

# THE NEBRASKAN.

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About fifteen minutes of eight every evening, while the extra power is being switched on, the electric current is momentarily turned off. Just why the same people every night think it is necessary to whistle, rap on the tables, etc., has not yet been made plain to us. It was all right the first night—it appeared merely foolish—it has developed into idiosyncrasy.

Democratic organizations are still being undermined about the university. That "lying and intriguing aristocracy," Phi Beta Kappa, is undoubtedly responsible. It is understood that H. E. Newbranch has prepared another of his famous roasts on this organization, because "barb" wire was not used in the construction of the new fences.

Some interested person should answer the request for slang phrases asked by the dialect club of an eastern college. It would take very little work and the accommodation would undoubtedly be appreciated. The uni has some neat colloquial terms and it would be an interesting task to collect them. It is safe to say that the university of Nebraska would not be far behind in this feature of college work.

Every sophomore knows that his class is to bring out a junior annual next spring that will put all previous ones on the back shelf. The Sombrero is a university publication and deserves and must have the interest of every one in college. You may not hear very much about it just now, but it is here all the same, and its board editors is pushing it along.

To increase interest in the matter I to secure the very best available material the business managers propose to offer two main prizes. A prize of \$10 is offered for the best original story, not exceeding two thousand words in length, and a prize of \$10 for the best original poem. The story and poem receiving second place will be published in the annual with honorable mention. Any registered student of the university is at liberty to compete. The productions will not be required until next fall, when a definite time will be set.

Let the stories and poems come in, the more the merrier. If the members of the class of '96 cannot write stories, they are free to write out subscriptions to the next junior annual and sure to draw a prize.

Some of the professors have a habit of locking the door of their recitation room as soon as the second bell rings. This is not to be censured either, as it is exceedingly annoying to have students come straggling in after the work of the hour has begun. Under ordinary circumstances there is no reason why a student should be ten minutes, or five minutes, or even one minute late.

None of the fair minded students the least blame their instructors for locking the door. But once in a while it happens that the professor is late himself. It is the most natural thing in the world that a room full of lively students should think of turning the tables. After a little bantering and darning, someone goes to the door with an air of great boldness and snaps the lock. When the professor arrives a few moments later and tries the door and finally has to use his key or perhaps call the janitor, does he have any right to look like a thunder cloud all through the

hour? Ought he to assume an air of offended dignity, and make the class feel uncomfortably guilty or hysterically funny?

The class meant no harm, and it would show a much broader spirit if the professor would take an innocent joke for what it is worth and laugh with the class.

The Nebraskan was greatly pleased with the zeal and enthusiasm the students manifested in the Kansas-Nebraska debate. Our appeal for a hearty outburst of college spirit and a friendly co-operation of the student body to insure a royal success of the crowning event of the year was certainly not made in vain. The students know a rich treat. A friendly intellectual rivalry between the two great western universities deserved our loyal support and we rendered it with a free heart. Nothing was spared to give our guests a hospitable welcome. In so doing we showed our co-operation with the most fruitful and instructive of all intercollegiate undertakings. Even the faculty was awakened to the significance of the event. They joined alike in reviving the college spirit of old. The weight that eastern colleges are giving to debate places it to the fore in college rivalry, and the good will with which everyone greeted the Kansas-Nebraska debaters demonstrates our fealty to a noble and worthy cause. The charge of "no college spirit, refinement and culture" cannot be placed at our door.

A lesson may be gathered from victory as well as defeat. Then let us profit from the merits and demerits of the Kansas-Nebraska debate, while rejoicing over a well-earned victory. The earnestness and zeal of our debaters and the showing they made are certainly praiseworthy qualities and deserve merited commendation. We recognize they had to do the best they were capable of, to pluck the laurel of victory from such a worthy foe.

May we not make a just and, we hope, a timely criticism? Let us acknowledge our weaknesses as well as our virtues. The truth must be known. It is conceded by every fair-minded observer that the Kansas debaters had a more commanding, polished and graceful stage bearing than our boys. Their ease upon the stage, their self-possession, gesticulation and fluency in language were quite noticeable, showing the care and skill of a trained and ready debater. A sound, logical, clear-cut argument, polished with a graceful delivery go hand in hand. And we can say to the credit of our boys that they used the former with much effect, but sadly failed in the latter. To what shall we attribute this failing? Is it due to a want of practice and careful training in public speaking? There certainly must be more care and rigid discipline exercised in our local debating associations to remove this deficiency. This is very essential to give force to argument and to command the good will and attention of the audience.

One of our professors spoke advisedly when he said, "The frequent use of repartee and the apparent incoherency in the argument weakened the effect of the debate." Yes, we were better entertained than instructed. It is safe to say many failed to get a clear or even a crude understanding of the import of the subject in its two phases, owing to the fragmentary and rambling manner the speakers advanced and refuted argument. This may be easily avoided. But when persisted in it becomes a pernicious habit. Let us not sit down and console ourselves with the laurel honorably won nor lament over the mistakes, but begin now to prepare for the next local debate, and we may safely predict that we will have not only the logic but a polish and grace that will bury the jayhawkers beyond Gabriel's trumpet of resurrection.

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