

LITERARY.

We were pleased to observe that our worthy contemporary with the classic name intentionally or otherwise failed to publish in the last issue their usual college story. It was probably more conspicuous, or at least more enjoyable, by its absence than it could ever have been by its presence, unless it were very materially improved. Except the plot and the character delineation and the general execution and a few minor details, the story was usually not very weak, but by some these things are considered more or less essential to a good work of fiction. Has the aforesaid contemporary awakened to the fact that a college journal is not the place for miscellaneous fiction, or has the source of supply been unexpectedly cut off?

We had thought of remonstrating gently in regard to this matter some time ago, but decided that forbearance had not yet ceased to be a virtue, and so our patience has been rewarded. Let us hope that not chance but design led to the aforesaid omission, and that it may be many times repeated.

As a matter of fact the ability to write a good story is rare among college students, and it is not strange that this should be. Most of us are young. In this case youth and inexperience are drawbacks to successful accomplishment. Do not understand us to say that a moderately well written college story would not be acceptable. On the contrary it is just what should be in every college paper. Is there not a multiplicity of themes on which the student could base such a story? Have we no traditions to preserve, and no achievements to commemorate? Surely many things have happened and are continually happening that might furnish material for an interesting narrative. We do not wish to discourage any sort of literary effort. Practice makes perfect in this as in other things. Just to what extent the columns of any publication should be utilized for practice is a question. If we mistake not the English department was created for that very purpose.

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About Chapel.

The Chancellor has no desire to place any restrictions upon the custom which permits students to converse freely during the few moments given to assembly in chapel. But in the interest of good order, it is very desirable that such conversations should be carried in the lowest tones possible; the quiet whisper being the best.

Students sometimes seem to think that the piano prelude is given to cover the necessary noise and confusion of assembly; but this is not the case. If the students would come in as quietly as possible, and listen to the pains-taking work of Mrs. Menzendorf, they would find a new pleasure in morning exercises. Sabbath after Sabbath large congregations assemble in our churches without at all disturbing those who are listening to the organ preludes. Something of the same thing is certainly possible with us.

It would add much to the comfort and convenience of all if those who come in first would take seats toward the center (east and west) of each section, and not next the aisles. It is very confusing and inconvenient for all concerned for students to be obliged to enter past others who are seated or even standing at the seats.

That the chapel exercises are enjoyable is proved by the large and steady attendance. That they could be made much more enjoyable by a little more thoughtfulness on the part of all goes without saying.

Elocution.

The Regents made provision last June for special and free instruction in elocution, during the second semester; provided enough students wished this work, and had time for it, to warrant such an undertaking. For the present, no credit will be given. The best instructor that can be secured will be placed in charge of the class.

Students having time and inclination for this instruction should at once leave their names at the Chancellor's office, with a statement of the number of hours per week they can give to this work, whether these come in the morning or afternoon, and on what days of the week.

Whether the work will be undertaken or not will be determined by the reports handed in on or before December 20th.

Chancellor Crook of the Wesleyan lectures tonight under the auspices of the Maxwell Club.

The Holden Comedy company is playing a two weeks engagement at the Lansing to crowded and pleased houses at popular prices. The company is conceded to be one of the best on the road, including among its members many well known and really competent people. Miss Kittie DeLorme is the soubrette. She has been seen in Lincoln many times and is very pleasantly remembered. The second week of the engagement promises to be more successful even than the first.

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