

## 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 . . . . . 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, and business communications with the address, should be sent to ALBERT JOYCE. Subscriptions collected invariably in advance. Advertisements collected monthly.

### OUR LIBRARY.

As we intend to say a few words upon this subject, it may not be out of place, for the purpose of understanding clearly what may be said, to mention some facts concerning it. Our library consists at present of about sixteen hundred volumes. While this number may not be surprisingly large, yet it would be difficult to find a collection of books in which there would be so great a proportion of standard works.

For the purpose of general reading this library can not be surpassed. It would of course be impossible to enumerate the many different authors who find a place upon the shelves. Every branch of literature is represented; history, novel, poetry, philosophy,—an ample provision for enquiring minds.

Now what we wish to call attention to, is the fact, that notwithstanding the State has made this bounteous provision, still, owing to the management, or perhaps mismanagement, the students are deprived, in a great part, of the advantages they should enjoy.

First, only those in the college years are permitted to take books from the library. By this rule the only benefit that over half of the school can receive from the library, is the few moments they can catch now and then to be spent in the reading room. This is not good policy. The State has paid for the books, has invested so much money, and expects its return in the more general diffusion of knowledge throughout its borders. Now, upon what grounds can the benefits arising from this outlay be confined to the comparatively few in the college classes? Only upon the ground that those in the preparatory classes have not a development of mind sufficient to render a free access to the library of any advantage to them. This is simply absurd. What mind is not matured enough to read Tom Brown at Rugby, Robison Crusoe, etc., yet we find a good supply of this kind of reading in the library. Now we would suppose that this same development that will transform embryonic minds, by one or two years' time,

into cultured intellects, would carry the work on too rapidly to allow a sedate Soph. or learned Junior to enjoy anything short of Bacon's *Instauratio*, Newton's *Principia*, or some kindred subject, while such works as we mentioned above would be left to moulder on the shelves.

We have heard it remarked, that allowing new students free use of the library would prove very detrimental to the books. It must be admitted that the more a book is read the sooner it will wear out. And as preservation seems to be the end desired, we would suggest a glass case in which the books might be secured and yet be available as an object of interest to our visiting friends. The idea that young men and women who come here, expending time and money for self improvement have not enough pride and honor to be entrusted with a book, can not be entertained a moment by any one who will consider things as they really exist.

Another objection that is sometimes urged against granting the privileges of the library to the preparatory students is that coming from active employment, with minds unaccustomed to close application, all their time would be taken up in meeting the requirements of the classroom. The impression that students, when entering, bring with them minds in an absolute blank condition is a wrong one. They do not come here to commence a course of study, but to complete it. The experience of all would go to prove that a student can find more leisure time in the first years of his course than at any subsequent time; for in the later part of his course there are many outside duties that demand a share of his time, from which he is free at the beginning of his studies. So we think that the objection of a lack of time is not a valid one.

We wish room to say a few words upon the present management of the library. It is not our aim to make an unjust criticism, but we think circumstances will justify a few remarks.

What are the rules of the library? About as follows: Only students in the college years can take books from the library. Books can be taken out or renewed only on Fridays. The reading room is to be opened each day from two until four o' clock, P. M., except Wednesdays; Saturdays from nine o' clock, A. M. to four, P. M. Of the first rule we have already said enough, and as to the others there could be no serious objections if they were faithfully carried out. But such is not the case. Under the present control we think facts will justify the statement that there has been no regularity, no system. It is easy to account for this failure. The present librarian has so many duties that are calling loudly for his attention, that from necessity he is obliged to slight some. We are unable to conceive of the motives that would lead a professor to trouble himself with this burden, unless, indeed, it is to secure more efficiency in its management. The pecuniary consideration, \$100 per annum, is not much of an inducement when we consider the work required.

If the object was to bring about a reform it has certainly been a lamentable failure. Previous to this year it has been under the control of a student, and it was most assuredly a more satisfactory management. It is to be hoped that the library committee will take this matter under advisement, and inaugurate a true reform. One step would be to give it in charge of some reliable student who would have the

time and inclination to attend to it. At present the library is usually left in charge of some student, showing that the librarian has confidence in their ability to do the work required. Now if the responsibility of the office can safely be intrusted to them, we think also they should receive the pay which might aid some to finish a course, who would otherwise be unable to do so.

