

# The Student Record.

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**STUDENT RECORD, Reno, Nevada.**

## SPECIALITIES.

*"Better by far pursue a frivolous trade by serious means than a sublime trade frivolously."—BROWNING.*

IN the folk-lore of the Highland Scotch are many strange and weird stories that are handed down from one generation to another, and preserved as sacred by the superstitious classes. Among them is one well known to every Scotch peasant, of a man who had under his charge a familiar sprite, for which he was obliged to furnish continual employment under the extreme penalty of being torn to pieces; but no matter how numerous the tasks, or how difficult, they were all done with terrible ease and rapidity. The three peaks of the Eildon Hills were formed in a single night. A weir was thrown across the Tweed in like time. To employ the sprite seemed impossible, until at length the plan was devised of requiring it to weave a rope of sand; and this task was never completed.

Throughout the world do we find analogous examples of men whose comparatively fruitless labors, like the grains of sand in the unfinished rope, are but disconnected fragments of their incomplete lives—men whose talents might fit them for higher positions, were they but to exert their powers for other purposes, than mere existence. In men, as in all other creations of the universe, do we find the destiny of completeness; and the sense of shame is only to plainly brought out by the comparison of finished lives with those of that vast multitude whose energies are running to waste without any tendency to usefulness. Again do we find men who believe themselves fitted for an occupation for which they have not the slightest aptitude, and who are continually dwelling upon the high anticipations of their genius (?). Such men as these must ever fail, like the

water fowl, which, from its showy plumage, thought itself destined for a higher life than that of a dark pond; and which, when from a high bank it attempted to soar to an eagle's nest upon the mountain side, found itself precipitated upon the rocks below, bruised and bleeding.

It is too often a current opinion that life holds a predestined place for everyone, were he but to find it; but throughout the world are examples of men whose efforts, though crowned with the greatest success, have been turned by the inevitable current of circumstances into other channels where their labors were equally successful. It is true, indeed, that the inclination of the child is truly indicative of the growth of manhood. There are those gifted with an aptitude for a special calling to such a degree that the tendency is evident, even in childhood. The child life of Linneus and the boyhood of Watt are well known examples of this fact, while the early lives of Napoleon and Washington foreshadow their great military genius. But a special aptitude is seldom so pronounced in youth. Even where it exists it lies concealed, and many times unknown, until opportunity calls it forth. But whims and fancies should not be mistaken for inborn talent. Because a child listens with rapture to enchanting strains of music it does not indicate the genius of a Bethoven; or because a youth pores enthusiastically over volumes of poetry, it does not predict the genius of a Tennyson. Yet this is too often the case in the lives of men who rank low in the scale of their respective occupations. Such men can be nothing but Gideonites in their respective callings, and by aiming so far beyond their powers they fall short of the success that in some more congenial vocation might have awaited them. They sigh from fancied injury and neglect, and expatiate upon the prodigious results which they would bring forth, had they but the favorable opportunities of some other individual.

But he who labors with a definite purpose in view, though he be of very moderate powers, may, by the dint of perseverance and energy, and by a determined cultivation, bring forth from the most rugged and unpromising soil wonderful results; and may rise to heights which in earlier years were hidden only by their distance.

Stephenson as a youth was only distinguished for his skill at "putting" and wrestling. Of Sir Humphry Davy Mr. Davies Gilbert, his teacher, says: "While he was with me I saw nothing of the faculties by which he afterward so distinguished himself." Says James Parton: "I have observed that men destined to great success generally serve long and vigorous apprenticeships to it of some kind. They try this forming power with little



things before grappling with the great. I cannot call to mind a single instance of a man who achieved success of the first magnitude, that did not at first toil long in obscurity."

One's life may seem foreshadowed, yet unseen forces, like the wind of fate, may divert the powers in other directions, and by this plan men may achieve wonderful results in paths, the ways of which once seemed as remote as the stars. No better example can be given than that of Patrick Henry, whose changes of occupation can scarcely be counted on the fingers of one hand. Yet in after years the true speciality of his power showed itself in the ringing tones of freedom.

James Watt, while carrying on the business of a mathematical instrument maker, received an order for an organ; though without any ear for music, he undertook the study of harmonies, and successfully completed the instrument. In like manner, when a model of the Newcome steam engine was placed in his hands for repairs, he betook himself to the task of learning the rudiments of heat, evaporation and condensation, the results of which he afterwards embraced in his condensing steam engine. These few facts but go to show the true force of specialities, and that he who adapts himself to a work in sincerity and with energy cannot fail to reap the benefits of his labor. In times past they were considered to have the best education who had a knowledge of the greatest number of branches. In the early history of this and other countries, this idea may have been true in a measure; but in our present civilization, he who would be successful in any trade or profession, and, more especially, he who would become a leader in any one of them, must serve a long apprenticeship.

