We don’t believe they are, and we look to see this disgraceful evil speedily remedied by the indignant uprising of the national sentiment against it. This nation did not put down slavery only that it might be wrecked by a set of corrupt bosses.

The same number contains a very interesting paper on “Sir Henry Maine and his Work,” by his successor in the chair of jurisprudence at Oxford, Professor Pollock. In the domain of law and social science, Sir Henry Maine’s works were epoch-making books. If we have any advice to give the true student of the philosophy of history, it is to avoid the seductive superficialities of Mr. Herbert Spencer, and the preposterous paradoxes of Mr. Buckle, and try to understand Sir Henry Maine. It is true that his books are anything but elementary; but there is a sense in which it may be said that on a difficult subject it is the profoundest books that are the most elementary. Of Maine, Professor Pollock says: “At one master-stroke he forged a new and lasting bond between law, history, and anthropology. Jurisprudence itself has become a study of the living growth of human society through all its stages, and it is no longer possible for law to be dealt with as a collection of rules imposed, as it were, on societies by accident, nor for the resemblances and differences of the laws of different societies to be regarded as casual.” The paper is an interesting tribute to a very great writer by another, whose own writings partake of the same spirit.

The same number contains an anonymous article entitled “The Bismarck Dynasty,” which it is hardly too much to call ferocious; and in another, Lady Grant Duff gives an account of that very odd personage, Laurence Oliphant, who was such a queer mixture of man-of-the-world, brilliant writer, adventurous traveler, and mystical religionist.

W. P. A.

COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:

As a member of the “Technique” committee referred to in an article in your last number, I do not think it right to let pass this opportunity of noticing some misstatements that occur there.

The discussion by the class of the best methods of electing the Board is too long to be introduced here. It resulted in the election of a committee of twenty-five, chosen by ballot, and empowered to act for the class in the matter.

The first objection to this plan, other than the critic’s inappreciation of its wiseness, is that the hasty method of election may hereafter be repented. If, in the course of such affairs at Tech., an election can be called hasty when a month elapses before final action is taken, the class is open to that criticism. A certain after election repentance may in all cases be noticed among those who fail to receive what they expected.

“The manipulation of cliques,” and “the certainty of sore heads and dissatisfaction in a ponderous and unwieldy committee,” would hardly be remedied by the substitution of a still more ponderous and unwieldy class. The influence of cliques in the transaction of such serious business as the election of a “Technique” Board is admitted to be, is more insignificant than the outcry against them.

The question whether it is possible for such a committee to hold a meeting where all the members shall be present, is well enough answered by the facts that such a meeting has been held; that it continued in session for an hour, every point being fully discussed and settled as it arose; and that when the meeting adjourned, it did so for the express purpose of giving time to consider the nominations that had been made, and avoiding all undue haste in taking a final vote.

If the men eminently fitted for the position are not very difficult to discover, why not let the class make a direct choice without the intervention of a small active nominating committee, “personally disinterested,” which is something quite beyond discovery in the present imperfect state of human nature.

Such predictions as these which we have noticed we have ventured to correct, as tending to misrepresentation; if time proves them true, it will be soon enough then to say, “I told you so.” As the article we have referred to somewhat indefinitely concludes, “Ninety-one has an excellent standard to sustain or overstep, and we hope this will not prove a stumbling-block in her path to success.”

PROTECHNIQUE.

The usual price will be paid at The Tech office for numbers 5 or 7 of The Tech, Vol. VIII., or number 7 of Vol. VI.