neighbor rattles his broom;
And your roommate is looking in cracks in the bed
For the wounded, the missing, the dy­ing and dead,

Till the very faint jingle in the neighboring hall
Which everyone knows is the morning meal call.
O, blessings of comfort of all joys divine!
A bean, a potato, and a cracker is mine.
PERSONAL.

H. R. Jones, formerly of class '86, handles the mails for Scranton, Ia., and will not return this year.

Frank M. Andrews, an engineer of '86, now a student with Foster & Hieble, of Des Moines, has been given the position of special correspondent from Iowa for the New York Builder, one of the leading agricultural journals of the country.

'86. H. C. Coe is teaching near his home at Clarence, and will not return this year.

'88. Miss Nellie Barrett is attending the Callanan College, of Des Moines.

'88. E. R. Meek is taking a course at Iowa City.

'86. Dr. H. S. Williams will spend the spring at the State University, after which he intends to enter John Hopkins' University.

'87. E. A. Kirkpatrick, principal of the Polk City Public School, will return to the I. A. C. the latter part of the term and go out with his class.

'87. C. J. Cotey, once of '85, is now Proctor at Kirkwood Hall. He intends soon to organize a class in short-hand.

'86. A. W. Sherman is teaching at Grand View, D. T.

'87. E. M. Sherman is applying his knowledge of agriculture at Chester Center, Iowa.

'86. C. E. Davis is in an engineer's office on a branch of the W. P. R. R. at Blue Rapids, Kan.

'86. F. P. Haviland, more commonly known as "Deacon," is at home at Webster City, where he will remain at present.

Dr. Knapp's family report that they are pleased with their southern home. Miss Minnie, so favorably known here, is engaged in teaching in an academy.

—Monitor.

'86. Miss Hilda Becker is at her home in Le Claire, 1a., and much to the regret of her many friends will not return this term.

'86. John James, who has been teaching at Ashawa, near Des Moines, will not be at college this term. "Jim" intends to return and graduate with his class.

'88. Scott Bradford attended school at Marion, Ind., the past winter.

'86. W. E. Gamble spent the winter at Rush Medical College, at which place he graduated and is a full fledged M. D.

Mr. Cadwallader, who entered with class '87, has been compelled to return home on account of sickness.

C. A. Baker, one of our solid Sophs, spent the winter in his father's law office.

ALUMNI.

'85. Lydia Shreckengast is principal of the Chariton schools.

'85. L. G. Brown has spent the winter working for a bridge company in Des Moines.

'85. C. S. Bowie has been working for the Edison Electric Light company, Des Moines, during the present winter. He expects to secure a position in Indianapolis with the same company.

'79. Prof. Osborn and wife have spent the winter in Washington. The Professor has busied himself in the agricultural department.
'86. I. B. Schreckengast is teaching in Keokuk county.

'83. Minnie Knapp is teaching in an academy in Louisiana.

'83. "Ferd" Smith will take charge of Dr. Peck's office while the doctor is in Europe. "Ferd" has completed his second course of lecture in the medical department of the University of Iowa.

'84. W. P. Dickey has become a fixture at the Springfield Chemical Works, Springfield, Ohio.

'84. T. F. Bevington is studying law at Iowa City. "Tom" will finish his course this spring.

'84. Fannie R. Wilson is assistant principal of schools at Onowa, Monona county.

'82. C. F. Saylor fills the office of county superintendent of Polk county.

'82. Married—Feb. 18, at the residence of the bride's brother, in Fort Wayne, Ind., Mr. O. C. Peterson, of this city, to Miss Florence E. Fills. Mr. Peterson is the well known attorney of the east side, and the bride has many friends in the city where she resided for a time.—Register.

'81. R. J. Hopkins is clerk of Boone county.

Miss Minnie Knapp, we hear, finds a new work and new interests in her southern home. She has opened, upon her own responsibility, what the citizens of Lake Charles please to call a Seminary, and is meeting with much success in her undertaking. She writes that they find in a study of their new neighbors a source of ever increasing interest and pleasure. Miss Minnie has left at the I. A. C. many warm and devoted friends, who remember her untiring zeal and energy in all College work.