In the glaring light of the electric lamp we can but behold the life workings of an Edison. In the click of the electric telegraph we read the life struggles of a Morse. Indeed, many branches have become so extended that he who would become master of any one of them, must have the horizon of his life extended beyond the brief limit of "three score and ten."

There is indeed a profound significance in that utterance of one who in his extreme age had for us these words: "Yet all experience is an arch, where through gleams that untraveled world, whose margin fades forever and forever when I move."

What does it profit a man though he acquire trade after trade, if he put not to practical operation the principles of any? To such the fate of the already existing examples of jack-at-all trades must be evident. Better by far pursue a single path, even of extreme narrowness, than wander aimlessly about and at the end have not even the entrusted talent.

Nature, in her distribution, has destined to each existing thing a special part, and that this must necessarily be for the completeness of the universe is evident. Nor alone in the existence of nature do we find this law. It is found in practical operation in all trades and profes-

sions to such an extent that our present civilization has become the civilization of the specialist.

When we behold a perfect flower, so exquisite in form, so delicate in texture, so rich and nicely blended in color, we can scarcely conceive that all this comes from a tiny seed. The sturdy oak, that for years has withstood the blasts of winter and has spread its limbs abroad and sent its roots deep into the mold, sprang from the tiny acorn. These are but the emblem of man.

Here, for example, is a man now master of twenty languages, who can converse with the people of as many nations. Here is another who can conceive and direct the building of a mighty ship; or another who can devise the plan of a magnificent temple and guide the construction of it until it assumes a perfect whole, glowing with symmetry and beauty. And here still is a fourth who has comprehended the entire solar system. He has obtained the relative size of the planets. He has weighed the sun and measured the distance of stars. And whence is all this perfection? Did it come upon men like a dream in their slumbers? Did Franklin receive an intuition through the lightning flash, or Galileo a prophetic vision through the swaying of the chandelier in the cathedral? The steam engine proclaims the successful era of the specialist, to-day; and in its power lies the possibility of wonderful results. It engraves steel and crushes masses of obdurate metal. It draws out without breaking, a thread as fine as a gossamer, and lifts up a ship of war like a bubble in the air. It embroiders muslin and forges anchors, cuts steel into ribands and impels the loaded vessel against the fury of waves and wind. And all this sprang from a beginning as small as that of the majestic oak. What Robert Stevenson said of the locomotive, at a meeting of engineers, applies equally well to all the inventions of our present civilization. "It is due," said he, "not to the special effort of one engineer alone, but to a nation of engineers." Every repeated observation, every discovery, every new experiment has awakened the mind to a new existence, and directed the thoughts to new habitudes, wherein the powers have developed from weakness to a prodigious strength. This is but the light of science which has struggled through the darkness of the ages, and which was kindled by the sacrifices of men, whose lives were given that others might profit by their labor and give to the world a new civilization. It can but teach him who would succeed those stern virtues of self-control and self-renunciation of fortitude and patience. Let those who would follow in their footsteps glean from the stars of their own winter sky, thoughts as bright as their own light, and lofty as their own place. Let them look for inspiration in the struggling efforts of men whose labors help to lay the foundation of an individual and a national prosperity.

F. S. B.

*Washington Star:* "Man wants but little here below; but 'tis this fact that daunts—he's sure to get a little less than the little that he wants."



## Reciprocities.

—From Pennsylvania comes the *Dickenson Seminary Journal*, brimful of good reading matter.

—It is said that some of our larger colleges have received endowments to the amount of \$3,000,000 in one year.

—*Our Doings*, published by the Candelaria High School, has been received. The paper reflects great credit on that institution.

—This year John Hopkins, for the first time in its history, conferred the degree of Ph. D. upon a woman. Miss Florence Bascom is the one thus honored.—*Ex.*

—*Squibs*, a bright and newsy paper published by the Seattle High School, has reached our exchange table. As it comes from the old home of our editor it is doubly welcome.

—In a late speech to the students of Yale College, Chauncey M. Depew made this characteristic remark: "What made the class of '53 so famous is that half of its members went into journalism and praised the other half."

—The Oxford University press has produced a Bible printed from the type called brilliant, which is the smallest type used in English printing. It contains 1,216 pages, with maps, and measures  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{8}$  inches and is five-eighths of an inch thick. Bound in limp morocco it weighs not quite three ounces.

