

ity at the early Renaissance, and his rules of tragedy converted into a tyranny in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—is to take but a small portion of him. And so with every type of Greek literature.

The ideal instructor in such an opulent literature as Greek is, of course, not to be found, for he should possess critical sensibilities of the finest sort and vast intelligence. But if the study of dead forms is replaced by that of ideas we make no doubt that Greek will hold its own even in elective systems. That Greek literature should be held by students too dull to risk is a serious commentary upon either students or instructors—possibly upon both.

PERPETUATING PRIVATE LIBRARIES.

The College of the City of New York is fortunate in having acquired the library of the late Prof. Simon Newcomb. It comes as the gift of an alumnus, who added care to his generosity by providing also a complete catalogue of the books, as well as the shelves to hold them. If it might seem, at first sight, that the City College is not the best possible repository for the highly technical works on mathematics and astronomy which Professor Newcomb collected in his lifetime, two considerations suggest themselves to counteract that feeling. In the first place, the volumes will be accessible not only to the students of the College but to all the specialists in the city who may desire to consult them. It is not at all as if they were placed in some remote library. And there is, moreover, a peculiar fitness in the preservation of Professor Newcomb's books in a broadly democratic institution of learning. For he was a typical democrat himself, in having struggled up to the highest eminence and world-wide fame from humble beginnings, not to speak of his warm sympathy with every forward movement in popular government. It is easy to believe that he would have been pleased at the thought of having his name and life-work perpetuated in the college of a great municipality, free to the children of all its citizens.

No memorial to a scholar or literary worker could be more congruous or significant than the keeping intact of the books with which he had labored and which he had come to love. They are

far more than the tools of his trade. Even if they were merely that, they would have acquired personal associations which might well be valued; but there is something special and intimate in the relation which comes to be established between a great student or investigator or writer and his books. As one sees them kept together after he is gone, they seem to be almost a part of himself—certainly a part of his work. His gathering of them year by year; his constant use of them till deepening familiarity made him conscious of each cover and the part of the page on which favorite passages appear; possibly his annotations here and there, at any rate the certainty that he had pored over them and found in many of them the precious life-blood of a master spirit—all this is fitted to evoke a kind of reverence in the presence of such a private library preserved *en bloc*, and to make of it a singularly well-chosen form of commemorating names that we delight to honor.

From the practical side, it is true, difficulties often arise in adding extensive private collections of books to existing libraries. When it is not a case of great rarities, but merely of a working library, the trouble of duplications will arise. Funds for the purchase of books are not so abundant that library authorities may be careless of the fact that one-third or one-half of the volumes of a collection which it is proposed that they should acquire are already on their shelves, in one edition or another. Then there is always the vexed question of housing. Not every one is able to do what Mr. Gladstone did—build a St. Deniols to shelter his books and give both building and contents to the public. When private libraries come into the possession of public libraries, it is usually on such terms of bequest or gift that the volumes cannot be merged with the general stock, but must be kept in a section by themselves. This evidently has its inconveniences sometimes, from the side of space and library administration. Yet sacrifices on either score are well worth while when it is a question, not merely of adding books which have value in themselves, but of erecting a suitable memorial to some athletic scholar or great writer or profound genius, in the shape of his private library kept as a whole for all time. No Boston taxpayer, for example, would

grudge the space given up by the Public Library to preserving the books of Prescott. Many of these, of course, are highly valuable in themselves, but there is a peculiar fitness in massing the whole of them in honor of one whose work was an honor to his city, and whose feeling for his own books was really a personal affection. It will not be forgotten that Prescott left directions that his body, before being taken away for burial, should be allowed to repose for a time among the books which had been his prized companions.

Nor should we forget the benefit to the living in thinking of the tribute to the dead. In gazing upon and handling the books of famous men, there may easily come quickening as well as veneration into the minds of young students. With the signs of labor and mastery thus visible before them, their own scholarly ambitions may be stimulated, and their resolves to do honest work made firmer. We do not say that numerous students of the City College will become distinguished astronomers or mathematicians by mere impulse gained from Professor Newcomb's books, but we do say that the very presence of his library, with freedom to use it, may serve to stir the intellectual life and make more intense the moral strivings of many a youth.

THE CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN.

BERLIN, October 14.

The University of Berlin, next to Bonn the youngest in Germany, is a living memorial of the patriotic idealism and untiring energy which placed Prussia in the lead of the German States, and which found classical expression in the words of Frederick William III in reply to the petition of the University of Halle to be transferred to Berlin: "Das ist recht, das ist brav! Der Staat muss durch geistige Kräfte ersetzen, was er an physischen verloren hat." Berlin was well prepared to become a university town. Since 1700 the Société der Wissenschaften, organized by Leibnitz and reorganized as the Académie der Wissenschaften by Frederick the Great in 1744, had drawn scholars together in the Prussian capital. The residence of Voltaire at Sanssouci as literary mentor of Frederick the Great, and the king's interest in the advancement of enlightened learning, had lifted the standards of culture in Berlin. The romantic movement, with its wide interest in foreign literatures, philosophy, and art, had awakened a cosmopolitan

spirit, and the lectures of Fichte and A. W. Schlegel had quickened the public interest and taste, making the Spree a literary centre rivalling the Pleisse and the Ilm. In the course of the four decades preceding the founding of the university, a number of scientific institutions had sprung up in Berlin.

