

ROUND THE TABLE.

Mr. Houston, the indefatigable librarian of the Legislature, is once more stirring up our University Fathers to re-model the Civil Polity course. He points out that of one text nothing but the title has ever been heard. The TABLE formed itself into a deputation to examine the curriculum with a view to ascertain the conditions for examination. The deputation found "Bayne's New Analytic Method" on, and fearing a mountainous work, rushed over to the library to be relieved by the much-abused assistants saying that a most rigid search had not even obtained a clue to the existence of our fear.

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In art circles, the dispersion of the Stewart Gallery has excited much interest. The total amount realized was \$513,750, which was more than the Seney collection brought, but less than that obtained at the Morgan sale. The chief attractions were Meissonier's "1807," and Rosa Bonheur's "The Horse Fair," which were sold for \$66,000 and \$53,000 respectively. It was reported that the purchaser of the great Meissonier, a son of Judge Hilton, intended to present it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which is very rich in art treasures. Cesnola's Collection of Cyprian Antiquities have rendered this Museum world-famous. "The Horse Fair," through the generosity of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, has passed into the possession of New York City. It is a graceful act on the part of Mr. Vanderbilt to so recognize the city in which his fortune was acquired.

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It is not often that the realm of science becomes the arena for party conflicts. But one singular instance is on record. Benjamin Franklin, best known in the United States as the author of "Poor Richard's Almanack," was the inventor of conductors to defend buildings from lightning. The weight of his authority was on the side of points. It happened that Kew Palace was to be ornamented in this way. George III., from his animosity to Franklin, directed that his conductors should be blunt at the ends. Sir John Pringle, the President of the Royal Society, was invited to support the Court in the dispute. On remarking that the laws of nature were not changeable at Royal pleasure, he was informed that as he entertained such opinions he ought not to hold his position as President of a Royal Society. The hint was taken, and Sir John Pringle ceased to fill the chair of President of a Society of which he was the chiefest ornament.

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A Dakota minister writes to *The Independent*: "The Severity Bill, which is now law, is hailed by those of us who are on the border-line of observation, being near neighbours of these wards of the nation, as a step in the right direction. I find the general frontier opinion has been that 'a good Indian is a dead Indian'; but the success with the living which Alfred Riggs and Thomas Riggs (supported by the American Missionary Association) have had at Santee and Oahe, shows what can be done by religious industrial training; and we hail the school at White River Camp as another link in the chain of good influences which will help to bind these dusky brethren in the restraint and freedom of Christian civilization and citizenship. The school is an elevated object lesson, not only for the pupils but also for the 'children of a larger growth,' who watch at its portals, not only at the beautiful lives, words, and influence of the teachers, but in the whole outflow from that school building. It is evidently the influencing centre of the whole camp for old and young, bringing not only new words into their vocabulary, but new thoughts, new aspirations, and a new life."

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Some of the curiosities of newspaper statistics are worth a paragraph. There were, according to the *Printing Press*, 700 religious

and denominational newspapers published in the United States last year, and nearly one-third of them are printed in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Chicago. New York is far ahead in this respect, but Chicago leads Boston. Three newspapers are devoted to the silk-worm, six to the honey-bee, and not less than thirty-two to poultry. The dentists have eighteen journals, the photographers nine, and the deaf and dumb and blind nineteen. There are three publications exclusively devoted to philately, and one to the terpsichorean art. The prohibitionists have 129 organs to the liquor-dealers' eight. The woman suffragists have seven, the candy makers three. Gastronomy is represented by three newspapers, gas by two. There are about 600 newspapers printed in German, and forty-two in French. The towns which have most French periodicals are New York, New Orleans, and Worcester, Mass.—four apiece. There are more Swedish prints than French. Two daily newspapers are printed in the Bohemian tongue. Strange names are found among the Polish, Finnish, and Welch press; for instance, the *Dzienswiety* and the *Przajciel Ludi* of Chicago, the *Yhdyswalta in Sanomat* of Ohio, and the *Y Wawur* of Utica, New York. There is one Gaelic publication, one Hebrew, one Chinese, and one in the Cherokee language.

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In a leading German review, the *Unsere Zeit*—if we are to esteem and value at all the body of knowledge got together by the aid of shears and mucilage, from the accumulation of esteemed and valued exchanges—occurs the following remark from a competent observer:

"A large head and a small head indicate differences in temperament. The former usually possesses a cold, the latter a fiery temperament. . . . If we could imagine two persons whose bodies were exactly alike, but one with a larger, the other with a smaller skull, the pressure of the blood would be very unequal in the two—moderate in the larger, stronger in the smaller head. It is self-evident that the greater pressure of the blood would have an exciting influence on brain and soul."

Once more Germany, "learned, indefatigable, deep-thinking Germany," comes to our aid. A large head, writes our learned German, "usually possesses a cold." The present writer can bear witness to the truth which pervades these words. As for the rest, one could wish for the deeper insight, the wider view, of the German sage; to those whose standing-place is on a lower level than his, he cannot hope to make himself wholly intelligible.

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It may be that the German is merely a variety of the class Phrenologist—of which I may not speak my mind freely, out of deference to a correspondent to the columns of this paper. I cannot refrain from saying, however, that in Aristotle, where he speaks of ends, and in Cicero's tractate *De Finibus*, I have found nothing to convict either of these two illustrious ancients of a leaning towards the doctrines held by the correspondent hereinbefore mentioned. They say you can find everything in Shakespeare; there is certainly one side reference to the *cultus* of phrenologists—for the "divinity that shapes our ends" is, or surely ought to be, the divinity to whom their devotions are due.

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This application of a line from Shakespeare reminds me of a saying of the ingenious man's. We were on King street, coming west towards Yonge, between midnight and dawn—at the hour when the *Globe* special is making itself ready for its utter annihilation of the time and space relations. The night was clear and bright; and as we came in full sight of the Dominion Bank, the ingenious man said in a voice trembling with emotion:

"How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!"

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