—The French Government will present to the State of New York all, or nearly all, of its educational exhibit which was at the World's Fair. The exhibit consists of the work of pupils in the primary, secondary and Normal schools. There will also be given to the State a pedagogic library, containing text-books used in the public schools, books of reference, etc. The exhibit is now on its way to France. On its arrival there, some of the personal property belonging to teachers will be taken out, and the rest of the exhibit, containing the articles mentioned, will be sent back to Albany.

—The sharp criticism which the University Athletic Club is receiving at the hands of the metropolitan press for their management of the thanksgiving game is thought to be uncalled for by Yale men. President Haller, of the Yale eleven, when seen, said: "Yale is entirely satisfied with the management of the Yale-Princeton game. In fact, we do not see how it could have been improved upon. We are perfectly satisfied with our share of the gate receipts, and the University

Athletic Club will undoubtedly be asked to manage the game next year. It certainly cannot be put into better hands."—*Detroit Free Press.*

—The new athletic rules which are to purify Harvard athletics have gone into effect. They are the final product of many year's work by old Harvard coaches and men who are leaders in athletics. The primary purpose of these rules is to purify all individual and team athletics from any tinge of professionalism. These rules are drawn up and signed by Bertram G. Waters and George A. Stewart. They are very strict in defining amateurs and also in debarring from college athletics all but bona fide members of the University. The time limit regulation provides that no student, whether he has represented one or more colleges, shall take part in intercollegiate contests for more than four years, and this period shall begin with the year in which, as player upon a University team, he first represented any college. In reckoning these four years any year of probation and any year lost to the student by illness shall be excluded. By these rules many Harvard star athletes will be thrown out of playing for the remainder of this year, and especially will it weaken the baseball team.

—The University of Pennsylvania is shortly to have the finest indoor baseball cage possessed by any of the colleges. No pains have been spared to make it the best of its kind, and all the successful features of the cages at Harvard, Yale and Princeton have been combined in the plans. Both the Yale and Princeton cages have proved partial failures on account of their size, but the Pennsylvania cage will be larger than them all. The main building will be 120 feet square, giving a clear floor space of 14,400 square feet. In this will be laid out a regular baseball diamond, exclusive of the out-field. To prevent injury from the rebounding of the balls the sides and ceiling will be hung with strong, elastic wire netting a few feet from the walls. The floor will be of a composition consisting chiefly of clay, and will be made as hard and true as possible. Outside the diamond will be a cinder running track of only 12 laps to the mile, and at one end a gallery is to be constructed for the use of spectators. Adjoining the main building will be a wing containing offices for the athletic association, shower and bathrooms, and three large locker rooms, one for the 'Varsity scrub teams, and one for the visiting teams. Light will be furnished to the whole building by immense skylights in the roof and a large number of windows around the walls. It is expected that the cage will be ready for use in February.—*Exonian.*

The Adelphi Literary Society has elected the following officers for the ensuing term: President, W. H. North; Vice President, Miss Gertrude Hironymous; Secretary, Miss Nellie Murphy; Treasurer, W. J. Flood; Chorister, Miss Josephine Blum; Marshal, E. A. Powers.



# THE STUDENT RECORD

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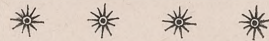
# Editorial Comment.

PERHAPS the quickest and surest road to unpopularity in college, is to become attached to a clique. Outside the same means lead to the same end, but the effect is not noticeable. If you will call to mind any person who attempted to associate with a limited number to the exclusion of all others, you recall one that was extremely unpopular. There is something in his make-up, an I'm-too-good-for-you atmosphere about him, that is repulsive to sensible people. At college, where all are working for the same end, where naturally a fraternal feeling exists and where merit makes the man, he who will not wait to be invited to prominence, soon finds that he cannot become the big toad in the puddle by assuming lordly airs and cliquing with a few others of his kind. We once heard one of these lords, who was nominated and elected by his own vote, ask: "Why is it I have so few friends among the boys?" The reply given was: "Did it ever occur to you that the only time you condescend to talk, with what you term rabble, is when you wish a favor. What favors you might grant are bestowed on the few of your clique. Go there for your favors in return." We have known several students to enter college who might, but for one weakness, have stood well with their fellow students, viz.: a desire to be considered a trifle better than ordinary mortals. While it is not long until they discover that it is impossible under such circumstances to gain popularity. Many seem not to profit by the lesson, for they leave college comparative strangers to many of their fellows. Then our advice to all who intend entering college is, beware of cliques, stay with the majority, consider all your equals, make all your associates and your life there will be pleasantly and profitably spent.