Like the other great German universities, Berlin had a specific *raison d'être*. While Prague had been founded as the pioneer to bear the learning of Paris and Bologna to German lands, Heidelberg to lay the foundations of humanistic culture in the Rhineland, Leipzig as a refuge for the revolting professors and students of Prague, Wittenberg and the other Protestant universities to foster the humanistic culture of the Reformation, Göttingen as a centre of the new enlightenment of the early eighteenth century; Berlin was to be the academic centre of the patriotic spirit and scientific inquiry stimulated by Fichte's "Addresses to the German Nation," Schleiermacher's "Essays on Religion," and Alexander von Humboldt's scientific expeditions, and was to unite the scattered educational institutions of the city in a modern and more cosmopolitan university. With this new academic foundation began a new epoch in German national science and politics, which was to banish the old particularism and provincialism into the background of the German past. The plan of the university began to assume definite form as early as 1807 in the writings of Fichte, who gave special emphasis to philology and history; and of Schleiermacher ("Gelegentliche Gedanken über Universitäten"), who emphasized the importance of science. The actual organizer of the university was Wilhelm von Humboldt, the new Minister of Instruction, who in a notable essay ("Über die innere und äussere Organization der höheren wissenschaftlichen Anstalten in Berlin") gave expression to that memorable principle of public instruction which should be written over the portal of every university:—"That the State is always a hindrance as soon as it interferes with university affairs." This splendid plea for university liberty, both in learning and teaching, has brought forth golden fruit in the state education of Germany during the century just passed.

The jubilee commemorating the centennial of the university began October 10 at 6 P. M. in the Cathedral, with a sermon by Dr. Kaftan, dean of the Theological Faculty, from the text, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Cor. xii: 4), in which the preacher made a strong plea for the integrity of university instruction. This was followed by a supper to the delegates in the university building, and a torchlight procession in which some three thousand students, representing the several student societies,

participated, affording a splendid spectacle as they marched down Unter den Linden and formed in front of the university, singing the stirring old song, "Gaudeamus Igitur." A delegation of five was sent to greet the rector, who made an address in reply.

On the following morning, October 11, at ten o'clock, the first public function took place in the new Aula, in that part of the old palace formerly occupied by the Royal Library. This was the most important of all the official functions. After the army and navy officers and the diplomatic corps had found their places in the centre of the Aula, the academic senate and faculties on the left and the foreign delegates on the right, the Emperor and his court, with the Crown Prince of Bavaria as the royal guest, entered and occupied the seats in front of the rostrum. The Rector, Prof. Dr. Erich Schmidt, the great Germanist, opened the ceremonies with an address of welcome, at the close of which his Majesty the Emperor ascended the rostrum and delivered a memorable address on the achievements of the university and the significance of academic research, making a strong appeal to the wealthy friends of the university for donations in the interest of science, and enforcing this appeal by the announcement of gifts already received for the founding of new institutes of research. These gifts aggregate some eight million marks (\$2,000,000). This feature of the Imperial address was particularly interesting and familiar to the Americans present. The Rector responded, concluding his words of thanks with the famous words from "Götz von Berlichingen": "Es lebe die Freiheit" and "Es lebe der Kaiser!" The assembly joined in the salute by rising and singing: "Heil Dir in Siegerkranz." The new Minister of Public Instruction, Von Trott zu Solz, congratulated the university in the name of the state, and presented as the jubilee gift of the state the remodelled Frederician Library, with the new Aula, to the university for academic purposes, and emphasized the importance of the university as a foster-centre of patriotism. The Chief Burgomaster of Berlin then delivered an address of greeting on behalf of the Prussian capital, to which, as to the previous addresses, the Rector made a fitting reply.

