

# THE NEBRASKAN

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## Women and Political Economy.

There is thought to exist among the women in our University an impression that the study of political economy is unsuited to them, and that they are not likely to be successful in case they undertake it. This opinion about the "sphere of woman" is only the survivor of a great quantity of notions on the same subject that are at last fortunately relegated to the museum of antiquities. The "progress of woman" has not been the progress of woman at all, but the progress of the human race. Woman, being but one of the dual components of that unity—the race—is germane to it in all its phases and in all its stages of development. Conservative opinions as to "woman's sphere" are as much the opinions of women as of men, and an appeal for more liberal views is just as likely to be opposed by women as by men.

With progress, women's drudgery has become less gross; she has ceased to be an industrial caste; she has entered into pursuits better suited to her nature, elusive though the definition of that nature may be. Whereas formerly it was only music and the modern languages that were thought appropriate for her education, now she addresses herself with acknowledged success to history, the classics, mathematics, philology, philosophy, psychology and all the natural sciences—but hesitates at the door of political economy.

This hesitation, if such it be, is but a last step on the stairs. The reasons for making this step are not different from those for making its predecessors. The Ultimate Object is the same. Surely, we shall not be forced to reverse the French proverb and say, *C'est le dormir pas qui caute!*

And here it is worthy of remark that the question of woman's sphere should never degenerate into a discussion of comparative ability. Women may or may not be *smarter* than men. They are different; and this difference is incommensurable. Women are welcome in the world of knowledge, because they are women and because they bring with them that light, that point of view, that process of thought, whatever it may be,

that makes them what they are. This is as true of one study or calling as of another; if there is any study or calling of which it is not true, the interest of woman alone is needed to make it true.

If we scrutinize political economy closely, an ample field for woman's tastes discloses itself. Political economy was formerly a wholly masculine science. It dealt with the forces of production. It enquired how the greatest engines might be moved with the least expenditure, and thus the greatest product obtained. It introduced us to a pitiable wrangle of human creatures for the distribution of that product, in which ignorance and immobility on the one side, and the unique passion of gain on the other, waged unequal warfare.

It is, indeed, instructive, that a changed view of political economy has been simultaneous with a changed view of woman's sphere. The heartless science is humanized; in other words, it is dualized. We are no longer allowed to inquire, "How much can we produce?" without making the further inquiry, "What should we produce for the general good?" The science of human wealth is become the science of human weal. Consumption take its place side by side with Production; saving counterbalances the reaction from a rude excess of output; Taste, the mother of Desire, rules Value.

Surely, woman does not need to change her being in order to become naturalized to such studies. The saving care, the watchful distribution of expenses in household economy, are alone sufficient to prove the complete appropriateness of political economy to women students.

WILLIAM G. TAYLOR.

The local oratorical association met shortly before vacation and elected officers for the ensuing year. G. F. Fisher was chosen president, L. C. Oberlies, vice-president; J. C. Jones, secretary and treasurer. Delegates to the state convention were chosen as follows: E. Gerard, A. Weaver, C. R. Welden, R. Graham. It was decided to give a prize of \$50 to the winner of the local contest and \$25 to second place. The local contest takes place February 3d.

## LAW NOTES.

G. H. Irish is a new addition to the Senior class.

Edgar Harmon of the Junior class has been quite sick for the past two weeks.

The Seniors are studying the rules of equity pleading, particularly as applied in the federal courts.

P. W. Chapman, '93, called on the law school last week. Mr. Chapman is located at Gretna, and came down on business. Supreme court case we presume.

The session of the federal court last week was attended by a number of the law students. Many points of practice not to be found in books are thus acquired.

The Senior class is considering the adoption of a class badge. The one worn by the preceding class seems to find favor; and the idea is to make this badge the emblem of the law school, the reverse side only representing the distinct class.

The Maxwell club met the Union Boys Debating club Saturday evening, January 13. The question discussed was concerning the comparative merits of the English cabinet system and the American plan of government. The law boys say the honors were even. Some of the Unions think their talkers rather out-classed the Maxwells.

## Annual Story and Poem.

In order to secure literary matter of the highest merit, the board of editors of the Junior Annual offers a prize of ten dollars for the best story—college story preferred—not to exceed twenty-five hundred words in length. A similar prize is offered for the best poem. The judges chosen for the contest are: Profs. Sherman, Fossler, Belden, and Bates. All manuscripts must be submitted on or before March 1st. A few have already announced their intention to enter the contest, and it is hoped a large number will avail themselves of this rare opportunity to whet their intellectual and poetical faculties while simultaneously replenishing their private exchequers. Further information will be cheerfully furnished by Miss Boose, Miss Cather or the editors-in-chief.

## LOCAL.

At a meeting of the second preparatory class on last Friday afternoon L. E. Smith was elected president; Miss Pollard, vice president; Miss Shudel, secretary; A. L. Roberts, treasurer; R. Haile, historian, and J. E. Pearson, sergeant at arms.

On Monday evening Prof. Sherman delivered the first of a series of lectures on Shakespeare. The first act in "Cymbeline" formed the subject matter for the first lecture. These lectures are open alike to students and to the general public.

The class in political economy under the direct supervision of Prof. Taylor, have taken the first steps in organizing a political economy club for the purpose of considering practical economic questions of the day. The meetings of the club are to be held semi-monthly.

Great preparations are being made for the decoration of the campus for Charter Day. Streamers will be stretched from the top of University Hall to each corner of the campus. It is said that these are to be decked with the scalps of the various schools we have beaten in athletic and other contests.

Mr. Ames entertained the Palladian society at his beautiful home in south Lincoln, last Saturday evening. The evening was spent in dancing and other amusements. Refreshments were served in the dining room which was appropriately decorated in red and white carnations and palms. A delightful time is reported.

The Greek play and choruses (or chori?) promise to be about the gaudiest part of the Charter Day exercises. The girls may be heard at almost any time discussing the merits of lemon colored cheese cloth at six cents a yard, or pea green muslin at twelve. The boys say nothing but wonderful things are expected of them.

The old and new cadets now drill together in companies. The fine weather has been taken advantage of and practice in marching has been given on the campus. The battalion altogether does excellently for this time of the year.