There seems to be a desire for general improvement implanted in the soul of every man. To this spirit it is due all progress. No stronger appeal can be made to mankind than one based upon the general good. Men unknowingly labor for this end. In the physical world they plant the acorn and the walnut from which as individuals they can hope no return; they lay the foundations for mighty temples for other generations to complete and enjoy; they encounter the hardships and trials attendant upon new enterprises that to their posterity may be vouchsafed liberty and happiness; they will hazard their lives rather than to be found false to any principle upon which they believe the welfare of humanity depends. In the world of thought all labor is for the general good. Homer wrote not for the benefit of his own time alone, but for all ages. To those, who are now called false philosophers, we are indebted for many of our grandest truths. Every man that thinks labors not for himself but all mankind. Every truth discovered adds so much to the advancement of the age. It matters not in what direction investigation be pushed the result is the same.

If we would only cultivate this desire, keep constantly before us how much the general good is effected by our individual course, it would give us a much nobler ideal of life. It matters not in what calling we may engage; the character of the calling, its influence morally and politically will be determined in part,—whether we wish it or not—by our acts, by our lives. The choosing of a calling is not so important as the determination of the individual that his labor shall be for the elevation and not for the disgrace of his class.

If the farm is the field of your labor, then work to render yours the model farm, your home the center of happiness, culture and refinement, your community respected for its intelligence and liberality. What one determined person can accomplish in these directions is truly surprising.

If the mercantile life attracts you, carry with you principles of honesty, upright-ness and truth. Honor the name of your calling, show to the world that success depends not upon the practice of deception, but upon fair dealing.

While you are a student, bring not disgrace upon the name, but pursue your studies with a fidelity that will induce others to follow in your footsteps.

Selfishness has so strong a hold upon the world that we often forget that our acts have any connection with the outside world around us. Yet in the heart of every man there dwells the hope that the lot of his fellow mortals may have been improved by his having lived.

While we ask, that in your labors you keep in view the public good, we would not infer that there is any conflict between your duty to yourself and to the community at large. Such is not the case. He who serves himself the best, serves the

world the best. If a man, sailing upon the ocean, should discover a leak, he would straightway set about to stop it, knowing that not only his own safety but that of all on board depended upon his exertions. We are all making the voyage of life, and he who finds a leak by which evils can enter our society ship, should set himself earnestly to work lest we all be wrecked.

We have noticed, of late, several articles against the practice of declaiming. Some say that there is no good comes from it, and that it is retained only by the power of habit or custom, and that it should be discarded. By others, that when a man appears before the public something original is expected, and we are disappointed with anything else.

With regard to the first objection, that there is no good comes from declamation it is simply an assertion, and we might answer the objection by saying that there is great good derived from this practice; and as to its being upheld only by force of precedents, we can say that the fact that it has been in favor so long argues strongly in favor of its utility, and he who affirms to the contrary must establish his assertion by proofs.

Concerning the second objection, that we always expect originality and are therefore disappointed. Is this a fact? In our societies, or at any time, when a person is called upon for a declamation we expect that he will repeat some other person's production, and our surprise would be awakened if he should proceed with an original discourse.

Before discarding the declamation let us inquire what its objects are. The primary object of the declamation, undoubtedly is to improve the voice, and joined with this is the secondary end, to entertain. Considering simply its elocutionary advantages, it is entitled to all the importance that has ever been given it. What can do more towards cultivating the voice than repeating the many passages that bring out every shade of feeling. From all the light that we have been able to get upon the subject we are not yet prepared to discard the declamation.

Commencement is almost at hand, are all prepared? From present indications we are to be favored with many visitors. The present school year has been very encouraging to the friends of the University. It is incumbent upon us to make the closing exercises equal (superior if possible) to any of the past. For the benefit of absent friends, we will state of about what our exercises will consist. The members of the graduating class consisting of Miss Alice Frost, Messrs Geo. Howard, Clarence Rhodes and John McKesson will each favor us with an oration. Baccalaureate address by Chancellor Benton, Adelpian and Palladian exhibitions. Annual address, by professor Allen of Wis. Possibly an address by one of the Alumni. As far as the students parts are concerned there will be no excuse for a failure, for there is ample material from which to choose. But there is a failing against which we would raise our voice, that is procrastination. It is better to be prepared a few days beforehand, than to have your work crowding upon you at the last moment when there will be much to attract your attention. From appearances there seems to be an earnest desire to do the very best possible and we think that we can safely guarantee to all a pleasant and profitable week. Another subject, not