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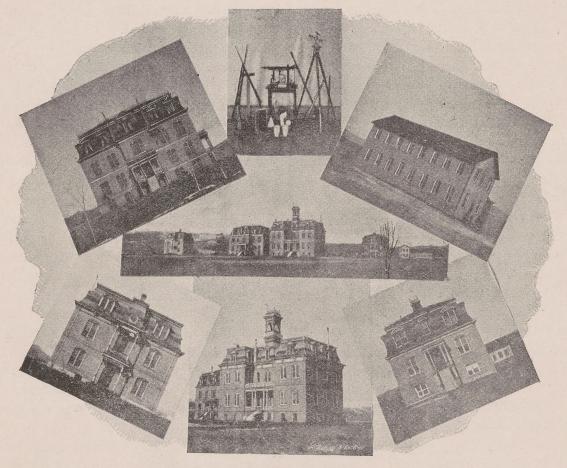
No. 12.

IS MACAULAY'S JUDGMENT OF BACON JUST?

** REAT admiration for a man," says Macaulay, "tends to render us blind to his faults." It is equally true that great dislike for a man renders us blind to his virtues. Macaulay was more inclined to dislike than to admiration, and so was more likely to overlook virtues than faults. But admiration and dislike for Bacon were so nearly equal as to leave osophy was extremely practical, and sought solely to promote the physical welfare of mankind. This fact, kept in mind, will throw some light on Bacon's actions.

But Bacon's attention was not given wholly to philosophy. This was his pastime. Unhappily we cannot forget that his greatest activity was displayed as advocate and statesman. Had he exercised his talents only as an author no man would be more admired; but we should then know nothing of him as a man. As it is, his character as a man is what interests us most.

It is unnecessary to give the history of his life and actions. The facts are well known. No one denies that



BUILDINGS OF NEVADA STATE UNIVERSITY.

General View.

Main Building.

Dormitory. State Mining Laboratory. Iron and Carpenter Shops. Agricultural Experiment Station.

Macaulay's mind free from bias, and his judgment is, I think, essentially correct.

To us Bacon was a philosopher. His influence as a statesman has passed away. His character as a man affected mainly those of his own time. But his teaching as a philosopher and scientist has been transmitted through the intervening generations, and is as potent now as ever. Macaulay's judgment of his philosophy is generally admitted to be correct. I shall assume that his is the true exposition of Bacon's principles and purposes. I merely wish to call attention to the fact that this philhis highest ambition was to hold high offices of state, and to stand high in the regard of his sovereign. No one denies that he was once the trusted friend of Essex, and that he afterward assisted in that nobleman's condemnation. Everybody knows that he put Peachem to the rack, and that while Lord Keeper and Lord Chancellor he accepted many valuable presents. The only questions are, Why did he do those things? What were the motives of his actions? Did he himself believe that he was doing right?

I am always tempted to try to defend a great man's

character and memory against all attacks. In the case of a character so complex as Bacon's was, a fine chance is offered for weaving subtle excuses, and theories by which his actions may be explained. But when we have the data for arriving at the true motives, it is hardly worth while to speculate as to what other motives would have led to the same result.

Some men are said to be better than the principles they uphold. Bacon seems to have been worse. Yet his ideas of right and justice were by no means lofty. He knew by reason what was expedient, but he had no veneration of what was right. His feelings toward his fellow men were neutral. There was no positive kindness, and no malice in his nature. If in benefiting himself he could benefit others, well and good, but if he could benefit himself by injuring others, a sense of right did not prevent him from doing it.

To understand men's actions we must know their object. The designs of an architect are totally incomprehensible to one who does not know for what kind of an edifice they were intended. So a man's actions are inexplicable till we know his aim in life. I have before remarked that Bacon's higher ambition was to hold a high position in the State. To gain honor and wealth and power was his chief aim in life. He wished to be great in the eyes of his contemporaries and of posterity. At the first glance, this may seem impossible, since that occupation which has brought him most honor was the one to which he gave least attention. If he desired fame, why did he not devote all his time to philosophy? The question is easily answered. Philosophy in Bacon's time was not regarded as it is now. The Statesman far outshone the Philosopher. Philosophy brought neither wealth nor power. It did not dazzle the eyes of the people. The splendor of the Court won Bacon's heart and brains. The favor of the ruler, high place in Government gave a man the greatest possible power over the people. High office brought dignities, adulation and wealth, and all these Bacon longed for. In speaking of the degrees of honor to which subjects may attain, he puts first, " Participes Cuvarum, those upon whom princes do discharge the greatest weight of their affairs, their righthand men as we call them."

