

Phi Beta Kappa.

The editorial management of THE HESPERIAN believes that enough has already been said about Phi Beta Kappa scholarship society. But out of courtesy for Mr. Abbott we print the following:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HESPERIAN:—I would like to submit to the readers of THE HESPERIAN a few facts in regard to a certain organization that has recently come into our school. It has been asserted time and again that the establishment of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa here marks a great stride in the progress of our University; that it gives us rank among the great colleges of our land. Now if this statement is true, in this respect, at least, P. B. K. is good. But is the entrance of Phi Beta Kappa an "open sesame" to the highest collegiate rank? This question forms my theme.

Let us first examine a list of the colleges with which we can now pride ourselves in ranking.

According to an official publication of the order, dated August 31, 1895, the colleges composing P. B. K. are Bowdoin in Maine; Dartmouth in New Hampshire; the State University of Vermont and Middlebury, in Vermont; Harvard, Amherst, Williams, Tufts in Massachusetts; Yale, Trinity, Wesleyan, in Connecticut; Brown, in Rhode Island; Union, University of N. Y., College of the City of New York, Columbia, Hamilton, Hobart, Colgate, Cornell, Rochester Universitys, in New York; Rutgers, in New Jersey; Dickenson, Lehigh, Lafayette, University of Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania; William and Mary, in Virginia; Western Reserve, Kenyon, Marietta, in Ohio; DePauw, in Indiana; Evanston in Illinois; University of Kansas, University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska. Besides these colleges I believe John Hopkins and the University of Iowa have made application for membership.

Now this is a formidable list and it contains many of the really great schools of our

land. But it is a fact that as many of the colleges of first rank are not found here. You do not find Ann Arbor, the University of Chicago, Leland Stanford, Princeton, the University of Wisconsin or the University of California in the list. All of these schools rank above our University. Why is it not as reasonable to say we take rank with the great universities of the country as truly by staying out of P. B. K. as we do by getting into it?

Again, is it not fair to say we now take rank with the great majority of those "world universities" of which P. B. K. is composed, such as Middlebury and the University of Vermont, as Wesleyan in Conn., as Colgate, Hobart, Hamilton or that imperium of colleges, the University of New York? Why is it not just as reasonable to say since we have gotten into P. B. K., that we rank with the other P. B. K. schools such as Rutgers, Dickenson and Lafayette, or William and Mary or Kenyon or Marietta; as to maintain we now rank with the half dozen great colleges in the organization?

But you say, just think of the great men that have come from these small colleges. There was Longfellow and Hawthorne from Bowdoin, Webster from Dartmouth, Garfield from Williams, Winter Davis and Chase from Kenyon, and a host of others. Don't these men make their colleges great? Yes: and Napoleon came from Corsica. And now it would be in order for the United States to try and squirm into some P. B. K. of nations in which Mr. Corsica plays ring master—for we have never produced a Napoleon. But is it not barely possible Napoleon became great in spite of Corsica; not because of it. And is it any more reasonable to credit all the ability that has happened to be shut up within the four walls of these colleges for a few short years, to the colleges and P. B. K. forsooth, than to credit Bonaparte's genius to Corsica?

I assert it is more reasonable to maintain that getting into P. B. K. ranks us with its score of puny schools than with the six large