

too much stress is laid on the present as being a *practical* age, whilst if the matter were looked into, it would be discovered that the germ of all this progress and advancement will be found ages back. The sphere of modern inventors has been merely to apply scientific discoveries to their practical use. All this, then, goes to show the great utility of science.

It is difficult to conceive how the affairs of the world could be carried on without these grand triumphs of human mind and handicraft; and in bestowing our plaudits upon the latter, we do well to acknowledge the higher claims of the former.

### BRYANT.

WILLIAM Cullen Bryant has been in no wise a retired author, unobservant of the world about him, but has watched, studied and labored in the spirit of his times. His contemporaries tender him tributes of highest respect both as a poet and a worker. As a poet he is undoubtedly thoroughly American. A true citizen of the Great Republic, the natural voice of her scenery, her life, her history, finds sweet and clear expression in his words. A deep, reverential love of nature has justly been considered a powerful charm of this contemplative poet, who

"From the gushing of a simple fount  
Has reasoned to the mighty Universe."

But Bryant has been more than a poet. He is referred to as "no crude dreamer but a man of severe, stern and practical nature." His career in public life has been eminently distinguished, his dealing with the questions of the day able. Born in 1794 he is now over eighty, but like Palmerston in his last years, still vigorous and active. Considering his experience and qualifications to give an opinion we are delighted with some of his recent expressions concerning the progress of our age. Amid the eventful years of his life he has witnessed and been engaged in many great struggles, social, political and religious.

His cheerful view of the world serves to relieve us of the fears awakened by those who lament and bemoan, with direful outcry, the good days gone by, as though light had passed from the earth and a gloomy darkness were gathering over the present.

We give his words as uttered in a public address they were reported in an American paper;—"I have lived long as it may seem to most people, however short the time appears to me when I look back upon it. In that period have occurred various most important changes; and on the whole, I am rejoiced to say they have as I think, improved the condition of mankind. The people of civilized countries have become more enlightened

and enjoy a greater degree of freedom. They have become especially more humane and sympathetic, more disposed to alleviate each others' sufferings. This is the age of charity."

### NOTES FROM HARVARD COLLEGE.

*Editors Acadia Athenæum.*

GENTLEMEN,—The undersigned has thought that a few Harvard items might not be uninteresting to yourselves and readers. Well, over here, the outside world moves with greater speed than precision. Rush, energy, enterprise, grand commercial successes and as sudden losses are the order. Here brilliant intellectual powers are manifest, there a noted dearth. Here is princely benevolence and high moral worth, there a strange absence of those higher principles regulating human life. Extremism, change, yet progress note the conditions of society. So the world moves.

It must with reluctance be confessed, that with all the greatness of this American Republic, her growth and educational power, there yet appears to be a wide spread disregard for those great natural and moral laws, a wise recognition of which can alone ultimately preserve individual or national strength. Unless indeed these things change whenever found, one must with justice predict a future not glorious. But, on the other hand, if America is to live nobly among the nations, in the Infinite Providence, we believe that all will yet be regenerated and from out the Evil will come a stronger Good.

As regards Collegiate life here, the advantages are very great. Professors working in special departments affords the student unsurpassed facilities for the acquisition of knowledge. Again, in the department of Chemistry, for instance, the Laboratory furnishes each man with all necessary apparatus for experiment and observation. He sees for himself Nature's wondrous laws among the molecules, learns with interest and intelligence and acquires a truly scientific memory and knowledge.

In the department of Botany, the beautiful and wisdom-crowned plant structures and laws can be examined under the microscope, observed in the Botanical Gardens in connection with the Institution, practically acquired. All that could be desired for improvement is to be had. He who wishes to learn, can.

One finds here great men, able scholars, men of broad sympathies and liberal minds intellectually and religiously. These are advantages. The mental atmosphere becomes quickening and elevating. But of course with regard to great minds, it must not be supposed such is universally the case. Nature here, as

everywhere else, is not too lavish of her peculiar gifts; lest perhaps, we poor ungrateful mortals might not well appreciate her inestimable favors.

As to Modern Languages, native German and French scholars are selected as Instructors. These languages can thus be acquired thoroughly and with a correct pronunciation.

As to Latin and Greek, we are told that one is privileged to receive instruction from classical scholars much superior to the well remembered Mr. Anthon. But with all the advantages, much, very much depends upon the *Students own work*.

There is wealth in Harvard College. This is wisely expended in the high interests of Science and Learning. It has erected some fine buildings and is still adding to these. One of the most imposing structures is Memorial Hall, built in honor of students of this College who fell in the late war. From its outer walls project the busts of eminent men of times gone by, as Cicero, Demosthenes, Chatham, Burke, Webster. Thus is given to the whole a nobler significance. Within we find the portraits of heroes, poets, philosophers, &c.

In this paper it affords the writer much pleasure to state that Mr. A. J. Eaton of Acadia, well known there as a diligent and worthy student has already distinguished himself here. He has become the recipient of a scholarship of two hundred and fifty dollars as a recognition of his superior scholarly attainments. We must confess to some degree of pride when we hear of our men being thus successful. It reflects credit on our worthy Alma Mater at home. It would be very ungrateful to undervalue her work, even though reaping superior advantages elsewhere. Long may she live and grow!

While generally there are many able students in Harvard University, it is not to be supposed that all are such. It is certainly to be presumed that many here, as well as at other colleges, pass through with the course of study, not benefitted by it in the very highest degree. They have not been so mentally organised as thoroughly to digest the knowledge at their disposal. It is also certainly to be believed that not colleges, not externals of any kind make men of power; but those inborn energies of mind which are strong enough to assert themselves amid even the most unfavorable circumstances. And yet again, how weak and pitiable are man's strongest efforts to combat many of life's hard conditions! But, to return, Institutions of Learning are but helps to a man in his work of life.

In conclusion, we would advise Acadia men, wishing to study more to come to Harvard. Respectfully,

E. M. CHESLEY.

Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 8, 1875.