Bacon's opinions about the objects and purposes of life may be learned from the Essays. His principles, too, are there expressed with a plainness not to be mistaken. No where in the Essays does he pay such high tribute to learning and philosophy as he gives to political greatness. High place in the State, the favor of the King, he everywhere assumes to be most desirable, and gives many ways, some honest, some dishonest, by which these good things may be obtained. He seems to consider all means fair. What else may be inferred from such a passage as this: "Sometimes, he that deals between man and man, raiseth his credit with both by pretending greater interest than he hath in either; in these, and the like kinds, it often falls out, that somewhat is produced of nothing; for lies are sufficient to breed opinion, and opinion brings on substance." Of such passages the essays are full.

Having fixed his aim in life, Bacon went to work in the most practical manner to reach it. In his time, the most rapid means of rising in the Government was to pay court to the soverign, and to the men high in his favor. This Bacon did with a servility truly surprising. His kinsmen repulsed him, his queen neglected him; but nothing could ruffle his temper or even wear out his patience. He returned thanks alike for favors and insult. He was too practical a man to defeat his own ends by any show of temper. Yet I do not believe that Bacon slavishly curbed his resentment at the abuse of his kinsmen, as Macaulay seems to think he did. Bacon felt no resentment, so devoid was he of the feelings and passions that usually sway mankind. And so completely was he under the dominion of reason that the conduct of his relatives did not seem to him unnatural. The warm love, the generous friendship that prompts one man to do another a gratuitous favor, Bacon never felt, and could not comprehend. "There is no man," he says, "doth a wrong for the wrong's sake, but thereby to purchase himself profit, or pleasure, or honor, or the like; therefore, why should I be angry with a man for loving himself better than me." To a man with such views nothing seemed more natural than that his uncle should refuse to put his own son at a disadvantage by permiting Bacon to become his rival for honors. Bacon would have done the same thing in like circumstances

But Bacon's talents and patience were at last rewarded. With the help of Essex, he recieved some favors from the queen. He held a position where he could show his zeal for his soverign, and his ingratitude to his friend. I will not dwell on the facts relating to the trial of Essex. It is well known that, at the queen's request, Bacon carried on the prosecution with a zeal as great as if the accused was his worst enemy. Bacon's position was trying. He was not yet in high favor with Elizabeth, and had he asked to be released from acting against Essex, it might have cost him his place; and to lose his place would have been the death blow to his hopes of political advancement. Besides if he did not act against Essex another would, and the result would have been the same. True, a man like Essex would have consigned both place and queen to the devil, rather than act the part that Bacon did. But Bacon and Essex were very different men. Friendship with Essex was a warm personal attachment not to be lightly cast aside, with Bacon it was a business relation for mutual profit, a partnership, which, when the profit ceased to be mutual, was to be dissolved. Then all obligations were at an end, Essex in his broken fortunes could no longer be of any use to Bacon. The queen could raise him to the height of his ambition. That was enough to determine where his interest lay, and with him interess was synonymous with duty. He could not let this chance of showing his zeal for the queen go by; and he could not conceive how anyone should expect him to. No doubt he thought it

very strange that Essex should charge him with ingratitude for loving himself better than his friend.

