

The
University Argonaut.

Moscow, Idaho, February 7, 1903.

Literary.

The Renaissance.

However much the facts seem to controvert the assertion, there are no changes and innovations in history that are really abrupt in their nature. Every step in the development of human institutions has been due to forces that were in active existence long before the concrete result took shape. Who shall say when the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, or the French Revolution began? It is even impossible to decide when the forces which gave rise to these periods first became puissant stealing, as they did, in unnoticed currents along the vast veins and secret fabric of the world. It is therefore apparent that we can have no complete understanding of any period of history unless we know something of the nature and conditions of the preceding period, of which it was the outcome. Let us turn, then, for a moment, to the Middle Ages and see if we cannot fix upon the essential characteristics of the time.

Of all the arts, literature is perhaps the most complete expression

of life. It is the most universal in its appeal and catholic in its comprehensiveness, though it is not the most intimate expression of every period. And if we turn to the literature of the Middle Ages we shall find that during that time the attitude of men toward life was wholly different from that of today. It was essentially an attitude of negation. This negative attitude toward life is the most salient characteristic of the Middle Ages. It is the most dominant characteristic of Christianity after it assumed its medieval aspect. It was out of this attitude of negation that monasticism and mysticism grew. Men secluded themselves in monasteries and concentrated their entire vision on the world to come, and in doing so they forgot, as much as possible, the world in which they lived. It is difficult for us, who live in the twentieth century, so positive in its attitude towards life, intelligently and sympathetically to understand this attitude of negation. Let us listen to the words of one of these mystics: "Sink thou into thy Depth and thy Nothingness," he says, "and let the tower of all its bells fall down upon thee; let earth with all its creatures assail

thee, yet shall they all but marvelously serve thee. * * * Sink thou only into thy Nothingness, and the better part is thine." And the letters of Abelard and Heloise show us how effectually and completely this attitude neutralized the greatest individual powers. Death in life was the aim of the monk and the mystic, and their consolation was in the thought of their earthly annihilation. Men were then by profession only "penitents and mourners, watchers and pilgrims." They knew not that "on the brink of the waters of life and truth, they were miserably dying."

Yet such an attitude toward life receives at least a partial justification when we reflect that after all it was to a considerable degree but the inevitable outcome of the conditions of the chaos of the time. It was the longing for quiet, the passionate desire for rest, which made the wearied and troubled-harried people of the Middle Ages shrink from contact with the perplexed and not unfrequently hideous life about them. They came to deify silence and repose, and so the world seemed to fall into a long and dreamless sleep. Even the very activities of the time contributed more or less to this condition. The first Crusades absorbed all that was holiest and purest, all that was most ardent and noblest in European manhood. France, England, Germany and Flanders each in

their turn commanded the crusades. But, though these countries were often made glorious on the distant fields of Palestine by the achievement of their sons, at home they became only too frequently barren and empty. Whole districts of corn-land and pasture lapsed once more into thicket and marsh, as they had been in the by-gone days of the Vandals and the Goths. There were no longer hale and active men to carry on the progress of the world. Their bones were bleaching on the sands of the far off deserts of the East.

But the world was destined to arouse from his condition of things. The awakening began in Italy. From the fourteenth to the sixteenth century Italy was the center of European civilization. Medievalism had been far less prevalent in Italy than it had been in other parts of Europe. The conditions of life in Italy were comparatively easy, and because of this the old Greek attitude toward life still lingered there—an attitude of contentment, of an esthetic delight in the charm of the world. It was there that the pressure of feudalism had been least felt. Except in the very northern and southernmost districts, the old Latin institutions had never been replaced by feudal arrangements. To learn how far Italy was removed from feudalism we have only to turn to the picture of the female serf resuscitated for

us by the genius of Michel-t, and then to the picture of the country girl of Tuscany as drawn for us by Lorenzo dei Medici. The first is a picture of a wretched creature cowering among her starving children in her mud hut, and looking forward to the dreary days to come in a dull, hopeless lethargy. The second is a picture of a happy woman, the betrothed of a prosperous young farmer, with her little box of jewels, her Sunday garb of damask kirtle and gold-worked bodice. Such was feudal Europe and Italy. It is true that Italy had been conquered by Barbarians, but its civilization had not been extinguished. The country had been cultivated for centuries, and the Barbarians could not turn it into a desert. The people had been organized as citizens for almost a thousand years, and the Barbarians could not reorganize them feudally. In Italy feudalism was tempered and finally engulfed by Latin civilization. Not that the country was always peaceful and prosperous, but that life was far less warped and narrowed by feudalism and monasticism than it was elsewhere in Europe.

