

THE students of the university have long felt the need of more liberal instruction in oratory. The development of the university during the past few years has been so rapid that all the departments of study could not be amply provided for at once. Each must await its turn. The dream of the university orator of the past has now become a reality. This year a course in oratory is offered. The number of students that are taking advantage of this course has amply justified the faculty for their action. The young orator may now develop his oratorical qualities to a higher degree. He may display his eloquence in a more oratorical style. Those who wish to compete in the university oratorical contest should take advantage of the instruction given in this course. Our future oratorical contests may be made to be more oratorical than they have usually been. With such instruction as is being given in the oratorical department at present there is no reason why the university may not redeem its past reputation in oratorical contests.

The establishment of this course inaugurates a more liberal system of education than has heretofore been practiced in this institution. The student is given an opportunity to elect studies to a greater degree than in any of the other courses. This system is to be commended. The elective system has been steadily gaining ground. It has been proven to be the best system. May the time soon come when the courses of study in this university will be largely, if not entirely, elective.

THERE is scarcely a culture-study—not one we think—which can be pursued even a little way without leading up to, traversing or running parallel with the history of the monuments of nations. Is it enough to study the quarrels of nations, the war-footing, battles, intrigues, military power, conquests, political developments?

History puts more stress now on the arts of peace, reciprocities rather than reprisals, home-life, religion, national characteristics and enthusiasms, and these have been expressed and the others commemorated in the building, in the art of peoples.

Students of history now-a-days specialize and make exhaustive research their aim; they must realize that a mere catalogue of the world's monuments and works of art is almost worthless. If anything deserves special study does not what remains to us of the expressions, material and visible, of a peoples' ideals. A great man has said: "I desire to be judged by the best I have thought and done, by the highest water mark I have reached."

Peoples and nations should also be so judged but an appreciative knowledge of their art-achievement necessary qualification.

The literary course claims to be a study of the intellectual productions of men of genius. It claims too much. Literature does not cover all that ground it must be supplemented by art-study.

One poet may clothe his thoughts in words, another in form or in color. We are deficient in culture if we only recognize and value that thought when clothed in words. A study of intellectual productions which confines itself to books is too limited, for authors and artists have always been peers. Dr. Holmes says "Society is a strong solution of books." Society should have equally in solution great construction, monumental, graphic and representative thoughts outside of books.

The classical course occupies itself with both the literature and history of one of the greatest—perhaps the greatest—artistic period of all time; the importance of a parallel study of art history is obvious.

If "to love beauty is to see the light," art history ought to be, not an elective, but required.

"BEN ABON" in the *New York Press* has something to say of a couple of our most respected people, and others in the county will be interested also. He says: "One of the wealthiest and most substantial citizens of Minneapolis is Mr. R. B. Langdon, who is engaged in the grain and railroad business. I met him here yesterday, when he repeated the assurance that is constantly coming from the west, that the crops promise to be the largest in years, and that his political belief is that if Mr. Blaine's health is good next year he will be the nominee of the republican party without opposition. Then he told me an interesting story about the new president of the University of Nebraska, Prof. J. H. Canfield, saying: 'He is a son of a former Brooklyn clergyman, now living in Vermont and is a graduate of Williams College. I think he was born in New York, and is about forty years of age. When he left college he was recommended to me for work, and I engaged him without seeing him, as a sort of clerk and bookkeeper in a new business I was starting in an Iowa town. There was really not much for him to do until I got down there, which was a couple of weeks after he did, but when I arrived there I found him out in the railroad yard helping to unload lumber for the buildings I was putting up. He had taken his part with the laborers every day during the two weeks, and with his black hair and tan from the sun he looked almost like an Italian. I liked the lad's grit, and gave him better work. Then he studied law, became a professor at the University of Kansas. He will turn out some good men from the students under him I am sure.'—In his prime the Rev. Dr. Eli H. Canfield, D. D., who was rector of a leading Episcopal church in Brooklyn, was considered among the most eloquent clergymen in this country, and at one time was in line of promotion to a bishopric. His oldest son was sent to Williams College for an education, and when he came out studied civil engineering. He laughingly said to his father one day, after he had decided to go west and grow up with the country: 'Now, father, I am going to strike out for myself, and before I get through I am going to let you know that I have benefited by the education you have given me. I am going to show you some day when you will be known as James H. Canfield's father.' Time passed and young Canfield, after various vicissitudes, had become professor of the University of Kansas at Lawrence, when Rev. Dr. Canfield, grown old and broken down in health, paid him a visit. Everybody in Lawrence knew the genial and talented Professor Canfield, and the leading paper of the town announced in its personal columns that Professor Canfield's father was paying him a visit. Rev. Dr. Canfield is now living in retirement in Vermont, where he told recently how the Professor, with boyish glee, rushed in on him at Lawrence with this paper, and, dancing all around him recalled his prophecy. Professor Canfield is the scholar who was recently elevated to the chancellorship of the University of Nebraska, and Dr. Canfield is quite content to be called Chancellor Canfield's father."—*Bennington Banner*.