This shows how completely lacking Bacon was in all qualities of the mind except intellect. He did not repress those feelings that make men do noble, generous deeds. He had no such feelings to repress. His intellect was all. I can hardly say that he did wrong. Yet I can but pity a mind at once so comprehensive and so narrow, so weak and yet so strong. Again the fact is well established that Bacon, while Lord Keeper and Lord Chancellor, received many valuable presents, I do not call them bribes, though it is certain the givers sought by this means to bring their causes to issues favorable to themselves. The presents, therefore, were given, but not taken as bribes. It is hard to say whether this view lessens or increases Bacon's guilt for accepting the suitor's money for work he had no intention of doing. Only one excuse worth refuting has been made for Bacon's conduct, viz: that bribery was so common in his day that he did not know it was wrong. Bribery certainly was common, but that does not prove that it was right, or that it was so considered. Macaulay cites the opinions of the parliament and Hugh Latimer to prove that bribery was held a crime. But Bacon was unique in morals, and may have differed with the bishop. I shall call Bacon himself to witness. In the essay on Judicature he says: "Above all things integrity is their (the judges) portion and proper virtue," and in the essay "of great place," he says: "For corruption, do not only bind thine own hands and thy servants hands from taking, but bind the hands of suitors from offering; for integrity used doth the one; but integrity professed with a manifest detestation of bribery doth the other; and avoid not only the fault but the suspicion." Can anything be plainer? Yet Bacon's defenders say he did not know it was wrong to take bribes. Such an assertion is absurd. He did know it, and with his eyes wide open he committed the crime which he himself condemns. His cupidity and love of splendor led him to accept those presents. He hoped the corruption would never be found out. He was in high favor with the king and thought that his position would shield him from dishonor. Thus was rumored the fear of evil consequences, which with Bacon, was the one restraint from dishonesty.

In taking bribes Bacon acted in strict conformity with his philosophic principles. The physical welfare of the world in general, and of Bacon in particular was what he sought. If this could be gained by taking the surplus cash of suitors dishonest as himself what was the harm.

It is needless to say more. In whatever light we look at Bacon, our judgment is the same. He was endowed with a powerful intellect, and that was all, the moral and social faculties are wanting to make a character which we admire. After these reflections we can but think that, whatever mistakes Macaulay has made in the details of his argument, his conclusions are eventually correct, his judgment just.

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM.

The following program will be rendered at the University on Arbor Day:

MarshalF. C. Frey
Arbor Day Proclamation Miss S. Linscott
Remarks Professor J. E. Church

MUSIC. Planting tree by— Adelphi Society.....Speaker, Fred Waltz Sophomore Class....Speaker Miss Maud Wheeler 2d Year Commercial Speaker F. A. Cornelison

MUSIC. Planting tree by— Cadet Corps......Speaker F. C. Frey Ist Year Commercial....Speaker, R. B. Maxon Senior ClassSpeaker, Miss Anna Schadler MUSIC. Planting tree by— Freshman ClassSpeaker, R. M. Brambila Junior ClassSpeaker, S. C. Durkee

Junior Class Speaker, S. C. Durkee 3d Year Normal. Speaker, Arthur Brandon MUSIC. Planting tree by— 1st Year Normal....Speaker, Miss Agnes Maxwell

2d Year Normal	. Speaker, Miss Edna Catlin
Т. Н. Р. О	Speaker, F. H. Saxton

-The annual celebration of Bourdon by the class of '97, U. C., passed off very quietly. There was every expectation of a lively celebration up to the afternoon of the event as the Freshmen had announced that they would carry the usual caricatures on the Sophomores and be prepared to hold their own against the upper class. It rested with the '96 men whether there should be a fight or not. The class met during the afternoon and decided not to rush. The result was a quiet and somewhat tame celebration, for the '97 men had not prepared much of a spectacular display and they simply marched in procession headed by the catafalque with the Pontifex Maximus and other speakers, passing before the fraternity houses, which were especially decorated with vari-colored lanterns. As the procession passed each clubhouse it was saluted by a burst of fireworks and cheers from the friends of the clubmen assembled.

A sea of heads surged about the campus as the huge dray bearing the highly raised bier with the grimly attired priests attendant rolled into the central part and the Freshmen formed in a ring about the wagon ready to repel the attack which did not come. The coffin containing the mortal remains of Bourdon and Minto blazed high with its lurid flames, and the imprecators of the occasion piled high in flowing eloquence their maledictions and damnatory desires on the burning coffin with its books. Class President Mays was the first speaker, followed by W. H. Booth, the Pontifex Maximus.—Ex.

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Editorial Comment.

