

ceive that either literary societies or fraternities stand for a principle. The average new student is inclined to treat the question as to whether he will affiliate with a society or a fraternity, as a trifling matter, and too often is content to allow the course of events to determine the answer.

The student who does this makes a mistake. New Student, the question whether your lot is to be cast with a society or a fraternity is not a trifling one. It is not something which will work out its own solution as a matter of course. Upon your determination of this will depend your associates for four years, as well as the character of your college life. Your decision in this may be potent in deciding your future. The matter deserves conscientious consideration.

Duty impells the HESPERIAN to call the attention of new students to the difference in what the societies stand for, from what the fraternities stand for. The literary societies stand for student equality; for the largest social growth and the highest literary development; in short for "the greatest good to the greatest number." On the other hand the fraternities pride themselves on their exclusiveness. Their acknowledged aim is to promote the interests of *their* few. In the university the sphere of the fraternities seem to be small, for they make absolutely no effort to win college honors. They do not enter literary or forensic contests. Their whole energy is devoted to cotillions, promenades and football.

Clearly, whether a student should join a society or fraternity will depend along what line he desires to develop. If the student wishes to fit himself to meet people in all walks of life, to improve as a public speaker and writer; in a word, if he wants to make the most of himself, to prepare for the largest field of usefulness, he will find a congenial atmosphere in the open literary society. The student who desires to be a "fop" or society "butterfly" will not find an agreeable home in a society hall.

Never has there been such an awakening to the serious effect of college fraternity influence as in the past year. Bossism and corruption have been traced from influences in

our colleges and universities to affairs of state and church. Religious conferences and periodicals denounce the college fraternity as not only opposed to purity in politics but as dangerous to our political freedom. The Advance, a leading Congregational organ, says in a recent issue, under the caption, "Why Corrupt?": "Take the political boss, the man who believes in machine methods more than merit; if he is a college trained man and was a member of a 'frat,' he left the halls of learning and crossed the threshold of politics imbued with the idea of combination and organization for the purpose of promoting the interests of a select few. That he should develop this idea into large and alarming proportions only means that mustard seeds grow. We shall not insist on the immediate connection of the two, but the machine method was never before so rank as it now is right along with the multiplication of college graduates. There is a loud call for these college men to enter politics, but if they are to be a benificent power in affairs of state, they would do well to rid and deliver themselves of the fraternity spirit before they attempt to promote the public welfare."

The HESPERIAN does not wish to say what a student should do in this matter. That is for the individual student to say. However, the HESPERIAN does not hesitate to say that every student, to whom life means something serious, whether imbued with ambition or altruism, will find that the open literary society can do for him what no other organization can.

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L. V. Patch spent vacation travelling with a magniscope. Messrs. Matson and Turrell assisted him.

Mr. Hartigan of Hastings will not be in school this year. He is working for an insurance company in Chicago.

Jim Burks has been buying up old wagons this summer to speculate on during corn husking time. Jim will not be in school but takes charge of his father's implement store at Beatrice.

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Westerfield has not moved. He is still at 117 N 13th St. and is giving the latest style in hair cuts.