There followed the addresses of the speakers of the several delegations in the order given below. Each delegation filed in after its speaker, presented an engrossed address from its university, bowed to the Emperor, and shook hands with the Rector, who announced the name of the place represented. The delegations passed in the following order: Prussia, the other states of the German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, the Romanic group, Great Britain and colonies, the Netherlands, the Scan-

dinavian group, the Slavic group, Greece, the United States of America, Japan. After these university delegations came the technical universities, the Royal Prussian Academy of Science, the other academies and learned societies, the Gymnasia and other schools of Berlin. The function closed with the announcement of donations and addresses by the Pro-Rector, a closing address by the Rector, and "Gaudeamus Igitur" sung by the assembly.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the jubilee dinner (Festmahl) was served to six hundred guests in the Exposition Park. Among the many notable points in the addresses given at this dinner, a few may be mentioned. The speech of the Imperial Chancellor contrasted the gloomy days of Prussia in 1810 with the triumphant German nation of to-day. "He that strives in any field toward intellectual progress takes a political part in the greatness of the nation." The Minister of Public Instruction exhibited his familiarity with the history of the university by recalling the great names on the faculty roll, which stand out as landmarks in the history of research. After dinner the guests adjourned to the Royal Playhouse to witness the performance of Mozart's opera, "Die Hochzeit des Figaro," which was given at the command of the Emperor, who sat in the royal box.

The second official function began at ten o'clock on the 12th of October in the new Aula. The programme included the historical address by Professor Lenz, and the conferring of honorary degrees. The most notable name among the honorary doctors was that of his Majesty the Emperor, who accepted the degree of Doctor of Laws. The recipients of honorary degrees were seventy in number, fifteen in the Theological Faculty, seventeen in the Law Faculty, thirteen in the Medical Faculty, and twenty-five in the Philosophical Faculty. Among this number were five Americans, two in the Law Faculty, one in the Medical Faculty, and two in the Philosophical Faculty.

In the afternoon the garden festival was held in the Exposition Park. An interesting feature of the programme was the historical floats, representing the life of the students and of the city of Berlin in 1810. Some ten thousand tickets were issued for this festival. In the evening the great Kommers was given in the halls of the Zoölogical Garden. Some eight thousand students, old and young, participated in the festivities, while several hundred spectators looked on from the gallery. Addresses were made by Cand. Phil. Deiters and Biller, and by Prof. Dr. Roethe, dean of the Philosophical Faculty.

The closing function of the jubilee, not printed on the official programme, was the dinner given by the Emperor in

the White Hall of the Castle in Berlin to some two hundred guests, including representatives of various universities and academies. The Emperor and the Empress, with ten members and guests of the royal family, occupied the centre of the great rectangular table, while the two hundred guests were arranged on both sides. The Imperial Chancellor was seated opposite their majesties, with the Minister of Public Instruction on his right and the Rector of the University on his left. Thus closed the university's first century as it had begun a hundred years before, with a royal act, but this time with Prussia's king no longer trembling before the Corsican, but triumphing as the German Emperor, and still the generous patron of liberal learning.

As one reads the roll of the great names of Berlin professors, and considers the growth of the number of students from 256 in 1810 to 9,242 in 1910, and attempts to compass the manifold activities in the various institutes of the university, one must feel that the words of Clemens Brentano's Festkannte dedicated to the university have been amply fulfilled:

Der. Ganzheit, Allheit, Einheit,
Der Allgemeinheit
Gelehrter Weisheit,
Des Wissens Freiheit
Gehört dies königliche Haus!
So leg' ich auch die goldenen Worte aus:
Universitati Litterarum.

The jubilee also called forth a great mass of literature relating to the university. The two works issued under the auspices of the university are "Geschichte der Königlichen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität zu Berlin," by Max Lenz (in two volumes), and "Berlin in Wissenschaft und Kunst," by Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Paszkowski. These works, and a bronze medal struck off in honor of the jubilee, with an equestrian statue of Emperor William II, were presented to the delegates by the university authorities.

MARION DEXTER LEARNED.

NEWS FOR BIBLIOPHILES.

The most important collection of books from the press of Benjamin Franklin which has appeared in the auction room since the sale of the first part of Gov. Pennypacker's library will be offered in Philadelphia by Stan. V. Henkels on November 11 and 12. It forms a part of the library of the late William Fisher Lewis, which includes also a perfect copy of the "Aitkin" Bible (Philadelphia, 1781), the first Bible in the English language printed in America; Thomas's "Pennsylvania and West New Jersey" (1698); William Penn's "Some Account of the Province of Pennsylvania in America" (1681); "The Frame of the Government of the Province of Pennsylvania" (1682), and his "Letter to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders" (1683); two of the exceedingly rare Army Lists of Officers serving under Sir William

Howe, 1777 and 1778, printed in New York by Macdonald and Cameron; a number of Revolutionary tracts, etc. Among the books printed by Franklin are three of the very rare "Treaties with the Indians of the Six Nations," being the Treaties held at Philadelphia in July, 1742, at Albany in October, 1745, and at Lancaster, in August, 1762. The last of these seems to have been unknown to Hildebrun, who records five others—Philadelphia, June, 1748; Philadelphia, November, 1747; Lancaster, July, 1748; and Carlisle, October, 1753—all printed by Franklin, besides two or three more printed by Andrew Bradford. These thin folio pamphlets must have been printed in a small number. Gov. Pennypacker did not have a single specimen. Bishop Hurst had two and one duplicate.

