

HESPERIAN STUDENT,

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, - A. W. FIELD.
ASSOCIATE EDITOR AND REVIEWER,
J. L. SHANK.
LOCAL, - - - W. A. McALLISTER.

TERMS FOR SUBSCRIPTION.

1 copy per college year - \$1.00.
1 " six months - .50.
Single copy - .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 J. L. SHANK.
Subscriptions collected invariably in advance.
Advertisements collected monthly.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

At the last meeting of the Regents they referred the matter of establishing a Law School to the STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, asking that they should report as to the feasibility of opening this college, and make such other suggestions as they should deem proper. The Association have referred the subject to a committee to consider the matter and report at their next meeting. This is a step in the right direction, and we hope that the committee will realize their responsibility, and give the subject the attention that its importance demands.

It has been proposed that a course of lectures be given before the students upon topics connected with this study. There can be no objections to such a plan if it is intended only to prepare the way for something better, but if this is not the case we fail to see any great good that would result. The real question to be determined would seem to be, whether the time has arrived for opening this department of the University. To determine this there are but two propositions to be considered, namely: would there be sufficient financial support? Would the number of students who would avail themselves of its advantages, warrant the outlay? Judging from the present condition of things, we would consider that the question as the financial support it would be likely to receive, is of vital importance. Already there are more demands upon the resources of the University than can be met. As stated in the last issue, the Agricultural College has been continually embarrassed, and can only be called a partial success, simply from want of funds. To establish a Law School and place it upon a satisfactory footing, must needs take money, and until this is secured we would consider the opening, or any other move that would require any outlay, as premature.

All friends of learning wish to see the growth our educational facilities keep pace with the material progress of the State. But so long as legislators show their igno-

rance of true economy by meeting the demand for increased educational advantages with reduced appropriations, instead of steadily increasing these supplies to provide for the rapidly increasing population, just so long will our schools be crippled, and the many needed improvements be impossible for lack of means. This being the state of affairs at present, unless there is a certain prospect of this school receiving a hearty support in the near future, it would not be policy to open it as yet.

With regard to the second proposition, as to the probable number that would attend such a school. There need be no fears on this score when we consider that in the many towns throughout the State there will average from two or three, to twelve or fifteen young men who are preparing themselves for the legal profession. If proper facilities were offered, a large number would avail themselves of its advantages. Then the main question is one of finance. Before the school can command the respect of students it must compare favorably with similar institutions in other places, and for this it will require the outlay of no small amount. We hope to see this school founded, and as the legislature meets the coming winter, with proper encouragement, the necessary funds would probably be furnished. Let those who have this matter in charge push it on to success. If this college should be established, with the Agricultural College, and a good prospect of a Medical College, we would have an institution of which the State might well be proud.

FIXED PRINCIPLES.

The importance of definite convictions of right and wrong can not be over estimated. They are the pillars upon which society rests, without them there could be no society. Law, the safeguard of civilization, is only a grouping together of ideas that in the course of human history have come to be considered as just. The formal enactment of a law is only fixing the seal to what has already existed.

Progress is due to the stubborn adherence of individuals to their convictions of truth. The foundation of civil liberty rests upon the constancy to the principle, that all men are created free and equal. The freedom of America and all its attendant consequences were made possible simply by the continued fidelity of one man to his fixed belief, that across the broad expanse of water existed a new world. Who would have imagined that when a few years since those *wild enthusiasts* were laboring to convince the people that human bondage was opposed to our idea of liberty, that they would live to see the realization of their dreams? But such is the result of an honest observance of an honest conviction. When, to sustain the supremacy of christianity, it was considered necessary to cling to the idea that the sun moved around the earth, he was a bold man that dared suggest the possibility of the sun being the center of the Universe and the earth one of the revolving bodies; but what a revolution in the scientific world did the labor of one man bring about. The many inventions that have blessed humanity owe their existence in many cases to a life of toil, sacrifice and steady devotion to an idea. Many reforms have failed, because the motive that actuated the leaders was not duty, but the advancement of selfish interests; hence their fidelity to the cause wavered

as their personal interests would seem to dictate.

