

THE evidence in the contest over the election of state officers which is now being collected shows one thing quite plainly—that the thugs and saloon bummers of Omaha particularly, had possession of that city on election day. Those working in favor of the amendment were driven from the polls and subjected to all kinds of insults. If this had happened in any city of the South, a great many of Omaha's loyal Republicans would hold up their hands in holy horror and demand that some stringent election law be passed immediately. Will the people of this state, then, allow such a condition of affairs to continue? It may be safe to say that the next session of the legislature will adopt the Australian ballot system or some similar measure. This will perhaps be sufficient to insure an honest election; and it is greatly to be regretted that such a system of voting had not been adopted for the last election. Until some improvement is made in the manner of conducting elections there can be small reason to expect a free ballot and a fair count in some of our large cities.

ALTHOUGH it is only about three months until the state contest, the students of this institution have as yet, not made any preparations for it. All the other colleges of the state association, have, or will hold their home contests this term; but as yet there is nothing that would show to an observer that we have any such organization as a local oratorical association. If this lack of interest is to continue, it might be in order to ask if there is much hope that we shall capture the first prize in the coming state contest. We regret very much to see this lack of interest. Inter-collegiate contests are productive of much good to all students who are thus brought into contact. But while much good is to be derived from such contests when properly managed, certainly there is not much use for the students of any college to remain in connection with an oratorical association unless they make an effort at least once in a while to win. Let the local association stir itself and that without delay. If we are to be well represented at the next contest, it will be necessary to wake up.

THE term, now drawing to a close, has been on the whole, one of great prosperity for the literary societies. Good and desirable members have been secured, and prospects for the future were never brighter. The Greeks have added somewhat to their total membership; but this was to be expected on account of the greatly increased attendance at the University. But though somewhat stronger in members than they were last year, the fraternities are evident-

ly a little lacking in enterprise this year. The customary annual attempt to resurrect the defunct Philodicean society has not yet materialized, and the threats to establish a paper which should represent their interests, so freely indulged in last year, are heard no more. Perhaps still water runs deep, and we only hope that it does. Nothing could possibly help the barbarian cause here more than the establishment of a frat paper. For this reason we would welcome the advent of a supposed rival; but at the same time, we could not promise that its voyage upon the sea of college journalism would be entirely smooth sailing. One thing has been demonstrated within the last year—barbs may not agree upon some important matters, they may even develop considerable hostility for each other, but yet in opposition to frats, they can all unite and remain united.

SOME of our frats will, occasionally, in moments of delusion, make the assertion that they take only the best men; and by best men that they do not mean those with the largest bank accounts, but those of really superior abilities; that while it may be the practice of fraternities in the East to take men on account of their money, athletic propensities, or popularity, that the practice is reversed in the U. of N., and only intellectual men are sought. They have also made the assertion that they do literary work in the fraternities of superior quality, and that their method of criticism is quite the best.

We do not wish to dispute these assertions, but would like to see them proved by results. In other colleges we sometimes hear of the frats having an honor man, we sometimes hear of them winning on an oratorical contest; but in the University of Nebraska we have yet to see a frat competing for oratorical honors. Having the best men, with the training that only frats can give, they are manifestly doing themselves a wrong and injuring the University by not entering the contests. If their assertions be true, then they have only to enter a contest, and victory will perch upon their banners. But the very fact that they have refrained from entering contests is in itself significant. Either they have not the best men, or else they discourage literary work; either frat nature is not human nature, or else a frat man, knowing his ability to win, would compete. That they do not is a sad commentary on their literary activities, their intellectual aspirations.

After one of our defeats, a frat man took the occasion to write a chapter letter to his frat quarterly, in which he said that it was significant that in the contest the University was not represented by a frat, thus intimating that it was not to be expected that a barb could win such a contest. Then, by all means,