

HESPERIAN STUDENT,

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
HESPERIAN STUDENT PUBLISH-
ING ASSOCIATION
OF THE
NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, - G. E. HOWARD.
ASSOCIATE, - FANNIE METCALF.
LOCAL, - W. L. SWEET.
J. M. IRWIN, Business Manager.

TERMS FOR SUBSCRIPTION

1 copy per college year - \$0.75.
1 " six months - 0.50.
Single copy - 0.10.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

1 column one insertion - \$4.00.
3 squares " " 1.00.
1 " " " .35.

All articles for publication should be addressed
—Editor HESPERIAN STUDENT, State University,
Lincoln Nebraska. All subscriptions, with the
address, should be sent to the Business Manager.
Subscriptions collected invariably in advance.
Advertisements collected monthly.

THE TEMPERANCE CRUSADE.

O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no
name to be known by, let us call thee devil.—Shak.

The persistence and enthusiasm mani-
fested by the fair ladies of Lincoln in
their most valiant and implacable crusade
into the dominions of King Alcohol is, to
say the least, worthy of admiration. Their
relentless perseverance is as remarkable
as it was unexpected. The consequence
is that, the incredulous smile of amuse-
ment depicted on the countenance of the
public, in the outset of this novel sensa-
tion, is giving place to an expression of
thoughtfulness and grave inquiry.

The irreverent bacchanal who in the
beginning laughed loudly at the utopian
scheme, and boldly invited the ladies to
hold their services in his saloon, jocularly
asserting that they brought increased cus-
tom to his bar, now, with rather a crest-
fallen and perplexed air of anxiety, al-
most ludicrous, finds himself facing a
serious and troublesome reality. The sa-
loon keepers of Lincoln act a great deal
as if they had caught an extensive band
of fair tartars, or rather that the pretty
Nomads had captured them.

This unique war partakes somewhat of
the wonderful. Fancy a beautiful, but
most intrepid lady, like the raging Pen-
thesilea her troop of amazons at the
siege of Troy, leading her fair warriors
into the reeking fortifications of the ene-
my, and, metaphorically if not literally,
spilling the liquor from the toper's glass
and wrenching the toddy-stick from the
bar-keeper's hand! A cool conception of
a verity! That veteran "bummer" who
dropped into the saloon for his customary
dram on the evening of the first
memorable assault at Bailey's, and after a
moment of wide-mouthed astonishment
ejaculated "Bill I'm durned if I ever'd
a thought such a thing could possibly be,
nohow," rudely expressed the general
wonder at the new enterprise.

Be it known that we have possessed lit-
tle faith in this woman's raid—perchance
from lack of thought. We have been
prone to say: "Can any good come out
of such a Nazareth?" Not that we have
ever doubted the motives that prompted
this movement. No, Heaven forbid it!
We have more faith in Christian woman
than ever to doubt her pure motives in

the cause of right. But the contempla-
tions of scenes, grotesque, and strangely,
solemnly ludicrous in their novelty, did
not favorably impress us. A group of
chaste and sweet-breathed virgins, and
stately, staid and buxom matrons enscon-
ced within the unconsecrated precincts, bor-
dered by two unholy billiard tables, the
polluted atmosphere reeking with a dead-
ly pestilence, singing the sweet anthems
of their Redeemer, while surrounded by
a throng of abandoned, besotted, tobacco-
stained and jeering debauchees and
roistering blades, who mingle with the
words of prayer and expostulation horrid
oaths and ribald jests, and at each pause
greet the delicate ear with uproarious ac-
clamations and applause—the picture we
must admit, in the heart of a casual ob-
server, is calculated to inspire more of
disgust and pity than of hope for the
good result. We say in the heart of the
casual observer, for upon more sober re-
flection, we find arguments that commend
this movement to our serious considera-
tion. These thoughts present themselves
to our mind:

Is not this movement another evidence
of a great coming revolution in politics
and morals?

