

opened the debate with some pointed remarks, that weighed well for his own cause, and in his usual pleasant style entertained the audience for fifteen or twenty minutes. Mr. Taylor followed and in a general manner spoke fluently, advancing some good arguments in defence of the press. The assembly seemed to smile at the simplicity of his language as he, in his peroration, had the press soaring through *the sun* in its *chariot of fire*, made it speak through its *golden mouthed Bisostrum*, and called it the 'semaphore disseminating ideas throughout Christendom.'

Mr. Cox followed and asked the audience to call back their thoughts from those ethereal regions for a time while he treated them to a poem of facts. Mr. Cox spoke both eloquently and effectively, and was followed by Mr. Symons who *dittoed* most of what had been said. The Chairman gave a short address on the subject, but forbore to give a decision.

There will be no regular meeting next Saturday night, consequently the society will entertain its members to a dinner at 'the Hub,' to the tune of fifty cents a head. 'How have the mighty fallen!' *Dinner at the Hub*; fifty cents a head!

### CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

DEAR 'VARSITY,—The adjourned debate on Socialism which I mentioned in my last letter was resumed yesterday evening, two members only speaking in favor of the motion and eight against it. At the close of the debate the House divided and showed a majority of 341 against the motion, the vote being, Ayes, 58, and Noes, 399.

Gouville and Caius College has lost one of its most noted graduates by the death of Mr. Chenery, who for the past six years has been editor of *The Times*. Mr. Chenery was a noted oriental scholar and was formerly Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic at Oxford.

Notice has been given in Parliament of a bill 'to amend the law relating to the licensing of the performance of stage plays in the city of Oxford and town of Cambridge.' Under the present law it rests with 'the Worshipful the Vice-Chancellor' to permit or forbid dramatic performances just as he pleases. This is one of the privileges that was granted to the Universities many years ago, but it is a privilege that has now degenerated into a drawback, though it is quite possible that the bill may find some little opposition.

The University eight resumed practice last Friday on the river at Ely. One or two changes may yet be made in the crew, but they will soon settle down to work in their final shape. The Oxford eight are also hard at work, but the floods and rough weather combined have greatly interfered with their practice. Our Lent races are to begin on Ash-Wednesday, and the men composing the different college crews are now in strict training. Part of the training consists in going out for a run every morning in the 'Backs' at eight o'clock. This gives some of the men an opportunity of experiencing quite a new sensation—the novelty of getting up at 7.30.

Yours very truly,  
T. C. S. M.

Cambridge, February 13th, 1884.

### General College Notes.

Columbia's total expenditure last year was \$555,000.

The girls at the University of Michigan are to have a gymnasium.  
—*Ex.*

Columbia College is to have its library illuminated by electric light.

The Amherst Glee Club will make a Western trip after the Easter holidays.

There are about 7,000 American students in the universities of Germany.

At Cornell the first and second years are required to do gymnasium work.

Columbia has received a gift of astronomical instruments valued at \$12,000.

Princeton is in possession of the electrical machine which Dr. Franklin used.

The gymnasium belonging to the University of California was recently destroyed by fire.

\$40,000 has been given to Boston University to endow a chair in the College of Liberal Arts.

The various classes at Amherst have organized whist clubs, and a tournament is expected in the near future.

Mr. Wendell Phillips was a graduate of Harvard. He is said to have been the best scholar and best general athlete in college.

The late Mr. Hallgarten, of New York, bequeathed \$50,000 to Dartmouth College. It was an unconditional gift.—*Scholastic*.

There are five journals issued in connection with John Hopkins University. All are devoted to original scientific investigations.

The Yale baseball nine will be coached this winter by Goldsmith, of the Chicago, and Yale's crew by Captain Flanders, who pulled bow oar on last year's crew.

Dartmouth College will hereafter receive five thousand dollars annually from the State of New Hampshire for the aid of indigent students.—*Bowdoin Orient*.

A great many of the American Colleges are now organizing their boat crews for the coming spring. Pennsylvania seems to have surprised them all by a big challenge.

Cornell University has got a particularly fine Egyptian mummy from Mr. Pomeroy, American consul-general at Cairo. It is something over 3,500 years old, and the covering of pasteboard bears a host of figures and inscriptions which are yet plain.—*Ex.*

According to the report of the Minister of Education for 1883, the following universities are represented among the head masters of the High Schools in Ontario:—Toronto, 53; Victoria, 18; Queen's, 12; Trinity, 4; Albert, 4; Aberdeen, 2; Queen's (Ireland), 2; Dublin, 1; McGill, 1; Cambridge, 1; Glasgow, 1; making a total of 99, of which 91 are graduates of Ontario Universities, and 8 are foreigners. Of the 99 graduates of Ontario Universities, the State College, which does 'less than 40 per cent of the higher educational work of the Province,' can lay claim to only 53, or more than 58 per cent of the total number of head masters in Ontario. This is one University against *all* the others in the Province. Comparing it with each University separately, we find that it has 3 times the number of one, 4½ that of another, and 14 times that of each of the remaining two.

### JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

#### II.

#### HIS HUMOROUS WRITINGS.

It was chiefly through his humorous writings that Mr. Lowell gained his literary reputation. He is the greatest of all American humorous writers and yet he cannot be called a professional humorist, for humour is not to him the object aimed at, but the instrument or means used to reach a higher end—the elevation of mankind.

His most famous work is the 'Biglow Papers.' The editor of the *Week* said recently in a critical note that these essays contained little that would survive the hour. This, I believe, is an underestimate of their value. It is now thirty-five years since their first publication, but the interest of the American public in them is almost as strong as it ever was. Probably no book is so frequently quoted in Congress, in the State Legislatures and in the leading political journals. Members of the Canadian House of Commons have also occasionally spiced their orations from its contents. The raciness and originality, the pungency and causticity of the Biglow Papers has probably never been equalled by other writers in the field of political humor. 'Butler's Hudibras' is weak in comparison. Inferior indeed to the 'Letters of Junius,' in smoothness of style and in the balance of sentences, the Biglow Papers show a great superiority to the letters in variety, in quaintness and in directness of expression, in the obviousness of the ideas presented, and in their consequent adaptation to the capacity of ordinary minds. This is an absolutely essential requisite in a work designed, as this was, to affect widely and deeply the public. In order to reach the people more effectually Mr. Lowell frequently addresses them in their own everyday language. He is the most successful writer of the New England vernacular. This feature appears to some of his readers an artistic defect of Mr. Lowell's work, but to the majority it is one of its characteristic excellences.

The Biglow Papers are semi-dramatic in style. The principal characters are Mr. Hosea Biglow, a young farmer, and the Reverend Homer Wilbur, his pastor. Mr. Biglow writes letters to the local papers and the Rev. Homer Wilbur adds comments thereon. The