

ration of George II. and congratulation of George III., and in poems printed in the "Massachusetts Gazette" of April 26, 1764.

A sketch of Harvard published in one of the Sunday papers was suggestive in its illustrations, at least, of the new education at the university. Instead of publishing the portraits of the prominent Professors, or of those students having the highest standing in the classes, the portraits of the tennis champion, a football rusher, a crack oarsman, and the Captain of the baseball club are given. What would the founders of the college say if they could witness the new departure?

A short time since, says the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the eminent and philosophical surgeon, Sir James Paget, speaking of his early studies in botany, remarked that if he could trace no direct advantage to himself in his career as a practical surgeon, from his early studies in botany, "no words could exaggerate their indirect value to him as a mental discipline." Praise of this sort is common with respect to classical studies, but quite unusual as respects the natural history sciences.

At a recent meeting of the authorities of Dickinson College it was decided to admit to the Preparatory Department Robert, the young son of the colored janitor of the college, who recently made application for admission. The matter causes much excitement among the students, and they were informed that those who intended to leave college should hand in their resignations and they would be accepted. All kinds of threats have been made against the colored boy and the officers of the college.

In the German Empire there are now twenty universities, with a little over 28,000 students. The largest are—Berlin, with 4,434 students; Leipzig, 3,069; Munich, 3,035; Halle, 1,518; Breslau, 1,425; Tübingen, 1,403; Würzburg, 1,369; Bonn, 1,293; Göttingen, 1,076; Friburg, 1,319; Heidelberg (which celebrated this year its 500th anniversary), 1,066. The remaining nine universities are Greifswalden, Marburg, Erlangen, Königsberg, Strassburg, Jena, Kiel, Giessen, Rostock, with numbers from 1,018 to 313. Erlangen has 909, Jena 650, Kiel 542.

ITALY has twenty-one universities—one more than Germany. They are divided into two classes, those which receive State support and those which do not. The first class includes Turin, Genoa, Pavia, Padua, Pisa, Bologna, Rome, Naples, Palermo, and Messina. Naples has the largest number of students—3,900—while the smallest number—thirty-nine—is found at Ferrara, which was once for Italy what Weimar was to Germany—the seat of the greatest minds of the age—and which, therefore, desperately clings to the privilege of being a university town. Turin has 2,100, Rome 1,200, Bologna 1,160 students. All the others excepting Pavia have fewer than a thousand. Futile efforts have been repeatedly made to reduce this uselessly large number of high schools. Theology is not taught at any Italian university, but lectures on Church history are included sometimes in the philosophic courses.

## Correspondence.

### DINNER OR CONVERSAZIONE.

To the Editors *University Gazette* :—

DEAR SIRS,—No one can enter the Centre Hall of the Arts Building without noticing some unusual excitement. There is much excited talking and disputing; and cries of 'Dinner' and 'Conversazione' are heard on all sides. The bone of contention is the all engrossing dinner question :—"Are we to have a Dinner or a Conversazione?"

What the dinner is, we all know. But, how will you manage a conversazione? The scheme, as it now stands, is as follows :—that the men students in our faculty hold a conversazione in, say, the Museum or the Molson Hall—that they invite all the lady students—and also outsiders until the whole gathering would number about three hundred.

To look very practically at the question, and from a monetary point of view, the subscription for each man student would be, at most, one dollar. This will remove much of the objection to our dinner. The theological element is 'going solid' for the conversazione, which it never did for a dinner. The ladies, too, must be recognised in any gathering of the 'Faculty of Arts,' constituting as they do about one third of it, numerically. And many of them have expressed themselves much pleased at this scheme.

Some of the Freshies are against the new idea because they know dinners by reputation, only; while very few of the older men care to go in for a dinner when contrasted with a conversazione. Yet, a Senior was heard to say as a valid objection, "Oh! you know, the fellows would want to smoke on such an occasion."

Again, let us see well to the moral worth of the two gatherings. I do not think any one wants to say that the excessive indulgence, usual at dinners, in mere pleasures of sense is ennobling in the least. But I do say that a conversazione would, if anything, tend toward that general refinement, which is the true aim of a college education.

Yours very truly,

ALFRED P. MURRAY.

### BRIGHT AND GRANT ALLEN ON CLASSICS.

To the Editors *University Gazette* :—

DEAR SIRS :—The *Pall Mall Gazette* has recently been obtaining the views of eminent men on the importance of studying Greek and Latin. These opinions are, naturally, widely divergent, but I have been much struck by the fairness and clearness with which the case against the dead languages has been put by John Bright, the great apostle of common sense, and one of the few perfect masters of the English language. I append an extract.—"Your letter," he says, "has caused me some surprise and has afforded me some amusement. You pay me a great compliment in asking my opinion on the question you put to me, which is one with