W HAT is the matter with the baseball team? The boys seem to be losing interest in the game. There does not seem to be much ebullition of physical energy in any of the games on the Campus. What has produced the quietus at present existing? With beautiful weather and good grounds there ought to be some lively baseball games.

* * * *

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MILES, 20th U. S. Infantry, inspected the Cadet corps last Thursday. We are glad to say that he was very favorably impressed with the general appearance and drill of the Cadets. Colonel Miles says that an endeavor is being made to have the Government furnish the cadets of military colleges with uniforms. It now furnishes the militia of the different States with uniforms, and if it will do the same by the military colleges a great benefit will be conferred upon a deserving class of young men.

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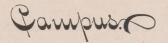
A MISAPPREHENSION exists in the minds of some of our citizens as to the functions of the chemist in the State Mining Laboratory. The law plainly says, that his duty is to analyze ores, but it also distinctly states that he shall not assay for gold and silver. In view of the fact that assayers qualified to do such work are plentiful throughout the State, this last provision is a wise one. The law did not intend that the assayer's business should be destroyed by the opening of a State Assay Office where work would be done gratuitously. It intended that analyses only should be made in order that the composition of ores could be determined and the mineral resources of the State developed.

* * * *

THERE are some students in the University who remind us most forcibly of our earlier boyhood days, when school to us was a prison and every available occasion found some of us playing truant. But later, strange as it may seem, we discovered why we were going to school. While as a rule these students do not willfully remain away from their classes, yet some have a habit of failing to appear at General Assembly on Friday afternoons. We are informed that on last Friday a larger number than usual was absent and we are sorry to say that they were not all young men. The request has been made by the Board of Regents that all attend General Assembly, and this is a sufficient reason for the presence of every student. The members of a college faculty must not be expected to exercise the same supervision over students that a teacher in a primary school does over his pupils.

* * * *

Two propositions are on foot to change the present calendar of the University. The first is to divide the academic year into two terms instead of three as at present exists, the first term to begin about the middle of August and end the middle of December, the second term to begin the first of January and end the middle of May. The second proposition is to commence the first term as at present, in September, and end it the first of February and have the second term close in June. Unfortunately both of these proposed changes are open to objections. The first division of time would work a hardship to students who find it necessary to assist in farm work during hay harvest. The second crop is not harvested until the first week of September. The proposed change would compel them either to miss the work in harvesting the second crop or the school work in August and a part of September. They cannot well afford to do either of these. The objection to the second proposition, although less serious than the objection to the first, merits attention. The Christmas vacation coming such a short time before the examinations at the close of the first term would not be enjoyed as it should. What student can relish a vacation when examinations are close at hand? We would suggest that the first term begin as at present, but end before Christmas, and the second term begin the first of January and end about the first of June. The March vacation would in this way be dispensed with and we believe this division would give general satisfaction.



The Senior class held a meeting last week.

F. Germain, ex-Com., was on the Campus.

The University grounds are being trimmed up.

Dr. J. W. Phillips took a trip to Mud Lake last week.

Clarence C. Larson, Ex. '95, paid the University a visit.

D. W. Dillard, Com. '93, is taking a special course in shorthand.

The Cadet corps will commence target practice in the near future.

Professor Brown was confined to his room by illness the past few days.

It is expected that seven records will be broken the coming Field Day.

The Executive Committee of the Athletic Association held a meeting Friday.

The many friends of Miss Hedley French, '95, regret that she has left college.

The Cadet corps made a short practice march in the country last Wednesday.

The Junior mines are making blue prints of Professor Jackson's notes in metallurgy.

Professor Jackson was unable to meet his class last Friday on account of jury duty.

H. S. Swan and C. P. Brown went to Virginia City last week to look at some mining property.

Professor Church, accompanied by three young ladies, ascended Peavine mountain a short time ago.

W. E. Coppersmith, ex-Com., paid the University a visit while on his way to the Midwinter Fair.

A game of baseball will be played between the Freshies and Sophs on Arbor Day, April 20th.

Professor Hillman's mother, accompanied by his little boy, arrived here from Michigan a few days ago.

I,ast Friday afternoon Misses Robertson, Parker and Geer and Mr. Thompson, spoke in Stewart Hall.