\* \* \* \*

WE regret that so little interest was taken in the Literary Society the last term. When it was necessary to make some amendments to the constitution the required majority could not be had. This is a bad state of affairs. When we ask who is responsible for it, we find that it is not so much the laggards of the school as the best students. We find also that many who stand

highest in their classes are unknown in the Literary Society. A student, although he be the best in his class, has missed one-half of the education to be had at college if he take no interest in the social side of college life. For there he is dealing with men, he has already commenced life in the world. Of two students, the one who stands well in his classes, but takes no interest in college affairs, and the other, although he be only a middle man in his classes, but takes an active part in all student institutions, the latter will become a successful man in life, while the former will, in nine cases out of ten, make a failure of all he attempts. In other words, the man who learns little, but learns how to use it, is a better man than the one who learns much, but does not learn to apply it. Therefore, we would urge all to take more interest in college societies, publications and all that pertains to the welfare of the school.



## ENERGY.

TO HABITS of industry you must add energy to give them complete efficiency. In this age, and especially in this country the word is "push." The mere plodder is left far behind. It is not enough that you work; you must work with vigor. "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Freeman Hunt, in an old copy of the *Merchant's Magazine*, says:

"We love our upright, energetic men. Pull them this way, and then that way and the other, they only bend, but never break. Trip them down and in a trice they are on their feet. Bury them in the mud and in an hour they will be out and bright.

"They are not ever yawning away existence, walking about the world as if they had come into it with only half their souls, you cannot keep them down, you cannot destroy them. But for these the world would soon degenerate. They are the salt of the earth.

"Who but they start any noble project? They build our cities and rear our manufactories. They whiten the ocean with their sails, and darken the heavens with the smoke of their steam vessels and furnace fires. They draw treasures from the mines. They plow the earth. Blessings on them."

We meet men every day who possess talent, industry and good judgment, but who win no adequate success simply from the lack of energy; they do not push, and somebody always steps in before them. Cultivate this quality. Bring into action all the latent powers of your nature. Strike, and strike with a will!—*Eastman Journal*.

Never say you know a man until you have divided an inheritance with him.—*Lavater*.



## Local Items.

True Van Sickle, an ex-student, was on the Campus last week.

Jay White, Business '93, is now a compositor on the *Inyo Index*.

The baseball pitchers of the College team begin practice to-day.

President Jones was, on account of illness, detained at home last Friday.

The RECORD will hereafter be published on the 15th and 30th of each month.

The special edition of the RECORD will be published on the 15th of February.

Mr. P. Howard kindly remembered the Independent Association New Year's.

G. R. Bliss, ex. '94, and M. P. Ward, ex. '96, are now attending the 'Varsity.

Professor R. Brown entertained the Dormitory students one evening last week.

Eight telegraph keys and sounders have been added to the apparatus of the Commercial Department.

The new drawing desks, made by the students in Practical Mechanics, are models of convenience.

Fred Stadtmuller, '92, has resumed his duties as instructor in the Qualitative Chemical Laboratory.

Last Saturday evening Professor Church and the Sophomores very pleasantly entertained the classes of '94, '95 and '97.

The Seniors of the School of Mines have made the drawings of a 25-H. P. stationery engine. The patterns will be made in the workshop.

The Faculty will give the students and Alumni a reception in Stewart Hall next Friday evening. Owing to the lack of facilities for entertainment friends have not been invited.

### WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

IF THE students of our University would keep abreast of the thought of the age they must devote more time than they do at present to the consideration of social and economic questions. In many of the Colleges of our country these subjects form an important part of the curriculum.

Intricate problems of an important character, in the Department of Economics, are presenting themselves

continually, that demand a speedy solution. One of these is that of providing employment for the great army of American laborers living in enforced idleness. We do not refer to the large number thrown out of work, through the stoppage of the wheels of industry by the recent financial panic, and for whose relief immediate steps must be taken; but to the host of workingmen, numbering between half a million and a million, for whom employment could not be found, under existing economic conditions, were trade to resume its normal activity.

Eminent authorities say that in civilized countries, during the past four hundred years, laborers have been in excess of the labor to be performed. In the United States, during the recent years, this condition of things exists in an unprecedented degree. For causes which we need not go far to seek, the army of unemployed men is constantly increasing and must continue to increase while present causes are operative.

The invention of labor-saving machinery, by means of which one man can perform the work of many men, has released large numbers from various employments, who are, as a consequence, compelled to seek something to do in other avocations. Not all of these have succeeded in finding that which they seek.