Is it not caused by that great ebullition
in public sentiment which, sooner or later,
will clearly define our political issues by
distinct lines of morality and right, not
the least of which will be temperance?
This movement has already created, and
will continue to create a strong public
opinion in the right direction. Public
opinion, when sufficiently defined and de-
veloped, will make temperance a political
issue. This is where, it seems to us, this
crusade is effecting a great good. But we
are told that this movement has an op-
posite effect—that it is weakening public
sentiment in favor of the temperance
cause. We are by no means alarmed at
the dolorous lamentations of those ex-
treme law-and-order men—temperance
men so called—who raise their indignant
protestations, and shed so many sympa-
thizing tears over the desecrated rights
and privileges of the rum-seller.

It is astonishing how pathetic your
staid, temperate, moral man is over the
barbarous treatment the saloon-keeper is
receiving at the hands of these fair out-
laws! But this is natural, and just what
we are glad to see. When once the time
shall come to act upon the platform of
the "New Temperance Party," and men
are compelled to vote whiskey or anti-
whiskey, these men of nice scruples will
vote right. This is what they dread, and
why they are so conscientious in this
matter—they are afraid their moral cour-
age will be put to the proof. When this
occurs the reign of King Alcohol is fin-
ished.

But, dear sir, why is your sensitiveness
so dreadfully shocked at the boldness and
indelicacy of these ladies in thus imperil-
ing their modesty, by witnessing scenes of
questionable character? Now be candid
and acknowledge that your anxiety in
this respect is a little hypocritical. While
standing in the crowd, witnessing the
same scenes of which you complain, do
you tremble for your own virtuous char-
acter? Is the virtue and modesty of wo-
man so much thinner and more unstable
than your own, that it will be shattered by
a few rude shocks or harsh sounds? Will
it rub off in the mere contact with a rud-
er element, while trying to reform it?
We have no charity with such arguments.
We have too much confidence in the

dignity of woman's character. Would it
not be more manly for you boldly to take
one side or the other of this question at
once? If you have a brotherly symp-
athy for the advocates of intemperance
and the venders of intoxicating drink,
come out like a man and say, with jolly
Robbie Burns, of the good Scotch drink:
"Thou art the life o' public haunts.
But thee, what were our fairs and rants?
Ev'n godly meetings o' the saunts,
By thee inspir'd
When gaping, they besiege the tents,
Are doubly fir'd."

Fortune, if thou'll but gie me still
Hale breeks an' whiskey gill
An' rowth o' rhyme to rave at will—
Tak a' the rest
An' deal't about as thy blind skill
Directs thee best."

Woman has been driven to this step.
She has long wept over this terrible evil.
She has appealed to legislators for the
ballot. They were afraid she would dis-
grace her delicate self by mingling with
the riff-raff and rabble at the polls. Hope-
less of gaining the ballot to right this evil,
she has been forced to the present alter-
native which, though it may not be
"clean" enough to suit her noble lord, is
the only resort he has left her. Of all the
evils that have flowed from the intoxicat-
ing cup, more replete with ills and cal-
amities than Pandora's box, woman has
felt the keenest and the bitterest. While
kneeling with streaming eyes in the grime
and filth of the bar-room, as we have
seen her, pleading with the rum-seller
to forsake his calling for dear humanity's
sake, she has been simply pleading her
own cause. What wonder then this move-
ment, fanatic though it may be, novel and
unique though it is—has produced won-
derful effects in other states! Longfel-
lows Victorian, explaining the eloquence
of Preciosa, has beautifully expressed
our idea of woman's power in such a
cause:

"How like an angel's speaks the tongue of
woman
When pleading in another's cause, her own."