The young ladies of Stewart Hall were very pleasantly entertained by the T. H. P. O. Club last Saturday night.

C. R. Lewers, '93, passed through Reno on his way from the Midwinter Fair to his school in Paradise Valley.

Miss Annie Martin, '94, and Misses Light, Zecherle and Wright spoke before General Assembly the 30th ult. The class in surveying contemplates a trip to Washoe, as soon as they recommence field practice, to triangulate Washoe lake.

The speakers before General Assembly on the 5th inst. were Misses Thoms, Jameson, Allen and Blum and Mr. C. Magill, '94.

At a meeting of the Freshman class Charles Loder was elected President to fill the vacancy created by the departure of L. C. Stephens.

F. A. Bristol, '91, who has the position of assayer for the LeRoy Mining Company, in Trail Creek, B. C., is visiting his relatives and friends in Reno.

A number of the scientific students took a trip into the mountains north of Reno, 'They obtained some interesting mineralogical and botanical specimens.

DEAR FRESHMEN:—The Sophomore class has been severely criticised by you and your retainers, the Juniors, for the action it took in a meeting recently held.

Now call to mind, O Freshmen, the disorganized condition in which we found you, a condition in which you have remained since the departure of your President early last term. O Freshmen, we recognize the ponderosity of your brain capacity, we know you feel that you are highly favoring the institution by condescending to honor it by your presence. We know that before you depart from here you will have presented the institution with much of the knowledge and many of the brilliant ideas you possessed in your early life. We know that it seemed exceedingly presumptuous in us, who all our lives have seemed so meek and humble, to reorganize your class. Forgive us. Long have we waited to see if others would take the step, long have we felt, with agonizing pain, that your immense abilities and wonderous talents needed a guiding hand. O Freshmen, we saw with sadness that you were about to trample on a time-honored custom. We waited breathlessly to see if you would move. You did not. Time slipped rapidly away, still you remained inactive. Then, on that memorable day, we posted a notice for you to meet, and with the most philanthropic intentions, we proceeded to effect the reorganization. You know the rest. We fanned the last spark into life, and you are now a real, a living Yours for justice sake, class.

SOPH.

The students of Toronto University, Canada, recently presented on the stage the "Antigone" of Sophocles in the original Greek, with Mendelsohn's music. There were three evening performances and a matinee, which were remarkably successful. A later performance was given on behalf of the unemployed and a handsome sum realized. The "Antigone" was presented for the first time in America by the students of the same university in 1882.

Reciprocities.

6

—The Brown University baseball club has forty games scheduled.

-The Yale football squad began practice the first of this month.

—Spaulding's Baseball Guide for 1894 contains a section devoted to college baseball.

-College sports have been forbidden at the University of Kentucky on account of alleged gambling connected with them.

-Of the one hundred and ninety-five professors, instructors, and tutors of Yale, one hundred and sixty-four are Yale men.

-If your lips would keep from slips, five things observe with care: Of whom you speak, to whom you speak, and how and when and where.

—Prof. in history—What was the ultimate effect of the hanging of the Greek patriarch?

Freshman—I think it resulted in his death.

—The Freshmen of Midland college have adopted the following class yell: "Rah! Rah! Rah! Class of '97! When we leave the earth we expect to go to heaven!"

-The new catalogue issued by the Sage School of Philosophy of Cornell credits that school with thirty students who are endeavoring to attain the title, Ph. D.

"Do you know the language of flowers?" she said, As she gave him a rose-bud, beautiful, very.

He happened to step on a thistle just then,

And gave her the whole vocabulary.-Northwestern.

-Many of our colleges are beginning to realize the importance of journalism. Mr. James G. Bennett has donated \$1,000 to Harvard, Princeton, Vale and Columbia colleges and to the University of New York, to be invested and the interest thereof to be given as a prize in journalism.

> I stood in the hall at midnight When the clocks were striking the hour, And counted the stokes in horror, And longed for the magic power To turn Time's footsteps backward And enable myself to shout Up-stairs in courageous accents, ''Shall I put the milk-can out?''

-Judge.

James M. Davis____

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