The Aurora wishes her a share in every good thing her southern home affords and begs that she may often remember us, and remembering, send to our hungry columns something of interest from her ready pen.

We glean the following marriage notices from the Intelligencer:

'85. On the 21st of December at the residence of her mother Mrs. E. P. Smith, Mr. L. D. Jackson, of Sigourney, to Miss Emma Z. Cavender, of Ames. Dr. W. H. Wynn performing the ceremony.

'83. Prof. Herman Knappp and Miss Mary McDonald, at the residence of the latter's parents in Oxford, Neb., Thursday, Nov. 26th.

'78. Sunday, Nov. 15th, at the residence of the bride's parents in Sioux City, Prof. C. F. Mount and Miss Minnie Clark, both of Ames.

'81. Dr. T. W. Shearer is located on the corner of Sixth and Walnut streets, Des Moines. The Aurora rejoices that the doctor is meeting with the success he merits.

'85. D. L. Hutchison and A. L. Mosier are in the employ of the B. & M. So Dave writes from Peach Grove, Neb.

'85. "Dennis" Hill is in the "Q" machine shops at Galesburg, Ill.

'85. D. E. Collins has been dangerously ill, but is now recovering.

'78-'84. Prof. J. C. Hainer and wife spent the winter in Ann Arbor, where the Professor devoted himself exclusively to the study of astronomy.

'85. Misses McConnon, Porter, Nichols, and Geo. Goodno visited the societies at the first regular session.
DIRECTORY.

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

OFFICERS.
Esther Crawford, President.
J. M. Culver, Vice-President.
C. S. Bartholomew, Treasurer.
Florence Weatherby, Secretary.

MEETINGS.
Sunday School every Sunday at 1 p. m.
Prayer Meetings: Sunday evenings at 7 p. m., in College Chapel; Thursday evenings at 6 p. m., in Freshman Recitation Room.
A cordial invitation is extended to all.

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CLIOLIAN.
The Cliolian Literary Society is the only ladies' society in the I. A. C. This society holds literary sessions every Saturday evening. Its object is the improvement and culture of ladies in literary work. Visitors are cordially welcomed. Officers are as follows:

Lizzie Langfitt, President.
Hilda Becker, Vice-President.
Grace Frater, Recording Secretary.
Laura Moulton, Corresponding Secretary.
Julia Wentch, Treasurer.
Lizzie McCusky, Chaplain.
Ollie Wilson, Usher.
Ethel Bartholomew, Sergeant-at-Arms.

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BACHELOR.
The Bachelor Society is the only exclusively gentlemen's society of this college. It was organized July 16, 1870. Its object is the mutual improvement of its members in Science, Literature, and Art of Speaking. It meets every Saturday evening, at 7:30, in Bachelor Hall. Its officers are:

H. S. Stewart, President.
C. L. Bartholomew, Recording Secretary.
A. C. Felt, Corresponding Secretary.
W. S. Coe, Treasurer.
H. Spencer, Chaplain.
H. Wallace and C. A. Baker, Sergeants-at-Arms.
Sherman Yates, P. M.

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CRESKEXT.
This is a society admitting both ladies and gentlemen to membership. Its object is the improvement of its members in literary work and parliamentary law. Its sessions are held every Saturday evening, in Crescent Hall, to which all are cordially invited.

A. P. Johnson, President.
G. W. Sturtz, Vice-President.
Mary E. Follows, Recording Secretary.
Florence Weatherby, Corresponding Secretary.
W. L. Thompson, Treasurer.
J. E. Durkee, Librarian.
F. B. Dodd, Censor.
F. L. Dobbin, Usher.

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PHILOMATHEAN.
The Philomathean Literary Society is a society admitting to membership both ladies and gentlemen. Its regular meetings are held each Saturday evening of the college year. All are invited to attend literary sessions.

OFFICERS.

V. C. Gambell, President.
G. A. Johnson, Vice-President.
Lulu Wright, Recording Secretary.
Ella Henderson, Corresponding Secretary.
Mabel Luwas, Chaplain.
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