

A colleague of Van Buren and Benton, contemporary with Calhoun and Webster, opponent of the schollarly Adams and eloquent Clay. He was pre-eminently the man of the epoch. Strike out his military success, and he is renowned; banish his civil honors and he is famous; combine the two and he is great.

On the 8th of June 1840 this great man died. A sorrowing nation gathered at his bier, and amid the tears of a grateful people he was laid to sleep with his fathers.

If an American youth wishes to find a character worthy of emulation, let him not choose the hero of fiction, nor the great of other lands, but let him study the history of his own country and copy the virtues of such men as Andrew Jackson.

G. BAYLOR.

Conversation as a Means of Improvement.

In our great and enlightened 19th century ways and means for advancement in everything, more especially the intellect, are eagerly sought for and adopted. Our physique is gradually approaching nearer and nearer to that of the ancient Greeks and Romans. However, we do not consider physical prowess as essential, but endeavor to make the mental capacity balance with our physical powers. Would not the beauty of Hebe or the strength of a Hercules without a mind, be a pitiable sight rather than a joy? Then how essential it is that we cultivate this, the greatest endowment bestowed upon man by the creator. What is the gift of mind without conversation? Mrs. Hemans says:

"It is like unto the pearl which hides within the oyster shell uncouth;" "A flower which wastes its fragrance in the desert air." As a means of attaining this result nothing gives such satisfactory results as conversation. The brain may be a vast storehouse of knowledge, but without the ingress and egress of new ideas, which are added to its store by conversation's powerful aid, the natural fertility would from disease fall into decay and soon grow into an arid waste. A man's worth to the world should not be judged by what he knows, for "knowledge is power only when put into practical use." A man who knows a little, but knows that little well, and knows how to use it, is worth more to the world than a dozen brains crammed full of wisdom but locked up and the key thrown away. There is nothing in nature but what is susceptible to improvement by proper cultivation and means. In the vegetable kingdom rare plants are developed from the commonest varieties. The same is true in the animal kingdom, and especially so in the intellect of man. Conversation is the means of stimulating the intellectual capacities of man and producing a more active and conservative modes of thinking. In conclusion, my school mates and friends, let us cultivate our minds, as we are so often admonished to do throughout the wonderful book of proverbs, and to do this the surest means is to cultivate the art of conversation.

H. T. C.

The first record we have of tennis is found in the Bible, in the following words: "Joseph served in Pharaoh's court and Israel returned out of Egypt. —Exchange.