It was in such a country that the awakening took place. This awakening is known as the Renaissance—a word meaning “re-birth.” It is only natural that the renewed activities of the world should first be along lines to which the charac-

ter and genius of the Italian people tended. Thus it is that painting became the first great art of the modern world—the first great medium for the expression of the new life and the new learning. Like all the other things of life, painting during the Middle Ages was under the spell of the church. But when the eyes of men were once more opened, when they began to realize that after all the present world is not such an undesirable one to live in, they began to express this new attitude toward life first of all in their paintings, and later in their literature, their philosophy and in all their various activities. They first expressed this positive attitude toward life in painting because, as we have said, painting was the art which best expressed the character and genius of the Italian people. It was in Tuscany, in the thirteenth century, that the new life first began to animate painting. It was in the city of Florence, the center of intellectual and commercial activity, that it first showed itself. The reopening of the eyes of man to the beauty of Nature, and the reawakening of his heart and mind to the significance of humanity replaced the old lifeless art of the Middle Ages. Painting was yet to be for some time the hand-maid of the church. That is to say, the subjects were to be still religious subjects. But they were to be

transformed with the requickened spirit of man. The first notable painting of the Renaissance is the famous Madonna by Cimabue. This painting still hangs in the church in Florence, for which it was painted. The central figure, that of the Madonna, still retains some of the medieval characteristics, but the face has a great deal of gentleness in it. It is a tender, a human face, one that speaks of sympathy with humanity and its aspirations and dreams. It is a sweet and true face, if a somewhat timid return to Nature. We are told that the people were so glad to have a Madonna before whom they could offer up their prayers that they carried the picture in a festival procession from the artist's house to the church, where it was to remain. And so painting developed in this way for more than three centuries, reaching its final culmination in Raphael, Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci and other famous painters of that wonderful epoch in the sixteenth century. But, although painting was always the dominant art of Italy, the other arts did not lag behind. Dante was the last great writer of the medieval times. The writing of Petrarch, Boccaccio, Ariosto and Tasso are full of a rich humanity. The philosophies of Giordano Bruno and Tommaso Campanella are far removed from the old medieval order of things. Then came the great progress made in science, industry and commerce, the discoveries in astronomy, the discovery of the New World. Life seems never to have pulsed and surged with so much of varied activity.

It was into such a world that Charles VIII of France led an army over the Alps in the closing years of the fifteenth century. He was an incapable and a vain king, and he had been urged by his counselors to add Italy to his possessions. It was a motley army which he led into that land—the flower and fruit of Europe. Soldiers of fortune from Germany, Flanders, England, Switzerland and other countries, in addition to the French troops, made up this important army of a moment's whim, unsubstantial as the pageant of a dream. The rough, feudal soldiers of the northern countries destroyed many works of art during their stay of a year in the peninsula. But Italy had been revealed to them and through them to the nations of the North. They had come in contact with this wonderful civilization, so different from anything they had ever dreamed of before. They carried new ideas and new ideals away with them to their own countries. Michelet may well call the invasion of Charles VIII the discovery of Italy. His imaginative mind seized at once the vast importance of this descent of the French into Italy, while other historians have been

only too prone to view it in the same light as any other invasion. It is from this event that dates the modernization of the countries of the North. The barbarous soldiers of fortune under Charles VIII were the unconscious bearers of the seeds of the Ages of Elizabeth, of Louis XIV and of Goethe. These rapacious ruffians, while they wantonly destroyed many works of Italian civilization, rendered possible the existence of a Montaigne, a Shakespeare and a Cervantes. More immediately they paved the way for the Reformation.

Hitherto civilization had been almost exclusively in the hands of the Latin races. The Renaissance was now taken up by the Teutonic peoples. A new race became a potent factor in history. It brought new forces and new characteristics to civilization. It changed the order and the aspect of the world.

EDWARD MASLIN HULME.

Nature's Influence.

