

IF the Harrisburg *Patriot* and Philadelphia *Times*, in charging Governor Beaver as inconsistent in his signing of the College Appropriation bill unpruned, were better informed as to what constitutes relative need, we think they would express themselves otherwise. Doubtless they would have approved of the signature had the bill at first been \$300,000, and then pruned to \$112,000 where it now stands.

THE CHANSONS DE GESTE.

Who has not heard of the famed Chansons de Geste,
When the brain of the Frenchmen was at its best?
For no ancient poem, however well told,
Could vie with these Chansons in beauty so bold.

Wandering minstrels in the court of the king,
Of heroic ancestors were wont to sing,
Of Charlemagne so famous and his Twelve Peers,
And all their worthy and most vallant compeers.

Heroes were lauded in the longest of rhymes,
Describing the state of the earliest times,
And the battles fought by the old feudal lords,
Who clashed with wild ardor their glittering swords.

And the knights that fought in the Holy Crusade,
Gave new life to the Chansons, the latest made.
Not a single mind sent forth a flash of light,
But to kindle into blaze some Chanson bright.

They were written in their own peculiar style,
And not in rhymes as harsh as a grating file.
The oldest known were all writ in assonance,
Vowels agreeing, but not the consonants

They flowed into verse, smooth as a sleeping lake,
Yet with words so burning, they caused one to quake
As like the tumult of war they rushed along,
Dashing brave knights into sanguineous song.

They dealt not only with the old feudal laws,
But rang their mellow chimes to another cause;
The brave Christian fighting the rude Musselman
And the bloody strife with the Saracoon clan.

But at last a gentler spirit the Muse o'ertook,
Rippling his lines with glee like a maiden's look.
As he dipped his quill in the sweet stream of love,
The war cry turned into the coo of the dove.

Pleasant and serene grew the feelings of all,
As the minstrel sang in court and crowded hall.
A polish and beauty emblazoned these rhymes,
Which they lacked in the days of more warlike times.

These Chansons were longer than any man's mind,
For bard after bard in each one you will find.
They're quite as long as the ages that have passed,
Whose shades o'er the modern student still are cast.

But to posterity the writers are lost,
So anonymous upon the world they're tossed!
Though the first and best claims the name of the bard,
Who upon Fame's ladder has attached his card.

'Tis the one more beautiful than all the rest,
Of these wild epics of the Chansons de Geste;
'Tis the tale of Roland, that true knight of old,
In the eleventh century, by Turold told.

He tells of treachery waylaying this knight,
Till Death embraced him in a thrill of delight:
Then later bards tuned their lyre to this song,
And tuned it to others more than twice as long.

So in songs as sweet as the breath of the rose,
The soul of the poet in melody flows;
'Twas thus the Spirit of Romance had its birth,
That, in a mystic halo, still moves on earth.

RHODA DENDROV.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

PREPARATORY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

BY PROF. LOUIS H. BARNARD, C. E.

A liberal education, stating it broadly, may be defined as that system which lays the foundations for and largely impresses those habits of body and mind that will enable a man to so command them that they can be concentrated and their combined light thrown upon problems to be solved, or work to be done.

So long as the work of colleges was largely the preparation of the student for divinity, law or medicine on the one hand, and the workshop and apprentice system as a preparation for the work of the artisan on the other, i. e., so long as the former were professions and the latter only trades, Latin, Greek and mathematics may have been sufficient for a preparatory training, and even for the backbone of college work. But these conditions changed; experimenters and workers in the fields of natural and applied science and in the workshop have been steadily increasing our knowledge of and mastery over the laws of nature, and their applications.