It is claimed, also, that the prayers, en-
treaties and appeals of the ladies under
circumstances so untoward, and amid sur-
roundings so grotesque, are calculated to
make the cause of religion a mockery
and to render the hardened and abandon-
ed man more callous to religious influen-
ces. This assertion seems to lack any
tangible proof, while many evidences al-
ready observed in our city, and more else-
where, positively refute it. The man
who, in the saloon, turns the lady roughly
from his door, listens to her words ap-
parently as unmoved as a brazen image,
or repays her solicitations with insolence
and blasphemy, from a fool-hardy desire
to seem brave and more hardened than he
really is, in the presence of his fellows, is
merely acting a guilty and hypocritical
part. Though in her presence, surround-
ed by his comrades, he appears defiant
and shameless, he blushes for his brutali-
ty and cowardice, in the solitude of his
quiet hours, when the voice of conscience
forces a hearing.

The ladies have shown a true heroism
in this work, though undoubtedly guilty
of some indiscretions. We feel that their
labors will not be in vain, if they proceed
cautiously with unfaltering perseverance
and fortitude. Let a permanent organi-
zation, and a strong one, be formed. Let
them remember that their enemies can
shield themselves to some extent with the
strong arm of the law, and consequently
that they must avoid fool-hardy and dar-
ing escapades. They must take heed nev-

er to conceal the winsome potency of true
womanliness with a virago's brazen ef-
frontery. Let them work at home, in
their own city or village. Your noisy,
cautious-faced, professional reformer from
abroad brings sure ruin to such a cause.

Watch and pray, and especially keep
the men entirely out of the business, and
we will hope for the best.

THE COMMON SCHOOL.

We can usually judge of the prosperity
and growth of a state, by a comparison
of its school statistics. The marked
progress, or evident decline in the com-
mon school interests will invariably indi-
cate the thrift and energy, or the sloth of
the people in every department of indus-
try.

We challenge any state to show a rec-
ord of more rapid increase and develop-
ment in this respect than Nebraska.
Since the organization of our school sys-
tem in 1869, so great a transformation has
been wrought, that the contrast is almost
incredible. We are still however in our
infancy, but the fact that the increase in
school population and wealth is greater
each year than the preceding, as we ad-
vance, gives great promise for the future.
The following facts are taken from the
official report of Hon. S. D. Beals, State
Supt. for 1869-70, the reports of Hon. J.
M. McKenzie for 1870-3, and other records
in the state department:

	1870	1873
No. of children,	32,762	63,108
School money app'd,	\$138,849.40	\$176,461.97
No. of school houses	298	1,138
Val. school property,	\$178,603.74	\$1,167,013.87
No. of teachers,	596	2,222
Paid to "	\$57,738.43	\$289,852.90
Male,	26,650.13	149,511.13
Female,	31,088.30	140,341.77
Per cent. of attendance,	39	60
No. of school districts,	797	1,863
No. of counties,	31	59
Total expenditures,	\$163,990.84	\$915,076.89

From the foregoing statistics it will be
observed that, in four years, the school
population has doubled—1873 alone shows
an increase of nearly 12,000 over 1872.
By carefully comparing these figures with
the census of the total population of Ne-
braska, in 1870, we find that last year alone
our increase was at least 65,000.

During the four years, the number of
school houses has quadrupled—last year
451 were built; also the value of school
property, in the same time, has increased
six-fold. Among the buildings erected
during this period, and not included in
the above, are the State University, and
the new State Normal Building; and in-
cluded is the High School Building, at
Omaha, the best in the United States.

The number of teachers has increased
more than four-fold; the amount paid to
teachers more than five-fold, showing an
increase in average salary. While the
per cent. of attendance is yet lamentably
small, the increase from 39 to 60 per cen-
tum is a most encouraging token of ad-
vancement. This fact, more than any
other, shows that earnest, effective work
has been done, and that the minds of the
people have been quickened and elevated
to a higher plane.

The amount expended to educate
the youth of the State has increased near-
ly six-fold since 1870.

The above facts give an imperfect idea
of our material prosperity. But there is
another improvement, fully as important,
which cannot be indicated by figures. I
refer to the efficiency in which our school
system in all its minutiae in district,
county, and state is now administered.

The harmony and perfection attained in
the working of the whole educational