It is on a farm near the little town of East Haverhill, Mass., July 1, 1820. The day has been warm, but an ideal New England summer's day. As evening draws near, the merry whistling of a boy is heard as he returns from his evening chores, or, perhaps, from romping with some of his young companions. His clothes are coarse, he is bare-footed, but under the broad-brimmed hat, which he wears,

is the smiling face which bespeaks the joy and happiness of his boyhood day. This boy knows little of the stern realities of the world. His life has been one of sunshine. No dark shadows have yet appeared to mar the brightness of his joy. His life, like that of his companions, has only gone to prove that ignorance may be truly bliss. And yet this boy is not entirely ignorant. He has his boyish pursuits and aspirations. His life is expanding and Nature presents to him at every turn a wonderful field of interest and beauty. His knowledge is unique.

"Knowledge never learned of schools,
Of the wild bee's morning chase,
Of the wild-flower's time and place,
Flight of fowl and habitude
Of the tenants of the wood;
How the tortoise bears his shell,
How the wood-chuck digs his cell,
And the ground-mole sinks his well;
How the robin feeds her young,
How the oriole's nest is hung;
Where the wildest lilies blow,
Where the freshest berries grow,
Where the ground-nut trails its vine,
Where the wood-grape's clusters shine;
Of the black wasp's cunning way,
Mason of his walls of clay,
And the architectural plans
Of gray hornet artisans!
For, eschewing looks and tasks,
Nature answers all he asks;
Hand in hand with her he walks,
Face to face with her he talks,
Part and parcel of her joy,—
Blessings on the barefoot boy!"

And thus the barefoot boy, the young Quaker poet, returns from his evening chores.

That Nature was an inspiration to Whittier is evident from many of his poems. How beautifully simple are Nature's teachings and

how well reflected in Whittier's kindly disposition. But Nature does not speak to all alike.

"To him, who in the love of Nature,
Holds communion with her visible forms,
She speaks a various Language."

To Bryant she spoke more profoundly than to Whittier. To many of the world's greatest poets, Nature has afforded a theme of the deepest contemplation. The possibilities of inspiration to be gained from Nature deserve careful attention.

The poetic mind enjoys pleasures of thought of which the ordinary mind may seldom dream. We have but to read and consider some of the world's best literature to appreciate the fact that lofty and noble sentiment, and ideals make life far more worth living. The beauties of Nature are everywhere about us. We have but to perceive them. Contemplation of the universe soon brings us face to face with those two wonderful entities, time and space.

It is probable that our own tiny globe, spinning on through boundless space, is the only inhabited planet. Such would seem unlikely when we take into consideration millions of other planets, and yet, with the limitations of our knowledge, we have no means of knowing. But with billions of miles intervening between us and certain stars, we are certain of the existence in them of known metals, as certain as we are of the axioms of

physical science. With our finite minds we often shrink from the contemplation of infinite space and infinite time. But the action of the

heavenly bodies, as far as we can observe, teach us nothing but wonderful beauty and harmony. These great facts stare us in the face, and we can only accept them as we find them, not knowing either their origin or their destiny, and until we all know better, each one of us reads from them his own little meaning. But a man need not be

a scientist to be a Nature lover. The poetic mind is all that is necessary, and many great poets never wrote any poetry. We all derive pleasure from a beautiful landscape, the sparkling brook or the wonderful coloration of flower and leaf which only Nature can paint. We have only to remove all these things to understand the meaning of desolation. But that in Nature which affords a casual observer simply satisfaction, may afford the poet a lofty inspiration.

Nature appears in many moods. Her beauties are often obscured and hidden, but great rewards await faithful investigators. Though Nature is constantly beautiful, she does not exhibit her highest powers of beauty constantly, for then they would satiate us, and pall upon our senses. It is necessary to their appreciation that they should be rarely shown. Her finest touches are things which must be watched

for; her most perfect passages of beauty are the most evanescent.

Thus, by contemplating Nature, we are led into a field of infinite variety, of wonderful beauty, our ideals, our aspirations, are raised to a higher plane, and our thoughts will unconsciously reach up to those things which are most worthy of man's mind.

HENRY DARLINGTON.

Amphyction Society.

