

### Literary.

William Dean Howells thinks a man should not depend on his art for a living; that whatever artistic talent he has should be expended gratuitously for the further ennobling of art, albeit incidentally for his own recreation and personal satisfaction; and that every author before beginning to write should be in a position to refuse remuneration for his or her labor. This may be a logical and a consistent and an altogether beautiful ideal, but it is hardly suited to the present stage of our development in this country. Cases of such disinterested devotion, although highly commendable, are extremely rare in this mercenary, or perhaps we should say this eminently practical age.

Our very best writers have been those who made literary pursuits the business of their lives, and indeed does not this account in a large measure for their success? Is it not reasonable to suppose that the man who practices his art all the time will bring it to a higher state of perfection than he who practices it only half the time? Again, the hope of pecuniary reward alone, though it may be a comparatively base purpose, has furnished the incentive for some excellent work. Some of the best productions in the language were written under the stress of adverse circumstances.

What method would Mr. Howells have young and aspiring writers pursue in order to gain a recognition for themselves in the world of letters?

Would he have them hire themselves out by day and write sonnets by the light of a tallow dip at night, or would he have them wait until they are ready to retire from business before entering the field? There is a good old saying to the effect that "one thing at a time is a very good rule," and what is the "young and aspiring" going to do for his daily bread while he devotes his time and attention to that one thing if it is not remunerative. To be sure, under the existing conditions he is not at all likely to get his daily bread buttered or with a superabundance of jam, but that is all the more reason why a change would not be desirable at present. As a matter of fact, we do not know of a better paid writer in this country than Mr. Howells. Perhaps that is his misfortune and not his fault, as it seems to be contrary to his convictions.

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### The Silver Celebration.

The committee having the Silver Celebration in charge have determined on the following plan to give the student body the best possible representation.

The Lansing Theatre will be given the students on the morning of Friday, the second day of the celebration, for a students program. This will be an opportunity for the students to put their best foot forward, and show to the Alumni and to visitors from abroad what the students can do in a literary and artistic way.

The central numbers of the program will be several tableaux from Homer, under the charge of the Greek Department; and at least two scenes from a Latin play, under the charge of the Latin Department.

The remaining numbers of the program will be three orations: the orators to be selected as follows:

Orations shall consist of not more than one thousand words.

The manuscripts shall be type written.

The manuscripts shall be left at the Chancellor's office not later than January 10th.

Accompanying each manuscript shall be the name of the writer in a sealed envelope.

From the orations thus submitted, a committee will select one to represent the Academic College, one to represent the Industrial College, and one to represent the College of Law: the writers to be students in the respective colleges, and the selections to properly regard power of presentation as well as thought and composition.

The second best orations will receive honorable mention at some proper time in the anniversary exercises.

Competition open to all students.

There will rarely come to any student of the University such an opportunity as this. It will be great in its responsibility, and also in its returns to the student. It will also mean much for the class or Society or other student organization represented. There ought to be sharp competition for these places.

The successful contestants will receive careful and expert training in delivery at the expense of the University.

The other numbers of this program will be music by the Glee and Banjo Club, and by the Ladies Mandolin Club.

Further information may be secured at the Chancellor's office.

We earnestly invite all Students to visit our store before making any purchases in the line of Dry Goods, Cloaks, Ladies' Furnishing Goods and Men's Furnishing Goods. Our stocks are especially attractive. We refer new students to any of the professors or any old student in the University as to our manner of doing business.

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