

knows something of everything is far less useful to the world now than he who knows *everything of something*. Does it not then behoove our colleges to concern themselves with affording young men the best facilities possible for pursuing courses of individual choice, (which courses, of course, would be chosen with reference to the best preparation for some trade or profession,) rather than insist upon the adoption by all of a universal prescription regardless of the student's future work?

The technical courses now introduced in many colleges are doing much to remedy the errors of the old system, inasmuch as they directly prepare a student for his future work. But they will not be entirely removed until it has been supplanted by the elective system. The opinions held by some, that students would take undue advantage of the privileges afforded them by the elective system are groundless. The faculty in yielding to the student the privilege of selecting his own course, need not yield its right to require of him such an amount of work as they may think necessary to the mastery of his chosen subjects.

We would like to see our *alma mater* entertain this subject. With her many technical courses she is far ahead of many of our colleges in her facilities for furnishing a young man with such education as will best equip him for the pursuit of some practical work. But

there are many students here who do not take a technical course, but are preparing for the various professions, and wish to make their course here the best preparatory to a more special and extended course elsewhere. We think if the Junior and Senior years were made elective much good would accrue from it. We hope to see The Pennsylvania State College in this, as in other things, abreast of the times.

THE FOUNDING OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT.

BY S. S. PAGUE, LIEUT. U. S. ARMY.

To each student of early American history, the "Gibraltar of America" must ever be an interesting subject. The strategic advantages of this point of the Hudson Highlands were early impressed upon our forefathers. As early as October, 1776, a resolution was passed by the Continental Congress ordering the raising of a committee of five to prepare and bring in a plan of a military academy of the army.

In 1778, at the urgent request of General Washington, the first fortification, Fort Arnold, afterwards changed to Fort Clinton, was constructed at West Point. After the close of the Revolution many of our leading statesmen saw the necessity demanding the establishment of an institution for the military education of the future soldiers.

In April, 1783, at the request of Colonel Alexander Hamilton, many opinions were obtained in writing from officers of the army as to a peace establishment. General Huntington declared "that West Point has been held as the key to the United States and ought always to be in a complete condition of defense." He further