

# THE HESPERIAN

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*Students' mass meeting, to arouse interest in the local Oratorical Contest, University Chapel, Wednesday March 9.*

The HESPERIAN is always ready to print the news. Any person detecting an improvement in the conduct in the library will please inform a HESPERIAN representative of this fact. The *real* students should know the truth.

The Literary Societies have had charge of the Oratorical Association the past few years. Can they afford to let it fail in their hands? Can the Debating Clubs, with their vital interest in matters forensic, afford to see oratory decline in the Uni? Pride in the institution, pride in contests in the Forum, and pride in themselves should rally these organizations to a strong effort. Let it not be penurious or vacillating, but let it be hearty and vigorous, sure and sustaining. A united effort, an earnest attempt, a robust resolution will put the Association on a firm footing and assure stability and strength for this year and years to come.

The Oratorical Contest is upon us. The contestants are prepared. The judges are chosen and the heavy work of the officers is over. This forensic battle promises to be fierce and fiery. No one is planning to run away with the honors and the one who has such hopes is assuredly laboring under a fond delusion. Nearly every element in University affairs is represented, which fact increases interest and centralizes attention. The indications now are that a representative audience will greet the contestants in a contest which is University enterprise in every sense. If the student-body does its duty, this year, oratory need never decline to a secondary position.

The hot heads have already gone to war with Spain. The Jingoers are booted and "spurred," their patriotic resolutions are adopted, they are now investing the castle of Moro and yearning to come in bloody contact with the Spanish Dons, and all because in some way, some how (way and manner both unknown) the Maine was sunk. Did it never occur to them that other war ships have gone down, that a great ship is peculiarly liable to accident, that the cause is now being investigated? Supposing Spaniards did the deed, is it not reasonable to suppose that those doing it were merely irresponsible individuals? Can we not wait patiently for the result of the investigation? Can we not wait until a demand for indemnity and disavowal is made? Do you propose to indict the whole Spanish nation for the wanton act of a few unknown conspirators? Will there not be time enough to fight when peaceable methods of adjusting have failed? Can we not presume that Spain would disavow such an act and make proper reparation for the loss? Have these fire-eaters forgotten that there is such a thing as national honor, an international law, and a comity of nations? If they will take a collection of themselves for a moment or two, think a reasonable thought or so, consider what war is and what national honor should be, we predict a state of opinion less bellicose, a press-tone less bombastic, and an atmosphere less bluster. The death of 254 men will not justify the senseless sacrifice of an hundred times that many; the loss of the Maine will not ex-