It might seem that this conservatism, instead of aiding, would stand directly opposed to progress. So it would be, if by conservatism we mean the adherence to the principles of the men of the past; but instead we would have men judge for themselves and to whatever conclusions they arrive, remain conservatist forever. Independence is the cry of to-day, and under its cover much of evil exists. A weak anchor is better than none. A man with no fixed principles is like a ship without a rudder, an army without a leader; all may go well, but there is no surety. To the young man I would not advise the hasty formation of opinions. The world does not demand it. The general reluctance to placing matters involving any principle in the hands of a young man clearly proves this. But a conclusion once reached defend it boldly and to the last. Never compromise at the expense of principle. Never accept permanently a neutral position. Be either for or against every consideration that involves a question of right, otherwise you might as well not be. We say be true to your convictions; we might add, be sure you have convictions. Some men pass through the world without having a settled opinion upon any subject and are tossed hither and thither by every popular breeze. Others have beliefs, but before avowing them, must see them accepted by the world. We know not which class should receive the greater pity. Your success will depend more upon the manner in which you support your principles than upon the principles themselves. The world allows for a great diversity of opinion, but has little sympathy for the man that will betray his trust. Men become great by becoming the representatives of a great principle. Often the most unpleasant personal characteristics are lost sight of in the more important consideration of fidelity to duty.

Personal happiness demands fixed principles. It would be impossible to conceive of a more unpleasant state of the mind than that claimed by those ancient philosophers who doubted everything. One of the chief sources of pleasure is in imparting knowledge to others. This can be observed from the child teaching its younger protege the mysteries of motion, to the learned statesman expounding some of the intricate problems of a civilized government to the less favored multitude. But without fixed principles this source of pleasure would be denied us, and we would find ourselves in the exact condition of Pyrrho and his followers—believing nothing. We do a violent injury to the finer sensibilities of our nature, to refuse the sanction of our judgement to anything upon which the mind can build. The effect of the many false ideas that have prevailed throughout the past, by giving the mind something upon which to rest, has made the present possible. It may be replied that men are not to blame for what they believe. Belief or disbelief is under the control of the will to a far greater degree than is generally supposed. We can argue ourselves into the acceptance or rejection of almost anything. Our first duty to ourselves is to see that we are established firmly upon principles by which the acts of our lives can be regulated.

Students! There is no better way of redeeming those odd moments of which the Chancellor was speaking, than in preparing an article for the STUDENT.

—The meeting of the Board of Regents on the 24th of last month, was fraught with more interest to the University than any meeting since the founding of the institution. The members of the Board were all present. Regent Fifield, who was appointed at the last meeting of the Board to look after the Indian curiosities collected by the late Regent Hungerford, reported that he had made arrangements whereby they would soon be shipped to the Museum of the University. The committee on Education, to whom was referred the subject of accepting the dormitory on the Agricultural Farm, reported that the building was completed according to contract, in every particular. Their report was accepted and on their recommendation the land which was to have been given in exchange was deeded to Mr. Rufus Yard, one of the contractors. A communication from Gen. McBride, requesting the Secretary of War to detail an officer of the U. S. A. to give the students military instruction, also to appropriate arms for their use, was received. It was recommended that the President of the Board open correspondence with the proper authorities for the purpose of securing a military Professor. Regent Holmes presented a memorial requesting the Board to open a medical department. It was referred to the State Medical Association, and at their last meeting a special committee was appointed to take the matter under advisement, and to report at the next regular meeting. The Secretary called up the subject of purchasing a safe to hold the books and papers of the University. He was instructed to purchase one and have it forwarded immediately. Regent Tuttle presented the subject of the care of trees already set out on the campus, and also of setting out more, and desired that some action be taken in the matter. A memorial eulogising the late Regent E. M. Hungerford, also expressing profound sympathy for the bereaved family, was adopted. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy to the mother of Mr. Hungerford, at Ottumwa, Iowa, and to others of his friends. The election of a Chancellor, in the place of A. R. Benton, resigned, and who goes to his old home in Indianapolis, Indiana, to take charge of a college situated there, was called up. Hon. Edmund B. Fairfield, L. L. D. President of Pennsylvania State Normal School, was elected to the position. Dr. Fairfield comes to us with the best of recommendations. He has several personal friends in the city, and they all unite in praises of the wisdom of the Board in their selection. The Doctor is a man of about fifty years of age, was president of Hillsdale College, Mich., for about twenty years. He was elected to several honorable positions in the State, by the people of Michigan. He has traveled quite extensively in Europe and America, and studied the educational institutions of both continents. While we are sorry to part with our present Chancellor, who has fostered the University through the first five years of its childhood, and under some very trying circumstances, yet we are glad to see that so able a man has been selected to take his place. The salary of the Chancellor was increased to four thousand dollars per year. The Board passed an appropriation of \$125, to pay off the back indebtedness of the STUDENT, and \$100, to pay for student's labor on the Agricultural Farm. Regent Fifield moved that the subject of opening the Law department in the University be referred to the