Added to this is the further cause of immigration, by which we receive annually from one to two hundred thousand from other lands, who come to compete with the American workingman. Thus immigration not only reduces the price of labor, but also fearfully augments the ranks of the unemployed.

To correct this evil, in justice to the American workingman, our gates should be closed against the incoming of the class of immigrants mentioned, until such time as work can be provided for those already here.

The State should make provision for the employment of every idle man in our country at a fair remuneration, who wants to earn an honest dollar and maintain himself and family, if he has one, in comfort and decency. Extended avenues of labor should be opened up. Public works necessary to the welfare of the masses, such as the construction of public highways, should be inaugurated and carried forward on a far greater scale than at present. Latent resources should be developed, which individual or corporate enterprise is unable or unwilling to execute.

Our statesmen, if they give to this question the attention it deserves, need have no difficulty in devising means to profitably employ the idle. The people for wise reasons should be willing to be taxed for this purpose. Both humanity and justice demand that every unemployed man be provided with something to do, by means of which he can honorably earn his bread.

If for no other reason, it is cheaper. It is better to provide work than allow a great army of idle men, who must be fed, to develop, through idleness, into tramps and lawbreakers, and fuel to feed the fires of anarchy.

TAUQUA.



## Bits of Fun.

### Takes the Cake.

"Where the chicken got the ax," is at present looking pale  
As a slang phrase, and there's hope it will soon entirely fail,  
For word has just come to us from the city of New York,  
That the chicken gag has got it where the bottle got the cork.

—*Detroit Free Press.*

Even this choice bit has left us, 'twas not suited to our needs;  
Like the other, it has got it "where de lady wore de beads."

—*Sacramento Bee.*

In noting the location where the fellow got hit,  
The expressions above quoted do not suit the case one bit;  
Let's be truthful in the statement of this trifling circumstance,  
He got it where the pistol pocket ornaments the pants.

—*Folsom Telegraph.*

First mining student—"How's mineralogy?"  
Second mining student—"Rocky?"

Dodson—"I think that all the R. R. engineers should be put in the asylum."  
Hodson—"Why?"  
Dodson—"Because they are moved by loco motives."

The editor of "Bits of Fun" would like to become acquainted with someone who has seen a tree "leaf" its position, or who has heard one "bark."

Came to college  
Joined the 'leven  
Played in one game  
Went to Heaven.

The man who's on the ocean,  
And seasick in his berth,  
Amidst the storm's commotion,  
Is the man who wants the earth.

—*Exchange.*

"Hello, Brown, you look like a wreck—  
You do, upon my life!  
Been in a football game?" "Oh, no;  
Been shopping with my wife."

—*Kansas City Journal.*

First Yalesian—"Did you break the news to poor Jack's father and mother gently?"

Second Yalesian—"Yes; sent 'em two telegrams, you know. First read: 'Jack killed in game,' and second: 'Princeton wins.'"—*Life.*

### THE "RECORD'S" EXCHANGES.

<i>Journal</i> .....	Reno, Nevada
<i>News</i> .....	Carson, Nevada
<i>Tribune</i> .....	Carson, Nevada
<i>Appeal</i> .....	Carson, Nevada
<i>Weekly</i> .....	Carson, Nevada
<i>Courier</i> .....	Genoa, Nevada
<i>Times</i> .....	Dayton, Nevada
<i>Tidings</i> .....	Greenfield, Nevada
<i>Bulletin</i> .....	Hawthorne, Nevada
<i>Dispatch</i> .....	Wadsworth, Nevada
<i>Silver State</i> .....	Winnemucca, Nevada
<i>Courier</i> .....	Belmont, Nevada
<i>Sentinel</i> .....	Eureka, Nevada
<i>Reveille</i> .....	Austin, Nevada
<i>Independent</i> .....	Elko, Nevada
<i>Central Nevadan</i> .....	Battle Mountain, Nevada
<i>The Napa Classic</i> .....	Napa, California
<i>Union Hit</i> .....	Agricultural College, Michigan
<i>News</i> .....	Denver, Colorado
<i>Rocky Mountain Collegian</i> .....	Fort Collins, Colorado
<i>Cadet</i> .....	Oono, Maine
<i>Occident</i> .....	Berkeley, California
<i>The Oracle</i> .....	Bangor, Maine
<i>Squibs</i> .....	Seattle, Washington
<i>D. S. Journal</i> .....	Williamsport, Pennsylvania
<i>College Exponent</i> .....	Stockton, California

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