Beginning with February 20th, regular meetings of the Amphyction Society will be held every Friday evening, at 7:30. Every member of the society is requested to be present, and all students and members of faculty are most cordially invited to attend. The following program, which promises a good time to all present, has been arranged for Friday, February 20th:

Song.....	Boys' Glee Club
Reading.....	M. Yothers
Speech—"Salt Lake".....	J. L. Adkinson
Solo.....	Miss Headley
"Mud Hen".....	C. Montandon
Reading.....	Miss McCallie

Debate—Resolved that a Preparatory Department is no longer necessary—Affirmative, Hooper and Morris; Negative, A. Saxon and Morrow.

Senior Sleigh Ride.

For a number of years the class of '03 have made their semi-annual jollification a sleigh ride. This year as the end of the semester drew near indications pointed to a departure from the usual custom, but at the last moment, by special

providence, a good old-fashioned snow storm came. So Saturday evening the class gathered at the home of Miss Zumhoff, and shortly after seven two bob-sleds loaded with merry Seniors, under the chaperonage of Mrs. Jenkins, were on the way to Cornwall. Owing to the practice of previous years, the singing and giving of college and class yells reached the climax of perfection and a casual and unexperienced listener would have found it hard to believe a class as dignified and quiet as the '03's have been this year, would make all that noise. At Cornwall a "fiddler" was found and for a few hours nearly everyone "tripped the light fantastic." The best of all was that quadrille, enjoyed immensely by a small, but highly appreciative audience, of the citizens of Cornwall, who had turned out to see the show. The old-time Virginia Reel followed and at eleven sounded the resinous strains of "Home Sweet Home." After a few trifling mishaps, not worthy of mention, each Senior was landed safely at home, happy in the thought of the evening's pleasure, but sad, withal, to think the last class sleigh ride was a thing of the past.

J. Loyal Adkison left for Spokane, yesterday, to make arrangements for the printing of the Junior annual, and to rustle ads for the same.

The University Argonaut

Published every week by the students of the University of Idaho.

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JOHN W. SHEPPERD, '03 Business Manager

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LOUIS TWEEDT, '03	:	Websterian Society
MABELLE WOLFE, '03	:	Exchanges

Rates—One Dollar Per Year.

Entered at the Moscow P. O. as second class mail matter.

Editorial.

We feel that if the students of the University could realize how difficult it is to obtain copy enough for the paper each week, they would all be willing to help with it more. The ARGONAUT is just as much your paper as it is the editor's and it is just as much to your advantage to have it a paper that will be a credit to the school. There are people in the college who have some literary talent and could do much toward making the literary number of the paper a success if they would. To those who have assisted us we are very grateful, but we urge others to do likewise. It is impossible for the members of the staff to learn every

item of interest in the school, and it is the duty of each of you as students to report each interesting bit of news you may hear. Contributions may be placed in the ARGONAUT box, in the hall, at any time.

All will be glad to know that the bill relating to state certificates and diplomas has been introduced in the House. Important changes have been made in the wording of this bill from those introduced at previous sessions, and there are great hopes that the bill may be passed. Mr. Jenkins is one of the influential men of the House, being the floor-leader of the majority and we are certain that he will do all he can to put the bill through. Graduates of the University of Idaho are permitted to teach in other states without being required to take examinations, and it hardly seems right that Idaho, herself, should refuse them this right. Just so long as she does it will be an inducement for graduates of the University to go to other states to teach, and will result in keeping many of Idaho's best trained men and women out of her schools. This her educational system can hardly afford.

Exchanges.

To err is human—and to stick to it is more so —Ex.

On account of the extra time

needed by the students of Harvard for cramming for the mid-year examinations, crew practice has been suspended for a couple of weeks.

Of the 250 colleges and universities in the United States, 209 are educational, and the presidents of 102 are clergymen. The attendance comprises an army of 12,000 men and women.

At Carlisle University there are 1,073 Indians, representing 88 different tribes.

The Yale News published its twenty-fifth anniversary number on January 28th.

The Evergreen persists in giving the news of W. A. C. only. It has no items concerning other colleges. —Ex.

President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, has settled the two-year college course proposition. He said: "I cannot imagine how anybody who ever saw a sophomore could think of graduating him."

Locals.

Leon Nichols spent Saturday and Sunday near Vollmer.

Daisy Booth is now living at the home of Della Brown.