Several books printed by William Bradford are included in the Lewis collection; one, Daniel Leeds's "News of a Trumpet Sounding in the Wilderness" (New York, 1697), is of excessive rarity, no copy having appeared, apparently, in the auction room since Brinley's, which brought \$185 in 1880. There is a copy in the library of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, one in the E. D. Church collection, and two in the Lenox Library. One of the latter, evidently intended for the English market, is the identical book, except for the title, which begins "A Trumpet Sounded Out of the Wilderness of America," and has the date 1699 instead of 1697.

Another portion of the library of the late E. B. Holden, being his books relating to the Fine Arts, will be sold by the Anderson Auction Co. on November 9, afternoon and evening. Smith's "British Mezzotinto Portraits," 5 vols., and portfolio of plates; Beraldi's "Graveurs du XIXe Siècle," 12 vols., and other important reference books are included. Besides his art works there are several books containing specimens of early American engraving, a collection of almanacs and several rare eighteenth-century New York pamphlets.

On November 10 and 11, the Anderson Co. sells a large collection of books on natural history including Blanco's "Flora de Filipinas," 5 vols., with 477 colored plates; Johnson's "Ferns of Great Britain," 2 vols.; Pratt's "Flowering Plants of Great Britain," 6 vols.; Seeborn's "Monograph of the Turdidae or Family of Thrushes," 2 vols., folio, with 149 colored plates; R. Bowdler Sharpe's "Monograph of the Paridae or Birds of Paradise," parts i-vi only, with 60 colored plates; and several hundred less notable though valuable works on birds, plants, shells, etc.

On November 7 and 9, the Merwin-Clayton Sales Co. will sell a collection containing Lincolniana; a long series of magazines containing articles by E. A. Poe, and books about him; books on the West, etc. On November 10 and 11 they offer a collection of miscellaneous books.

In Boston, on November 15, 16, and 17, C. F. Libbie & Co. will sell the libraries of the late Dr. William Everett of Quincy, Massachusetts, and of his father, the Honorable Edward Everett. The most notable book in the sale, and the most notable to appear in the auction room this season, is a perfect copy of the first edition of Eliot's Indian Bible, printed at Cambridge by Samuel Green and Marmaduke Johnson, the New Testament being finished in 1661, the Old Testament in 1663. Except that, for

some unknown reason, the diamond-shaped printer's ornament has been cut from the New Testament, the copy is fine and perfect. It has the Indian title-page and is one of the copies printed for the use of the Indians. Being a thick and heavy book and subject to hard usage by the Indian students, copies are almost always imperfect. No such copy as this has appeared in the auction room for many years. It is one of the most famous of American books and may be expected to bring a high price.

Among the other rare Americana in the Everett library are some of the standard State Histories such as Haywood's Tennessee, both series (1823); Marshall's Kentucky (1824); Martin's Louisiana (1827); Martin's North Carolina (1829); and Proud's Pennsylvania (1797-98). Mather's "Magnalia Christi Americana," first edition (1702); John de Laet's "Novus Orbis" (1633); and Ramusio's "Navigatione et Viaggi" (1554-65) are important books of earlier date. Audubon's "Birds of America," 7 vols. (1840-44); Michaux and Nuttall's "North American Sylva" (1854), and Wilson and Bonaparte's "American Ornithology," 13 vols. (1808-33), are important natural history books, with colored plates.

Correspondence.

PRIZE POETRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I for one am weary of the charge that the students of our universities are un-intellectual. If meant relatively it is unjust, for those who make it forget that many of our boys belong to a class which never until this generation has been so much as interested in higher education. If meant absolutely it is nonsense. Intellectual and æsthetic powers make less noise in the college world than physical ones, partly because they are less noisy. They exact more from the circle that admires them, and, consequently, that circle is small. But they are more frequent and more highly estimated in college than the superficial observer suspects. I know no better evidence of this than the series of Yale prize poems, which, by annual award, has this year reached the number of thirteen.

Since the competition was established in 1898 by Prof. Albert S. Cook, seven undergraduates and six graduate students, one of them a woman, have won the prize. On the committee of award have been such poets and critics as Gilder, Woodberry, Johnson, Perry, and More, with professors of English from many universities. As many as seventy manuscripts have been submitted in a single competition, and the winning poems have been regularly published in like format. Two have been five-act dramas, three have been collections of sonnets, one a romantic narrative, two dramatic dialogues, three dramatic lyrics, and two of them collections of lyrics grouped about central themes. Some of these are much above mediocrity, none below it. When assembled, they make up a volume of recent American verse so varied and so indicative of mind and imagination that a reviewer cannot regard them merely as poetical exercises, of value for youth; he must see in this series a vigorous attempt to express