Edna Wahl returned, Tuesday, from a short visit home.

—Ed Wahl went to Genesee, Thursday, to remain until Monday.

Miss Martha Dupuy, of Spokane, is visiting Miss Louise Barton.

W. N. Thomas, a student at the Lewiston Normal last year, has entered school.

Wolfenbarger and Keefe spent a few days at home after examinations were over.

Under the new rule three tardinesses count as one absence. We've got to be careful now.

Henry B Slade, Station Chemist, has resigned, his resignation to take effect the first of March.

The Boys' Glee Club made their first appearance in public at the Web. program Friday afternoon.

The Preps, at least some of them, followed the example set by the august Seniors, and went to Cornwall.

There has been a remarkable improvement in regard to the disturbance in the hall, the last two days.

It seems the Seniors enjoyed the fine sleighing last Saturday night. What has become of the Juniors this year?

The Seniors are very proud, very happy, and also very poor at the present time—they are sporting their class pins.

An application has been received from a young lady who would like a place to work in a private family and attend the University.

Now is the season when all good looking people are in their element, the season of picture taking for the annual. But alas for us who are not among the aforesaid stated number.

A party of Sophomores enjoyed a sleigh ride last Friday night, and incidentally attended the debate between the Moscow High School and the Tomer school.—Prof. and Mrs. Morley chaperoned the party.

Dear old 32 is quite transformed in its appearance this term. The desks have all been taken out and in their places are large tables like those in the library. The Preps. feel quite dignified in their new "Reading Room."

Some members of the faculty indulged in a sleigh ride last Saturday night. They went over to Pullman, where supper had been ordered, and then had a good time at Ridenbaugh Hall on their return.

In the recent examinations at Annapolis, Robert Ghormley stood sixth in a class of 170, and twentieth in the class in everything. He is greatly pleased with the school, but still has a warm place in his heart for the U. of I. and especially for the '03's.

Pres.—How did you come out in your exams?

Murphy—I got A, B, C, D and E. That's a "straight" isn't it?

Pres.—Yes. But what we want

is A's, "all of one kind." What do you call it?

Murphy—"A flush."

Pres.—O, Yes!

Bill Relating to Life Diplomas.

On the 27th Representative Jenkins, of La'ah county, introduced a bill in the house, providing for the issuance of state certificates and life diplomas to graduates of the University of Idaho. The conditions under which these are to be granted are that the candidate must have taken the prescribed course in pedagogy in the the U. of I., on graduation to receive a five years certificate and at the end of three years successful teaching they will receive their life diplomas.

Y. W. C. A.

A Y. W. C. A. Conference for the Associations of Washington and Idaho will be held at Walla Walla, February 20th to 22nd. An effort is being made by the young women of our association to send a large delegation, as we believe this conference will be very beneficial in awakening the members to more active work.

The election of officers for the Y. W. C. A., for the ensuing year, was held February 5th. The following officers were elected: President, Edith Knepper; vice-president, Catherine Bryden; secretary, Esther Larson; treasurer, Frances Butterfield.

The Y. W. C. A. Northwest Secretary, Miss Louise Shields, expects to visit our association this month. It is hoped that all the young women will make an effort to attend the meetings held during her stay with us.

Cecil Rhodes Scholarship.

In assembly, on Wednesday, President MacLean, chairman of the committee on awarding the Cecil Rhodes Scholarship, stated that it was very likely one person from each state and territory would be awarded this scholarship in the spring so that he might enter Oxford in the fall.

The conditions under which the scholarships are to be awarded have not been decided upon definitely, but it is probable that only those can try for it who have completed the Sophomore year in college, the time to extend to two years after graduation. Three years of Greek and four years of Latin will be required, although this may be changed later. The first scholarship, however, will be awarded under this condition, being only open to those having taken the classical course and working for the A. B. degree.

The candidates will be selected for skill in athletics, moral worth and scholarship. The agent of the trustees will meet educators from Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho, in Spokane, this month, to

decide definitely on the conditions. The point as to whether this shall apply only to University students or to all residents of the state will have to be decided, also as to who the committee awarding the scholarships shall consist of. If the candidates are limited to the classical students of the University, it will limit them to comparatively few men, and make the contest rather a narrow one. This may be an incentive for more students to battle with the Greek and Latin.

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